

**STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES**  
DIVISION OF COMPARATIVE MEDICINE  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

SOP#: 1007.5

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**TITLE:**

**Monitoring Autoc**

test pack for evidence of steam exposure. The chemical indicator turns brown upon exposure to steam. If the chemical process exposure indicator is unchanged, exposure to the sterilization process may not have occurred, sterilization procedures are reviewed, the test repeated, and an entry is made on the **Equipment Log Sheet** in the **Autoclave Log Book**. If the indicator fails after the second attempt, the Facility Manager is notified, sterilization procedures are reviewed, and an entry is made to the **Equipment Log Sheet** stating the problem, the corrective action is taken, and resolution is achieved.

6. If the chemical indicator did change to brown, remove the BI and label with date, load, and autoclave ID.
7. Firmly seal the Verify<sup>®</sup> BI by following the recommended technique shown in figures 1 and 2 of the manufacturer's instruction pamphlet. The indicator cap is properly sealed when the cap is pushed down to the second black bar on the vial label. Although the Verify<sup>®</sup> Activator is not essential for sealing, its use is recommended to assure the best and most consistent vial sealing.
8. If the BI is not going to be incubated soon after activation, it is recommended

12. Record results in the ***Autoclave Sterilization Record***. If the indicator failed to turn, be sure to describe in the ***Equipment Log Sheet*** steps taken to identify the improperly sterilized load and resolve the lack of complete sterilization. Adjustments should be made and tests rerun until the problem is resolved.
13. Following incubation, dispose of processed indicators as you would other trash. Each package of indicators has an expiration date on the bottom. Be sure to use only in-date vials.

#### **IV. SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS**

1. Care should be taken when removing a BI from autoclaves/test packs, as they can be hot. Let indicators cool before removing.
- 2.