

	<b>Technical Information</b>	<b>730-173-EN</b>		<b>V03</b>
	<b>Replacement of autoclave tapes for ecological and economical reasons</b>	Created	27.10.2020	UK
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From a historical reason autoclave tapes are used since years in CSSDs to seal packs and to use type 1 indicators to monitor if the packs have passed a sterilization process to assure that unsterilized packs are not used in operation theatres.

From an ecological and economical point of view the use of autoclave tapes is not anymore recommended because they are fairly expensive, there is an unnecessary amount of indicator printed all over the tape and manual writing is necessary.

A better alternative is to use normal inexpensive packing tape locally purchased and manufactured and to use the GKE documentation labels, which contain already a type 1 indicator. Also this label contains the necessary manufacturing and expiry date, the batch number and the initials of the person in charge which is necessary to document on each package. If autoclave tape is used, this information has to be written manually on the tape. GKE offers labels with indicators for steam, EO, LTSF and VHPO sterilization processes.

Especially VHPO autoclave tapes cannot be made from paper and are very expensive in comparison to normal autoclave tape. The combination of normal packaging tape and the GKE documentation labels is a much more economical alternative than using traditional autoclave tapes.

For those hospitals which have already installed barcode systems using printers, GKE has developed double self-adhesive labels on rolls made from paper with indicators for all sterilization processes, except VHPO. For VHPO processes, where the label rolls have to be made from plastic, they include a VHPO type 1 indicator.