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The different PCD-systems differ in penetration difficulty of the sterilant into the position of the indicator inside the PCD.

They are used:

1. As a type test according to the sterilizer standard (EN 285, EN 13060, EN 1422, EN 14180) to check if the sterilizer meets the sterilant penetration specifications used during IQ and OQ.
2. To assure correct sterilizer function after sterilizer start-up PCD systems according those standards shall be used (i.e. BD-Test - EN 285; Helix-Test – EN 867-5 (new: EN ISO 11140-6)), called Bowie-Dick-Test.
3. For routine monitoring:
 - after validation of a process to assure sterility of a defined load.
 - The PCD shall simulate the worst case penetration load configuration.

Which PCD to use depends on the individual process and load configuration to monitor a sterilization process.

The construction of the GKE Compact-PCDs is a patented design using 3 different volumes connected in series. Lengths and diameters do not provide any information on the real penetration characteristics of the PCD.

The GKE application laboratory will support you to select the correct PCD-system.