

Device Packaging

Devices need to be placed inside an appropriate container (box, dish, etc.) such that they are either:

- Hanging with shanks pointing down to minimize effects of gravity (preferred for probes)
- Lying flat (preferred for cuffs)

A sterilization indicator sticker should be placed inside the container that holds the device before placed inside a sterilization pouch and closed.

Sterilization Cycle

Packaged devices will be loaded into a liner bag along with gas indicator tape (and biological indicators, such as a Dosimeter and a Steritest if necessary) and a glass ampoule containing 18g of liquid EtO. Next, the packed liner bag is loaded into an ethylene oxide sterilizer and sealed using velcro wrap. Start the room temperature and atmospheric pressure 24h sterilization cycle, and retrieve samples after the 2h purge/aeration and degassing cycles following sterilization to remove the residual EtO.



Inspection

All indicator stickers need to be inspected for color changes from yellow to blue to make sure the EtO gas came in contact with the specimens.

Degassing

Samples should be subjected to additional degassing to ensure that no EtO gas is remaining inside the package. Devices (while still in pouches) should be placed inside a vacuum oven and kept there for 72h at 37°C under reduced pressure (house vacuum).