

Table 3

Troubleshooting a Failed Biological Indicator (BI) Spore Test

- Check for Operator Error
- Do Not Overload the Sterilizer
 - Check Manufacturer's Instructions for Use on Proper Loading/Unloading
 - Stack Perforated Cassettes Side to Side vs Flat
 - Stack Pouches Side to Side in a Pouch Rack for Better Ventilation
- Place the BI in the Most Challenging Area of the Sterilizer
 - In the Middle/Center of Gravity Displacement Autoclaves (Cool Pocket)
 - Near the Door for Dynamic Air Removal Autoclaves (Possible Air Leakage)
- Re-Run a New BI Test
- Mail in Results or Incubate In-Office
- Check Results of Second Test
- If Failed Again
 - Take Sterilizer Out of Service
 - Consult Service Technician
 - Consult Sterilization Log Book
 - Retrieve Instruments That Were Potentially Not Sterilized and Re-Process

❖ Generally, BI Failures are a Result of Operator Error