

BLUE LINE

EO STERILIZATION SERVICES

EO Sterilization at Blue Line Sterilization Services

At Blue Line Sterilization Services LLC, we have simplified and accelerated the process of sterilization by ethylene oxide (EO). Our approach has been to find what is unnecessary and eliminate it from the process. This starts with not trying to mimic the process used for large chambers sterilizing loads of a pallet or more.

Using our 8 cu. ft. chambers, we don't need long periods of time to get temperature, humidity, and EO gas into the center of a load nor do we need extended aeration time after sterilization is complete. Our chambers and load sizes allow the heat, humidity, and EO gas to penetrate the load within two hours and aeration generally requires only two hours at the sterilization processing temperature.

The entire cycle is completed automatically in a single chamber which reduces handling time, the overhead associated with preconditioning and aeration chambers, and the staff needed for load transfer and setup at different locations.

In to make sure we meet our commitments, we maintain the sterilizer capacity to guarantee on-time shipment of our customer's product.

With that background, the process we use to complete most sterilizations is as follows:

- 1) Receive a shipment and check it in
- 2) Verify the order instructions and queue to meet any expedite requests
- 3) Move the load to the preparation area and configure it to fit into the chamber
- 4) Label the load as Ready
- 5) Place the load into the chamber
- 6) Program the sterilizer, 37°C – 55°C
- 7) Weigh and place the EO cartridge in the chamber
- 8) Close the chamber door and start the cycle

Note that this part of the process can take as little as 1-2 hours for expedited loads

- 9) After 10 – 12 hours, remove the sterilized product from the chamber
- 10) Weigh the EO cartridge and calculate the mass used
- 11) Confirm the gas concentration and correct operation of the cycle
- 12) Start biological indicator (BI) incubation
- 13) Prepare the load for shipment
- 14) Label the load as Processed
- 15) Move the load to Shipping for pickup

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