



AirO Film® Stretch

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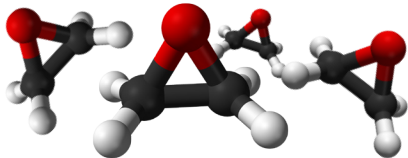
Air-O-Film® Stretch and Ethylene Oxide

Sterilising with Ethylene Oxide

As a business, we work with many pharmaceutical manufacturers. One such customer uses Ethylene Oxide (ETO) to sterilise the surgical equipment that they manufacture. They find that this is the most effective way of killing the bacteria, mould and fungi that would, if unchecked, prevent their bandages, sutures and other surgical implements from being suitable for use.

100% Penetration

Sterilisation takes place in a large chamber. In order to ensure that a load is 100% sterile it is critical that the gas is able to penetrate the entire pallet.



ABOVE: A typical sterilisation chambers using ethylene oxide

LEFT: Molecules of Ethylene Oxide

The problem with solid film

In the past, our customer wrapped their loads using a regular stretch film. However, this caused *real* problems. A solid film acts as a barrier within the sterilisation chamber and actively prevents the gas from penetrating the load. This, however, is just one part of the problem.

The dangers with Ethylene Oxide

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, 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 hampers this, again acting as a barrier during the flushing process.

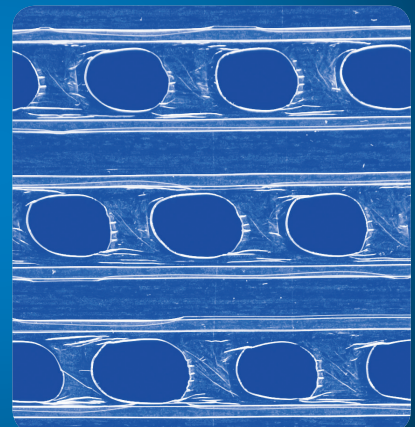
The Solution: AirO Film® Stretch

Air In... Air Out

Air-O-Film® Stretch solves all of these issues. The level of aeration that it provides ensures that the Ethylene Oxide can effectively penetrate and then, once the load is sterilized, escape.

Machine Compatible

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



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Air-O-Film® Stretch - helping others to save lives

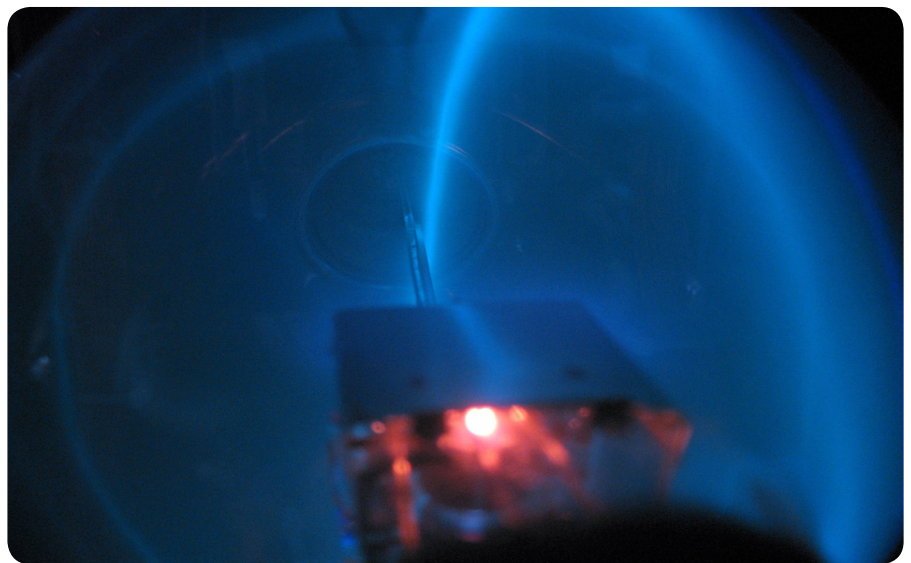
Modern sterilisation techniques

One of our current customers manufacture various surgical kits for both elective and non-elective surgery. Like many similar organisations 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 in width to be processed at any 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.



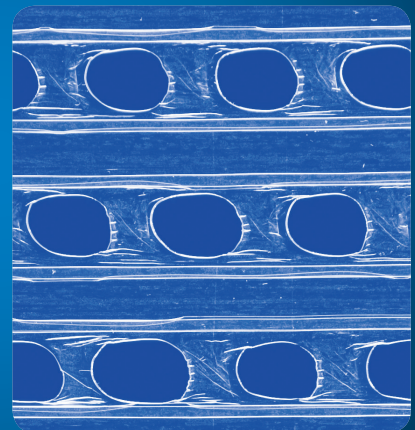
Aeration AND Support

In the past our customer 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 our customer's aeration issue, Air-O-Film® Stretch was chosen because it performed so well with their incumbent wrapping machinery. Our customer knows 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, our customer enjoys a solid, firm pallet wrap. This has reduced their returns to virtually zero, saving them a great deal of time and money.



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