

Autoclave Sterilization Safety Checklist

Site / Project	_____	Address	_____
Inspector name	_____	Company	_____
Date	_____	Time	_____

Documentation aid only. Adapt this resource to the site, manufacturer instructions, and applicable local requirements. It does not replace a competent person, professional judgment, legal advice, or a required statutory form.

Inspection checklist

Pre-Cycle Inspection

☐	Is the autoclave chamber free from debris, residue, and stains? (Visual inspection)	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Inspect the door seal for cracks, tears, or deformation. Is the seal pliable and properly seated?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Verify the water level in the reservoir is within the recommended range as indicated by the manufacturer.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Is the drain screen clear of obstructions to ensure proper drainage?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Visually inspect temperature sensors for damage or corrosion.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Verify the pressure gauge is functioning correctly and reads zero when the chamber is at atmospheric pressure.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Confirm items are loaded according to validated procedures, ensuring proper steam penetration.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Verify the autoclave is equipped with a functional air removal system (e.g., vacuum pump or steam-flush pressure-pulse).	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Confirm that the selected cycle parameters (temperature, pressure, time) are appropriate for the load being sterilized.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____

☐	Verify that all safety interlocks (e.g., door locking mechanism) are functioning correctly.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
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During-Cycle Monitoring

☐	Continuously monitor the pressure and temperature readings throughout the sterilization cycle. Are they within the validated range?	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
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☐	Ensure the cycle time matches the validated sterilization parameters.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
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☐	Monitor for any alarms or error messages during the cycle. Document any occurrences.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
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☐	If applicable, monitor steam quality indicators to ensure adequate steam purity.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
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☐	Verify that condensate is being effectively removed from the chamber during the cycle.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
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☐	Visually inspect the door seal for any signs of steam leakage during the cycle.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
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☐	Monitor for excessive pressure fluctuations during the cycle, which could indicate a problem.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
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☐	Verify that the cycle is progressing through the expected phases (e.g., heating, sterilization, drying).	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
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Post-Cycle Verification

☐	Verify that biological indicators (BIs) meet the required kill criteria after the cycle. Document results.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
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☐	Inspect chemical indicators for the appropriate color change, indicating adequate sterilization conditions.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
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☐	Visually inspect the load for any signs of damage or wetness.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
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☐	Ensure the drying time is sufficient to prevent condensation on sterilized items.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
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☐	Verify that the autoclave cycle completed successfully without any errors or interruptions.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
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☐	Ensure all cycle parameters, BI/CI results, and operator information are accurately documented in the autoclave log.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
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☐ Allow adequate cooling time before unloading the autoclave to prevent steam burns. ☐ Pass ☐ Fail ☐ N/A Notes: _____

☐ Confirm that unloading procedures are followed to minimize the risk of contamination. ☐ Pass ☐ Fail ☐ N/A Notes: _____

Maintenance and Calibration

☐ Verify that preventative maintenance is performed according to the manufacturer's recommendations and facility schedule. ☐ Pass ☐ Fail ☐ N/A Notes: _____

☐ Review calibration records for temperature and pressure sensors. Are they within the required tolerances? ☐ Pass ☐ Fail ☐ N/A Notes: _____

☐ Check the door seal replacement schedule. Is it within the recommended timeframe? ☐ Pass ☐ Fail ☐ N/A Notes: _____

☐ Verify that filters are replaced according to the manufacturer's recommendations. ☐ Pass ☐ Fail ☐ N/A Notes: _____

☐ Inspect the pressure relief valve for proper function and ensure it is not obstructed. ☐ Pass ☐ Fail ☐ N/A Notes: _____

☐ Verify the steam trap is functioning correctly to remove condensate from the steam lines. ☐ Pass ☐ Fail ☐ N/A Notes: _____

☐ Monitor the quality of the water used in the autoclave to prevent scale buildup and corrosion. ☐ Pass ☐ Fail ☐ N/A Notes: _____

☐ Verify that the autoclave chamber is cleaned regularly according to the facility's SOP. ☐ Pass ☐ Fail ☐ N/A Notes: _____

Findings

#	Item	Location	Severity	Action required
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				

#	Item	Location	Severity	Action required
8				

Signature

Inspector signature _____

Name _____

Date _____