

## **Sterilisation** (by autoclave).

The principal hazards and risks when using an autoclave are:

- Infectious disease caused by failure to sterilise
- Contamination of products and other materials through failure to sterilise
- Trauma injury by explosive displacement or opening of a door or lid
- Trauma injury by explosion of sealed gas or other container
- Puncture injury by protruding needles and other sharps
- Scalding by hot liquids, vaporised liquid or steam

All waste inactivation by autoclave sterilisation must produce a record of the effectiveness of each treatment. Such records may be by way of a printout from the autoclave or the outcomes from the use of spore strips.

### **Typical recommended autoclaving conditions**

<b>Process</b>	<b>Sterilising temperature (centigrade)</b>	<b>Sterilisation time (minutes)</b>
Liquid sterilisation	121-124	15
Equipment/glassware sterilisation	121-124 134	15 3
Make-safe cycles for discard or re-use	121-124 134*	15 3*

\* These conditions may not be sufficient for inactivating agents associated with TSEs. For TSE-causing agents and analogs use 134 C for 18 mins followed by incineration.