



PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION REPORT **97-2**

PERFORMANCES OF THE **BOWIE DICK TEST PACKS**
Boxed or Wrapped in the Conventional Steri-Wrap®

*Thomas A. Augurt, Vice President
Product Planning & Development
Propper Manufacturing Co., Inc.
Long Island City, New York 11101, U.S.A.*

An evaluation was made to compare the performances of the Bowie and Dick test packs boxed or wrapped in the conventional Steri-Wrap® wrapping. The evaluation showed that both types of packaged test packs reacted similarly to good cycles, obviously faulty, and marginally faulty cycles.

The purpose of the study was to determine if the Propper Bowie and Dick test packs, wrapped or boxed produced similar results when tested according to the correct and faulty cycles. The cycles utilized were specified in Propper's Once-A-Day® test pack specifications or used routinely in research and development for producing a marginal fault. The study was conducted in a retrospective fashion. Results with lots and test packs produced for the years 1995 and 1986 were examined.

Materials and Methods

Test packs of the 5 x 5 inch type produced for use in the U.S.A. that were either boxed or wrapped were subjected to routine quality control tests during production. Both types of packs were constructed from the same types of paper components and contained test sheets produced with the Propper Bowie and Dick test sheet ink. Included in the examination were tests made with marginal faults. Marginal fault tests are not part of the quality control test specifications, but they are used in research and development, and sometimes, during the manufacture of some product lots. Marginal fault tests provide a more sensitive way of evaluating the exact fault detecting capabilities of the packs.

The quality control test cycles used simulate correctly functioning and faulty sterilizers according to Propper specifications for these products. The tests were conducted in a 250 liter steam autoclave equipped for pre-vacuum operation with the capability to regulate the amount of air residuals in the chamber for the exposure phase of the cycle.

The results were examined visually and comparisons were made as to the color of the results of the correct and faulty cycles and the sizes and colors of the faults, when faults were tested.

Results

The response to correct, faulty, or marginally faulty cycles was similar whether the packs were boxed or wrapped as determined by visual comparisons of the test sheet results.

Conclusions

The Propper Bowie and Dick test packs may be boxed or wrapped in sterilization wrap without affecting the response to the test conditions.

