



Infectious Waste Autoclave Spore Test Inspection Form

Spore Test Checklist	Yes	No
Is the spore test designed to be used for steam sterilization?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are <i>Bacillus stearothermophilus</i> spores being used?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the temperature monitoring device able to measure the required temperature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the number of spores in each quality assurance test ampule $\geq 10^4$?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unexpired spore test:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Incubation temperature range appropriate for growth of spores	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Length of time for final reading for growth of spores appropriate?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is incubation temperature monitored by independent device?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the spore test designed for the type of autoclave treating infectious waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Print Name	Signature	Date
------------	-----------	------

Revised 3/2016

If you have questions, please call the Division of Materials & Waste Management @ (614)644-2621

Spore Test Inspection Instructions

1. Spore test for steam sterilization – Determine if the spore test being used is designed to be used for steam sterilization. Combination spore tests, spore tests that can be used for multiple types of sterilization, are acceptable as long as one of the stated uses is for steam sterilization and those specific protocols are followed by the facility.
2. Use of *Bacillus stearothermophilus* spores – Verify that the type of spores being used in the quality assurance test for any autoclave used to treat infectious waste. Only *Bacillus stearothermophilus* spores shall be used.
3. Device able to monitor the temperature –Determine if the device is capable to accurately register temperatures within the appropriate incubation temperature range of the spore test being used.
4. Number of spores per ampule used – Verify the number of spores contained in each ampule or strip used to perform the quality assurance test of the autoclave. Each ampule or strip must contain a population of at least 1.0×10^4 *Bacillus stearothermophilus* spores, ampules containing at least 1.0×10^4 *Bacillus stearothermophilus* spores per milliliter or a commercially available steam pack which contains a population of at least 1.0×10^4 *Bacillus stearothermophilus* spores. If spore tests are used that contain a greater spore population, then the autoclave must still achieve a complete kill of all spores.
5. Expiration date of the spore tests – Check the date of expiration for the spores. Expired spore tests cannot be used.
6. Incubation temperature for the spore test – Determine the proper temperature/temperature range that the spore test is to be incubated. This information is important for ensuring whether any spores survived the autoclaving process and thus whether the autoclave is capable of treating infectious waste. This information is to be recorded on the quality assurance log required to be produced and maintained by the infectious waste treatment facility.
7. Incubation time for the spore test final determination – Determine the amount of time needed to make a complete evaluation of spore growth. This information is important for ensuring whether any spores survived the autoclaving process and thus whether the autoclave is capable of treating infectious waste. This information is to be recorded on the quality assurance log required to be produced and maintained by the infectious waste treatment facility.
8. Incubation temperature monitoring – Verify how the temperature for the incubating spore tests are determined. Facilities can use any device that accurately registers temperature provided the device is able to record temperatures within the appropriate incubation temperature range. Use of “meat/food” thermometers is not typically appropriate recording devices since the device needs to be inserted into material to read the temperature.
9. Type of Autoclave spore test designed for – Determine the type of autoclave the spore test is compatible to be used. Compare the type of autoclave the spore can be used with to the type of autoclave the spore test is being used at the facility. If the spore test is not compatible with the type of autoclave being used to treat infectious waste, the spore test cannot be used and another spore test that is recommended for the type of autoclave used at the facility must be used.