

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI  
LABORATORY SERVICES**

Phone (662) 915-5433 FAX (662) 915-5480

**STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE - AUTOCLAVE TESTING**

1. Test form and test kit for are put in an envelope. The ID # should be put on the test kit with a permanent marker pen.
2. These are sent to the appropriate user twice a year.
3. The autoclave test kits should be returned as soon as possible.
4. Mark the ID # on the cap of each ampule with a permanent marker pen. The blank ampule should be marked as "BLANK".
5. Push down hard on the cap of each test ampule and the blank until a crush sound occurs. Then using a pair of pliers squeeze the side of the ampule over the white dot. A pop should be audible and the white dot should turn light blue.
6. Check the incubator-when the light is flashing the temperature is correct.
7. Incubate the test ampule for a period of 24 hours.

**RESULTS**

1. The blank ampule should turn yellow in color (not sterilized) while the test ampule should remain blue in color (sterilized). If a test ampule turns yellow, the autoclave is not sterilizing the sample.
2. Place all ampules in the plastic bag next to the incubator for disposal with the medical waste.
3. Complete the Autoclave Testing form, i.e., Results, Recommendations, Date and Signature.
4. Notify the user if their Autoclave is not properly sterilizing. Retest after the autoclave is repaired.
5. File a copy of the form in the appropriate folder.