

DEPYROGENATING TUNNEL WITH STERILIZABLE COOLING CHAMBER

- Heating elements are installed in the cooling chamber for sterilizing the cooling chamber by means of dry heat;
- The cooling chamber is equipped with an insulation to provide protection at temperatures up to 230°C;
- An airtight insulated door at the tunnel exit (equipped with high temperature inflatable gasket), protects the isolator during the cooling chamber sterilization and enables the isolator to be sterilized without any leak of VHP into the tunnel;
- When using an isolator it is difficult for an operator to reach into the tunnel exit to manually remove the remaining vials at the end of the batch.

Therefore the tunnel is equipped with an automatic discharge bar to fully discharge the vials at the end of the process.



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The cooling chamber sterilization cycle is executed when the tunnel is not in production. The cooling chamber is sterilized by means of HEPA filtered hot air at a temperature of approximately 200°C. The cycle time is defined during the pre-testing phase at Steriline, and calculated in order to ensure that the coldest point inside the chamber is sterilized when the cycle has been completed.

The minimum surface temperature anywhere in the cooling chamber on any material should be above 170°C. The coldest point shall stay at a temperature of 170°C as long as necessary to achieve bacterial reduction of 6 log.



COOLING CHAMBER - SERVICE SIDE

The sequencing of the cooling chamber sterilization cycle is automatically carried out by the tunnel's PLC once the operator starts the cycle:



COOLING CHAMBER EXIT

- The airtight door closes and the insulated gaskets inflate;
- The cooling water circuit drains;
- All tunnel heaters start;
- The cooling chamber temperature raises up to the predefined set point, and is maintained for the predefined sterilization time;



COOLING CHAMBER AIRTIGHT DOOR

- When the elapsed time is equal to the set time, the heaters switch off and the temperature decreases slowly;
- At 90°C the cooling water circuit is refilled;
- When the cooling chamber has completed the cool down cycle, the tunnel is again ready for production.

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