



Gaseous sterilization solutions for Drug substances and prefilled Devices (Ethylene Oxide and Nitrogen Dioxide)

原料药和预灌封注射器的气体灭菌解决方案 (环氧乙烷和二氧化氮)



Jessica Yuan

AUG 2024

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Introduction of Sotera Health



Safeguarding Global Health®



Nelson Labs.

A Sotera Health company

Expert Lab Testing & Advisory Services

Safeguarding Global Health® – with every test we complete.



Nordion.

A Sotera Health company

Reliable Global Supply of Cobalt-60

Safeguarding Global Health® – with every Cobalt-60 source we supply.



Sterigenics.

A Sotera Health company

Comprehensive Sterilization Solutions & Expert Advisory Services

Safeguarding Global Health® – with every product we sterilize.

袁桂英 (Jessica Yuan)

职位：工厂总经理

工作单位：施洁医疗技术(上海)有限公司

工作经历：

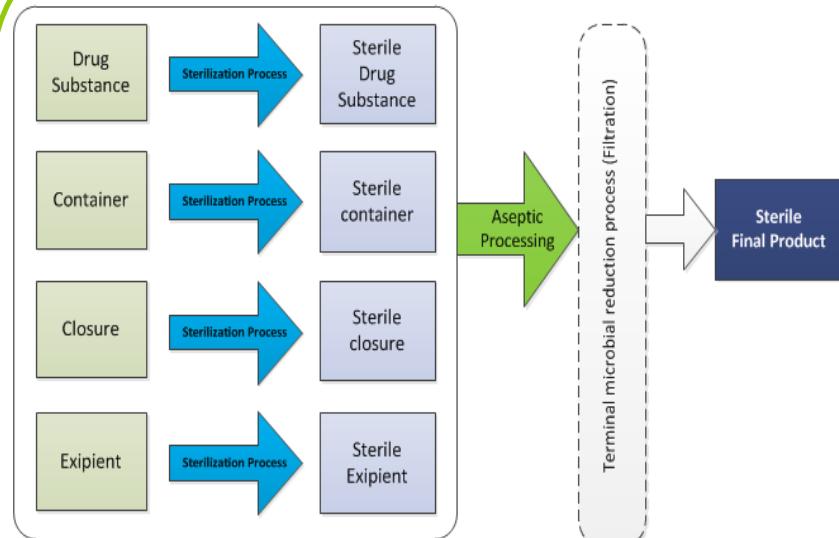
- 2014. 10~现在 施洁医疗技术(上海)有限公司 工厂总经理
- 2013. 09~2014. 09 施洁中国区质量经理
- 2009. 12~2013. 09 施洁医疗技术(上海)有限公司 质量经理
- 中国医疗器械行业协会医疗器械包装专委会技术工作组 灭菌组组长
- IRCA认可 ISO9001 主任审核员
- 联系电话：18616605050



**There are two (2) strategies to produce a
sterile drug product:
两种获得无菌药品的策略**



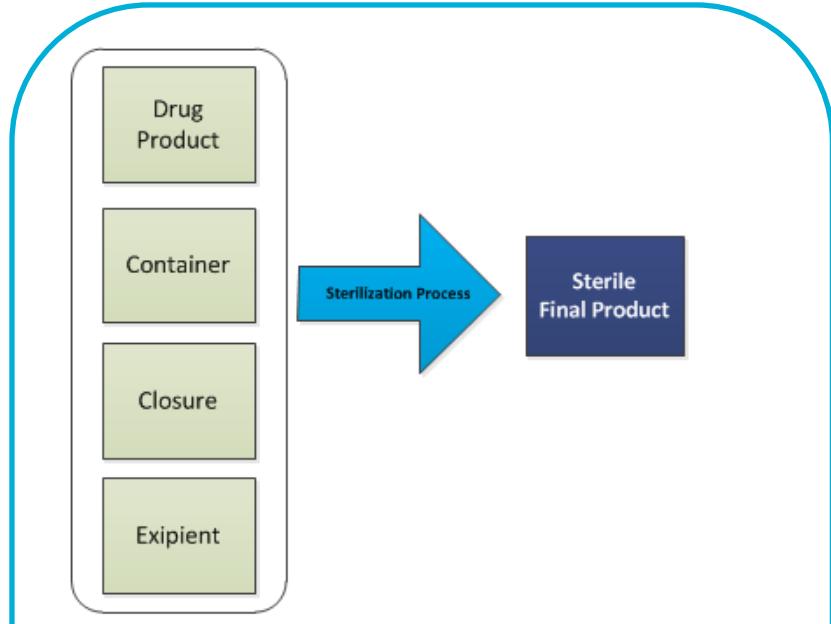
Aseptic Assembly 无菌组装



Maintain sterility of a product that is assembled from components, each of which has been previously sterilized

