

## Monitoring of Autoclaves and Autoclaved Materials University of Kansas-Lawrence

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### **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to describe the requirement of monitoring autoclaves and items that have been sterilized that will be used for animal surgeries.

### **Policy**

- Routine monitoring of autoclaves to ensure they are sterilizing properly is required. Chemical indicator paper or tape change color after being heated to 250 degrees F, but they do not indicate that the exposure time or temperature are sufficient for sterilization. Use of biological indicators such as *Bacillus stearothermophilus* demonstrate that the autoclave is capable of killing microorganisms. Biological indicator spore strip testing shall be performed at least weekly during regular use and at start up if the autoclave has not been used for one month or more. This is in keeping with standards set forth by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) vol. 42/No. RR-9 DC and comes directly from the KU-L Rodent Anesthetic and Aseptic Surgery Policy.
  
- All autoclaved materials:
  - a. must be clearly marked with the date that they were autoclaved.
  - b. must be stored in a clean, dry environment prior to use.
  - c. expire three months from the date marked on them. Expired materials can be re-sterilized then marked with a new date.