

Recommendations:

Periodic tests for porous-load sterilizers

Daily test – User

Bowie-Dick test for steam penetration

Weekly tests – CP(D)

1. Weekly safety checks
2. Air leakage test
3. Air detector function test
4. Automatic control test
5. Bowie-Dick test for steam penetration*

Quarterly tests – CP(D)

1. Weekly safety checks
2. Air leakage test
3. Air leakage test (temperature and pressure sensors connected)
4. Automatic control test
5. Verification of calibration of sterilizer instruments*
6. Thermometric test for a small load*
7. Air leakage test (sensors removed)
8. Air detector function test
9. Bowie-Dick test for steam penetration

Yearly and revalidation tests – CP(D)

1. Yearly safety checks
2. Non-condensable gas test
3. Steam superheat test
4. Steam dryness test
5. Steam chemical purity tests
6. Air leakage test
7. Air leakage test (temperature and pressure sensors connected)
8. Automatic control test
9. Verification of calibration of sterilizer instruments*
10. Air detector performance test for a small load
11. Air detector performance test for a full load
12. Thermometric test for a small load
13. Thermometric test for a full load
- 13a. Load dryness test for a metal load (see BS EN 285)
14. Test for PRQ as required by the user
15. Air leakage test (sensors removed)
16. Air detector function test
17. Bowie-Dick test for steam penetration
18. Hollow load test

At a frequency defined by the manufacturer

1. Dynamic pressure test

* May be carried out simultaneously with the preceding test

Reference:

CFPP 01-01 Management and decontamination of surgical instruments: Part C – Steam sterilization