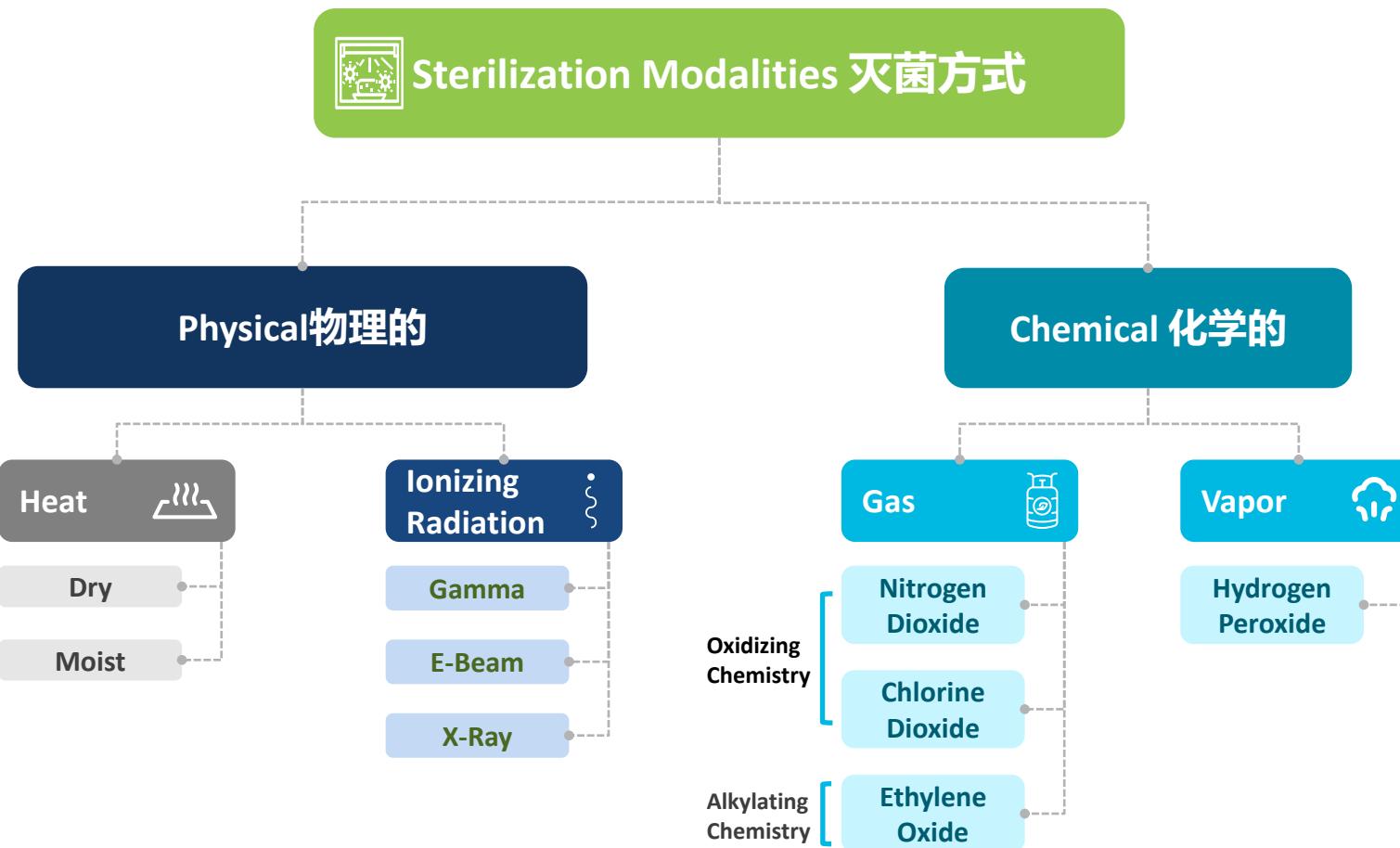
Sterile

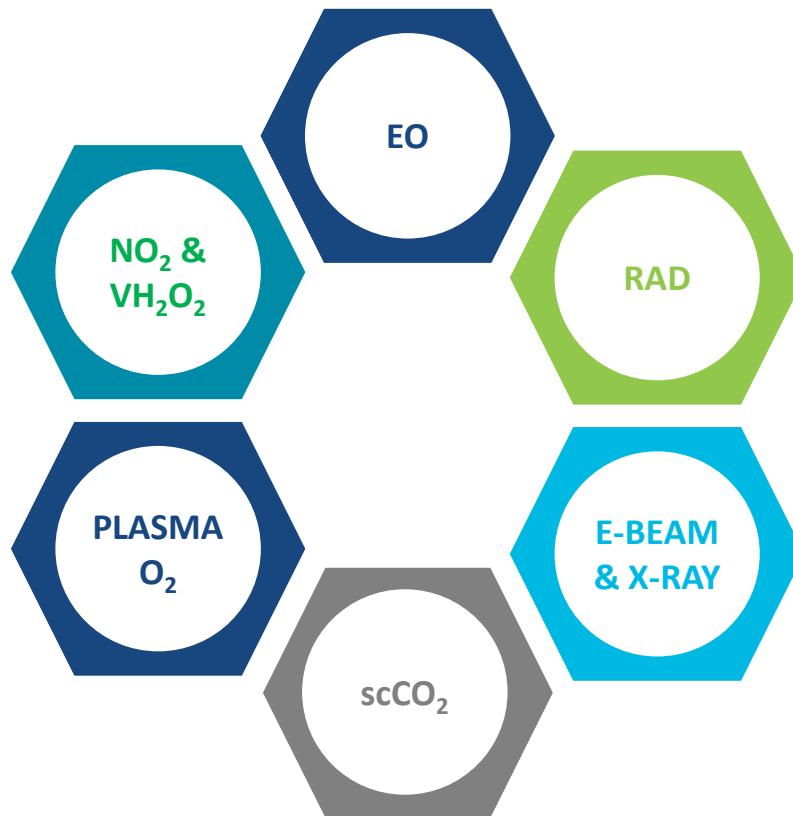
Terminal Sterilization 终端灭菌



Exposure to a physical or chemical sterilizing agent for a predetermined extent of treatment

