

AirO Film[®] Stretch

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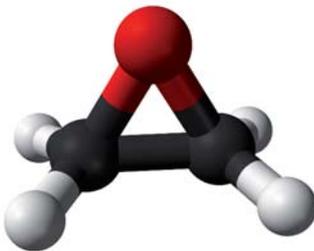


Air-O-Film[®] Stretch and Ethylene Oxide



Sterilising with Ethylene Oxide

Isotron use ethylene oxide (ETO) as one method of sterilisation. They find that the gas is a highly effective way to kill bacteria, mold, and fungi, ensuring that their bandages, sutures, and surgical implements are suitable for use.



ABOVE: One of the sterilisation chambers using ethylene oxide at Isotron

The problem with solid film

In order to ensure that a load is 100% sterile the gas must be able to penetrate the pallet completely. A solid film prevents this from happening. However, allowing the gas to penetrate is just one part of the problem.

A real need for aeration

Although ethylene oxide is an effective steriliser, it has a number of unpleasant characteristics. Not only is it flammable, it is also highly toxic and is actually classified as a carcinogenic. Trapped pockets of ethylene oxide, no matter how small, could be potentially lethal, therefore it is critical that the gas be allowed to escape once it has done its job. A solid film actually hampers this, acting as a barrier during the flushing process.

The Solution: AirO Film[®] Stretch

Air-O-Film[®] Stretch solves all of Isotron's problems. The level of aeration that it provides ensures that the ethylene oxide can effectively penetrate and then, once the load is sterilized, escape.

Air-O-Film[®] Stretch was also fully compatible with their existing machinery and so making the switch from their existing film couldn't have been easier.



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AirO Film® Stretch

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How Air-O-Film® Stretch helps Cardinal Health save lives

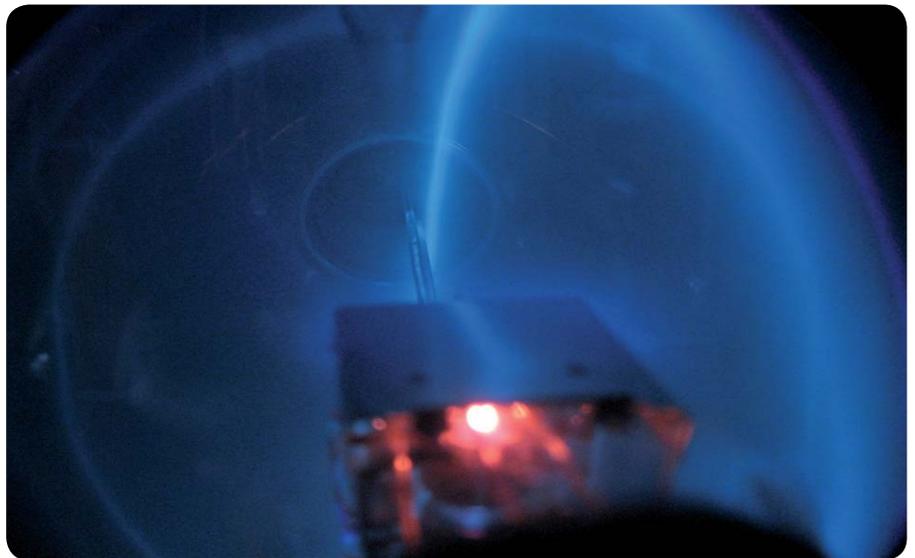


Modern sterilisation techniques

Cardinal Health manufacture various surgical kits for both elective and non-elective surgery. Like many similar manufacturers they use an electron beam process in order to sterilise their products. Syringes, gloves and various other products all pass through a special irradiation chamber in order to ensure that they are safe and fit for their eventual use.

Post sterilisation issues

This method of sterilisation is highly effective, enabling pallet loads of up to 7 feet to be processed at one time. However before the goods can be transported it is essential that they are aerated in special 'blow out' chambers. As a result of this, whatever the pallet is wrapped in needs to allow the air to circulate effectively.



ABOVE: The blue light associated with electron beam sterilisation.



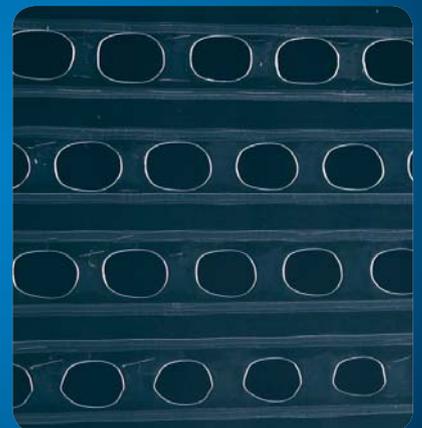
Searching for the right solution

In the past Cardinal Health used a netting product to secure their pallets. The problem was that sometimes the netting would slip or migrate to the bottom of the load leaving no upper support. In such cases, pallets had to be returned for re-irradiation and re-wrapping and this meant incurring another expensive process.

The Solution: AirO Film® Stretch

As well as solving Cardinal Health's aeration issue, Air-O-Film® Stretch was chosen because it performed so well with their incumbent wrapping machinery. Working in perfect harmony, Cardinal know that Air-O-Film® Stretch will provide them with a consistent 140% pre-stretch - every time.

Now, instead of suffering from slippage in the way that they used to with their previous netting solution, Cardinal enjoy a solid, firm pallet wrap. This has reduced their returns to virtually zero, saving them a great deal of money.



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