



Technical Note:

Tips for the safe autoclaving of Bellco glass spinner flasks.

Introduction

Glass spinner flasks should be autoclaved fully assembled to ensure sterility of the whole system and all of the components that make up the assembled system.

NOTE: All of the components of a Bellco spinner flask, except for the drive motor and the heating blanket (if used), are designed to be repeatably autoclaved at 121°C for 20 to 30 minutes.

Before Autoclaving

Make sure that all caps and accessories are fully assembled. Caps should be loosely placed on the vessel. **ENSURE** that they are not tightened down. The recommended procedure to ensure correct autoclave set up is “Tighten the caps and then back them off a full turn”, this will ensure that steam will be able to escape, there will be no pressure build up in the flask during the autoclave cycle, and that a condensate vacuum will not form during the cool down phase.

Add a small amount of DDI water to the spinner flask, this will add additional amount of steam to the vessel during autoclaving and ensure full steam penetration throughout the assembled system.

NOTE: This will also prevent the vessel cracking or exploding

Autoclaving

Place the assembled spinner flask into the autoclave in an upright position. It is important so that the impeller assembly is not lying on its side. If the assembled vessel is too large to fit standing up, remove the impeller assembly and autoclave it separately.

NOTE: If the assembly is autoclaved on its side this will cause the Impeller to warp.

Autoclave on liquid cycle for at least 30 minutes at 121 degrees °C at 15psi.

A larger vessel will require more time. All components for this vessel have been manufactured to be autoclaved repeatedly at these conditions.

After autoclaving,

With autoclave gloves, remove the spinner flask and place on a bench top or in a laminar air flow hood.

Do not tighten the caps until the system has completely cooled down.

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