Sterilized





Ethylene Oxide



Nitrogen Dioxide and Vaporized
Hydrogen Peroxide



Gamma Radiation



Electron Beam and X-Ray

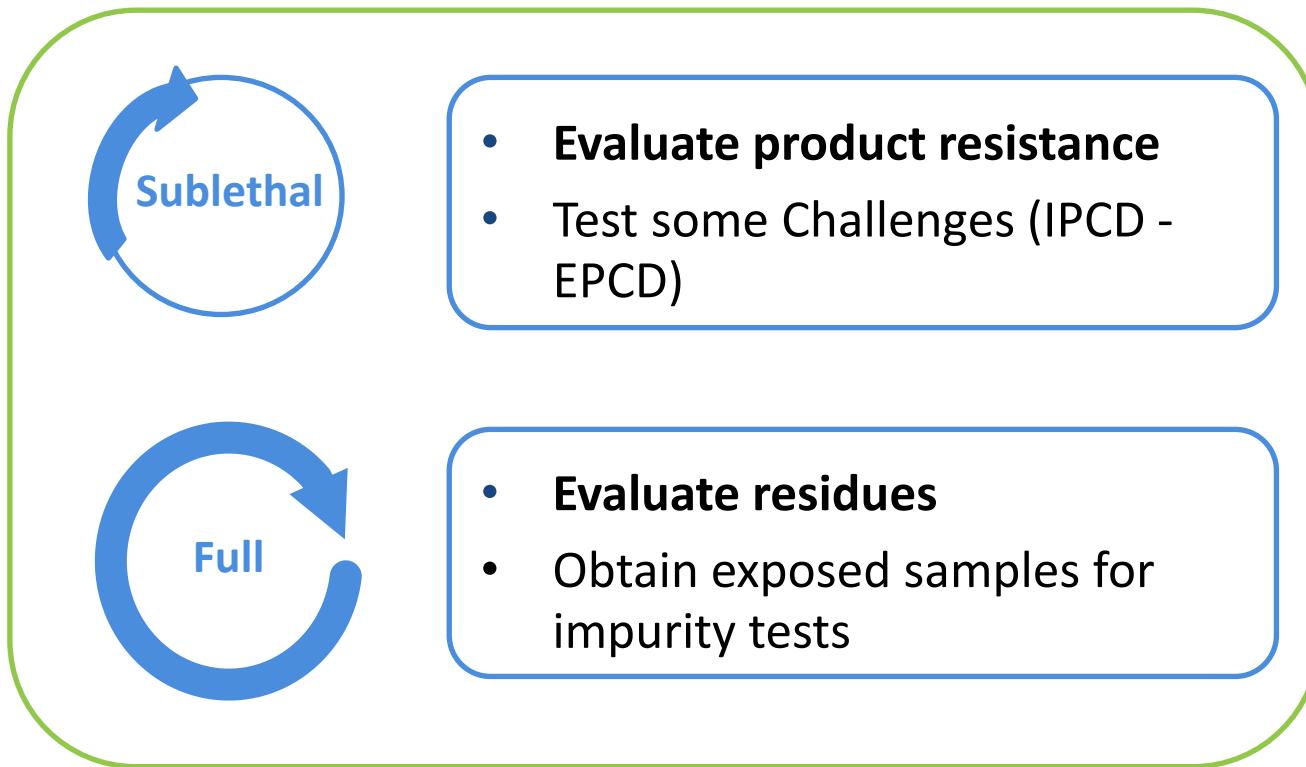


Supercritical Carbon Dioxide



Plasma Oxygen

Feasibility testing (可行性研究) :



Final product Design 最终产品设计



Ethylene Oxide Sterilization 环氧乙烷灭菌



Mainly used to sterilize:

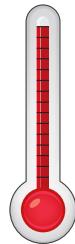
- Heat-sensitive material
- Material sensitive to ionizing radiation
- From Small to High volumes
- Packs with multiple components/complex products



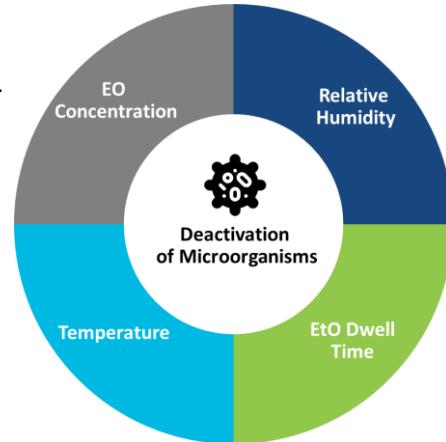
EO Sterilization Process – Critical Parameters (EO 灭菌过程-关键参数)



Typical range 400-700 mg/L



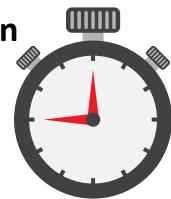
Industrial sterilization
performed in 104-140 °F
(40–60°C) temperature range



Necessary for **alkylation reaction**
EO is most effective at **RH > 30%**



Microbiological deactivation
is more effective with longer
gas dwell phase (typically 3-4
hours)



3-Step Process



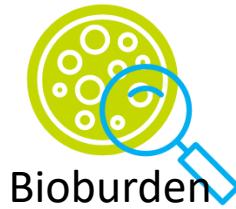


Standard

600 mg/L



One pulse EO



Half Cycle

Optimized

300 mg/L

N₂ Push

Cycle
Calculation

Complexity of EO is an asset for optimization !



