
gke Clean-Record[®] Laundry-Check[®] to monitor the cleaning efficacy of laundry in washing machines

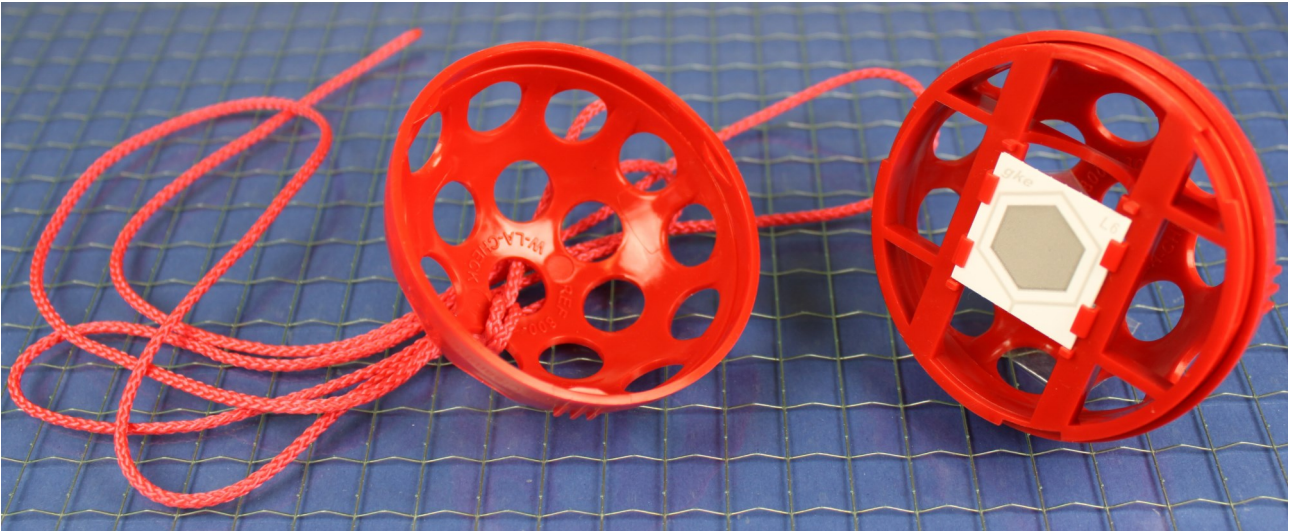


Fig. 1.: Laundry-Check[®] Ball, opened

Application

Cleaning of hospital linen is carried out in washing machines using washing powders. Its microbiological contamination varies a lot. Studies have shown that hospital linen quite often bear less biological contamination before washing than after washing. The reason is that strong polluted linen spread contaminants over the whole load.

The cleaning process heavily depends on the degree of contaminants, detergent used, concentration, water quality (hardness), temperature and washing program. By using the ***gke Clean-Record***[®] Laundry-Check[®] ball routine monitoring secures that the previous validation of the washing process remains long-term stable.

gke offers six different cleaning indicators for washing machines and washer disinfectors which represent different challenge levels as proof of the cleaning efficacy. It is recommended to test all indicators at the same time together as a preliminary test. The indicator which has just been washed off completely in the validated process should be used for routine monitoring later on. It is advisable to use these indicators in the washing machine in each load to ensure that there are no changes of the process parameters over time.

Product Description

The ***gke Clean-Record***[®] Laundry-Check[®] ball can be opened by unscrewing two parts. The indicator can be inserted in a holder inside the ball. Both parts are closed and put into the drum together with the laundry (load). A red cord is attached to the ball which makes it easier to find the ball in the washing drum after the process.

gke produces six different self-adhesive indicators on temperature stable plastic carriers. All indicator substances have different wash off characteristics. Therefore, they require different strong mechanical force generated inside the Laundry-Check[®] ball and different detergents to be washed off.

Performance Characteristics

Several test soils with completely different cleaning properties are listed in the standard EN 60456. A reference detergent and a test method are also mentioned in this standard. The described test method is very comprehensive and difficult to reproducibly adjust.

The **gke** research centre has developed a test equipment (spray rig test) to be able to compare soils on instruments or contaminants on linen, test soils described in the standard and the different **gke Clean-Record**[®] cleaning indicators. **gke** has already carried out many tests under different cleaning conditions (flow rate, detergents, dosage, temperature etc.) in order to compare the cleaning characteristics of the above-mentioned materials and **gke** indicators using the spray rig. For the first time it is possible to describe the properties of cleaning indicators. Test results are available on request.

The indicator colour is non-toxic and dissolves with most of the washing agents and is flushed away.

Benefits

- First simple routine monitoring procedure for washing machines assuring a reproducible process.
- Cost-effective due to the use of plastic carriers and printed test soils.
- Easy documentation because of self-adhesive indicators.
- The Laundry-Check[®] ball is made of durable materials and is maintenance free. It can be used for an unlimited number of cycles.
- Easy to use.
- The **gke** cleaning indicators provide constant cleaning characteristics in comparison to natural test soil which may change their cleaning properties during storage time.

Order Information

Art.-No.	Product Code	Quantity	Content	Application
800-130	W-LA-CHECK	1	1 Laundry-Check [®] ball to insert the indicator	To monitor laundry processes in washing machines

Indicators to monitor laundry in washing machines

Art.-No.	Product Code	Quantity	Test Difficulty		Application
800-004	W-WA-L1-4-KIT	16 Level 1-4 each + 3 holders	1-4		Refill pack for validation and monitoring in washing machines and WD
800-005	W-WA-MLC-KIT	32 MLC indicators + 3 holders	Multi-Level Indicator containing Level 2, 3 and 4		
810-101 810-102 810-103	W-WA-L1 (colour: yellow)	160 480 960	Level 1	low Cleaning difficulty ↓ high	
810-201 810-202 810-203	W-WA-L2 (colour: green)	160 480 960	Level 2		
810-301 810-302 810-303	W-WA-L3 (colour: blue)	160 480 960	Level 3		
810-401 810-402 810-403	W-WA-L4 (colour: red)	160 480 960	Level 4		
810-501	W-WA-L5 (colour: pink)	160	Level 5		
810-601	W-WA-L6 (colour: grey)	160	Level 6		
810-901 810-902 810-903	W-WA-MLC (colours: green, blue, red)	160 480 960	Multi-Level Indicator contains Level 2, 3, 4		

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