

# Ultrasonic Load Check Indicator

## Cleaning Efficacy Check

The ultrasonic load check indicator is a consistent, repeatable way to monitor the cleaning efficacy of your ultrasonic cleaner.

The indicator strips have been designed to perform in an equivalent manner to the test soils described in documents such as HTM2030 and HTM01-05. They represent typical soiling that would occur during normal use of reusable surgical instruments.

These ultrasonic indicator strips contain two sources of protein - lipids and polysaccharides. Safe to handle and made with no blood products, the indicator strips allow easy to interpret results to be obtained, time after time. Test strips can be used with no risk of adding blood borne contaminants to your ultrasonic cleaner.

The test strips can be used in the mesh design holder and should be placed in a basket within the ultrasonic bath.

If the strips are being used in a hygea® ultrasonic cleaner, the strips should be placed on the middle instrument tray and the two other trays removed.



**Load Check Holder and Load Check Indicators**



**Loading into a standard basket**



**Loading into an instrument tray**

As the ultrasonic activity occurs, the red test soil will be removed from the strips and different levels of soil removal will indicate different levels of ultrasonic activity.

This is a bench marked performance test which is suitable for validation. The indicator strips mimic occluded surfaces to present a realistic ultrasonic cleaning challenge.

**Important Note:** To obtain meaningful results, test

strips should be stored in a dry environment, preferably in an air-tight sealed container. It is also important to check the expiry date of the strips and that the holders must be placed horizontally as shown above. Not doing so will affect the cleaning efficacy results

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## Instructions for use

- Ensure that the ultrasonic cleaner is set to **30°C**.
- Ensure the ultrasonic cleaner is powered on and drained of any previous cleaning fluid and the basket or carrier has been removed.
- Fill the ultrasonic cleaner with fresh cold tap water to the correct level indicated with in the rear of the tank. Refer to the user manual if unsure.
- Add the appropriate amount of detergent (refer to manufacturer's data sheet) and mix thoroughly.
- Apply the lid and perform one complete unloaded (no basket or carrier) 10 minutes ultrasonic cycle and allow the solution to reach **30°C**. Allow the solution to rest for at least 3minutes.
- If the hygea® carrier is used, remove the top and bottom trays from the carrier.
- Ensure the strip holders and your hands are clean and dry before placing one indicator strip in each holder, ensuring it is centrally placed and not protruding from either side. Place the holders in the basket or tray as shown on the first page (either loading into a standard basket or instrument tray in the middle carrier position). Insert the basket or carrier into the ultrasonic cleaner and close the lid.
- After running a complete cycle (at least 10minutes), perform a double dunk (lift, submerge, lift, submerge) of the basket or carrier to free any loose residue clinging to the strip. Then remove the holders from the basket or carrier and carefully take out the indicator strips.
- Inspect the indicator strips for evidence of remaining soil by placing the strips against a white background.
- If more than 2% of the soil remains, cleaning of the load should be considered inadequate and departmental procedures should be followed in respect of failed cleaning efficacy testing, as below:

