



Technical Information

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V01

Possible false negative results of GKE Instant-SCBIs to monitor steam sterilization processes at 121 or 134°C

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GKE has developed two different Instant-SCBIs for 121 and 134°C to be used in steam sterilization processes. Instant-SCBIs should not be used at the wrong temperature. At 134°C biological indicators are already killed in less than a minute, whereas the colour change of the chemical indicator inside the SCBI is changing to pass (black) after 3 min. At 121°C a standard biological indicator is killed after 15 min, while the chemical indicator inside the SCBI will show a pass after 20 min only.

These safety margins guarantee a quick readout after the end of a sterilization process without waiting for the required incubation time.

There is one possibility of a growing biological indicator after incubation after the chemical indicator provided a pass. If the biological indicator is contaminated after sterilization when the filter on top of the SCBI gets broken or wet during the activation cracking process germs may enter the SCBI to provide growth showing a fail in the SCBI later on.

Total resistance of an Instant-SCBI

