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Process indicators are placed on the surface of sterilization packages in order to logistically distinguish sterilized goods from non-sterilized ones. Process indicators are not able to provide information about the quality of a sterilization process because possible problems of a sterilization process never occur on the outside but always exclusively in the inner areas of the packaging. Therefore the indicators placed outside of the packaging can give no information about the inner areas of a sterilization packaging.

Depending on temperature and sterilization time the indicators change colour from blue to dark brown in steam sterilization processes. Every discrepancy from the blue colour indicates, that the indicator, respectively the package concerned has passed a sterilization process. From the colour shades of brown no conclusions can be drawn about the quality of the sterilization process.

In order to check the quality of the sterilization process, we recommend the use of type 5 or type 6 package monitoring indicators or even better of type 2 indicator systems that are sterilized together with every batch. They can be evaluated at the end of the sterilization process and provide information for the release of the batch to the user.