

Steam sterilization monitoring: Are you using the right indicator?

What does the published whitepaper say?

AAMI guidance document ST79 recommends the use of a chemical indicator (CI) inside each package of goods sterilized.

World Health Organization (WHO) Surgical Safety Checklist requires operating nursing staff to 'confirm the sterility (including indicator results)' of equipment before use.

International Standard ISO 11140-1 specifies six types of CI. Facilities should routinely use **Type 2** (Bowie-Dick), **Type 1** (external tape) and one of **Type 3-6** for internal pack monitoring.

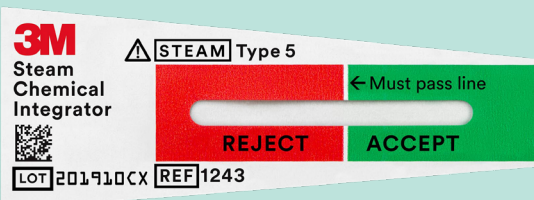
Why it's important

- **Internal CIs are required** inside steam sterilization packs.
- CIs are used by many healthcare professionals, **not just sterile processing teams**, so baseline understanding across departments is important.
- For steam sterilization, **Type 4 and Type 5 CIs are most common.**

Steam Chemical Indicator Comparison*	Type 4	Type 5	Type 6
For use in individual load items	✓	✓	✓
Stated values provided on product labeling as recommended in ISO 11140-1:2014	✓	✓	✓
Extensive list of indicated cycles from 250°F to 275°F (121°C to 135°C) (eliminates the need to hold multiple SKUs) see IFU for details	✓	✓	
Performance required to react to ALL critical variables of the sterilization process		✓	✓
Performance correlates to a biological indicator		✓	
Recommended in AAMI ST79 and AORN for use in monitoring loads with an implant along with a BI in a PCD		✓	

Our solution:

3M™ Attest™ Steam Chemical Integrators 1243A/1243B



Type 5 monitors time, temperature and steam presence

Moving front with vibrant “ACCEPT” (green) and “REJECT” (red) zones for fast, easy interpretation

Scannable 2D barcode for uploading to instrument tracking system

3 year shelf life



Scan here to read the whitepaper