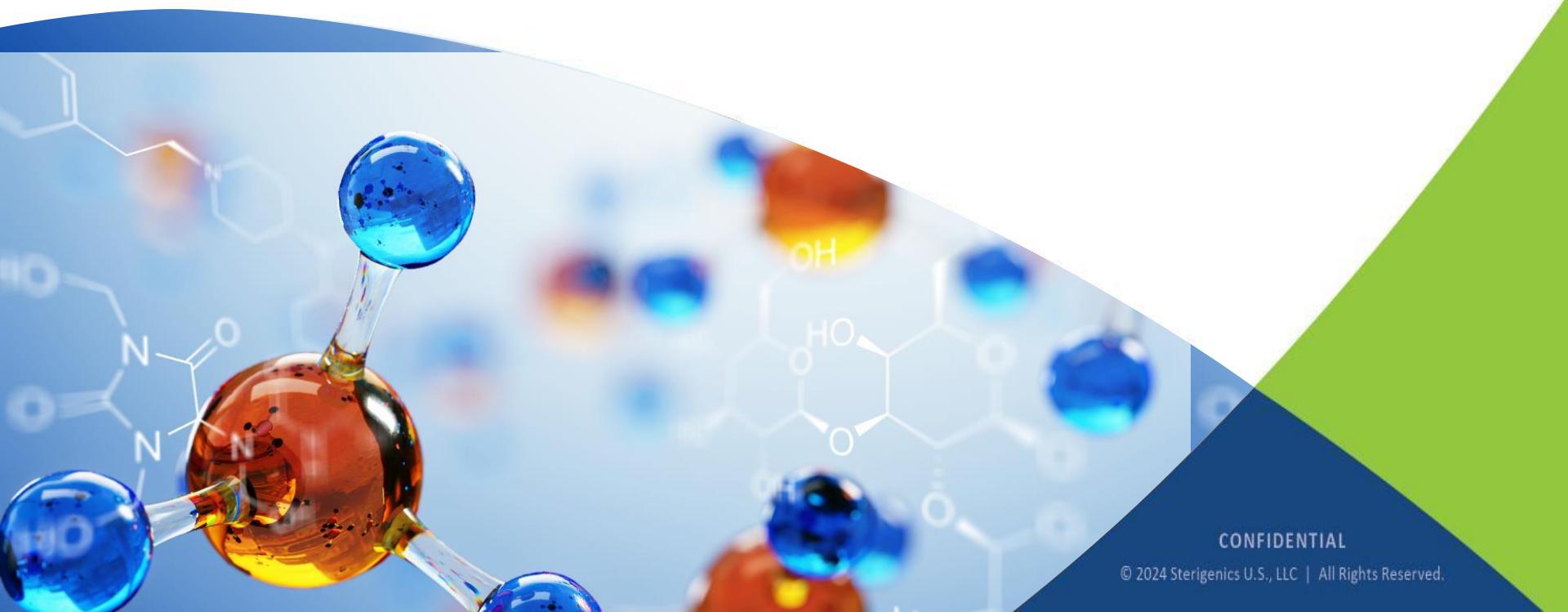
Sustainability



Sterilization of
Complex/Sensitive Healthcare
products

New technologies 新技术

NITROGEN DIOXIDE STERILIZATION



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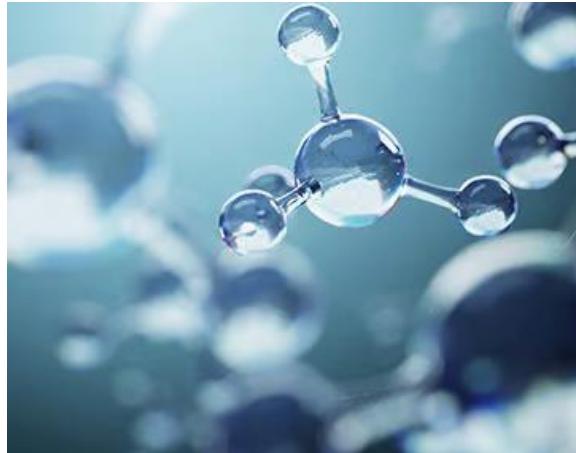
NO₂ - An alternate possibility for new complex products?

- Surface sterilization for DP protection
- Low temperature process
- Non-flammable, non-explosive and non-carcinogenic
- Wide variety of compatible materials (if not cellulose based)



NO₂ is a complementary technology

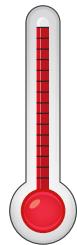
- Supplement Current Modalities
- Right Process for the Product
- Safe and efficient (ES&G)
- **Regulatory landscape** favorable
 - FDA Challenge 1 in Nov 2019
 - NO₂ accepted by EPA (US)
 - EU GMP Process approval (2024)



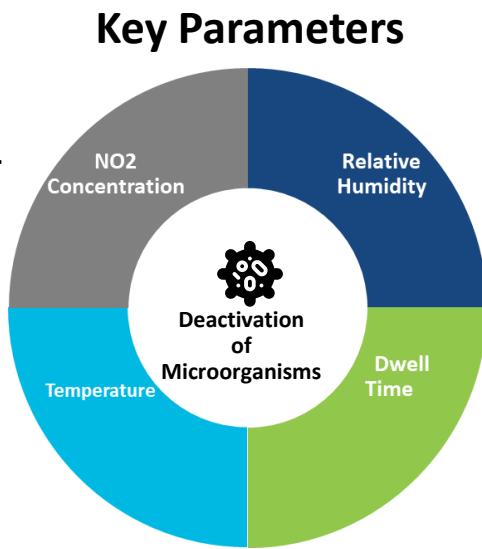
NO₂ – Basics (NO₂基础)



Typical range **10-15 mg/L**



Industrial sterilization
performed in 50-77 °F
(18-21°C) temperature range



Necessary for **oxidation reaction**
effective at **60-80 RH %**



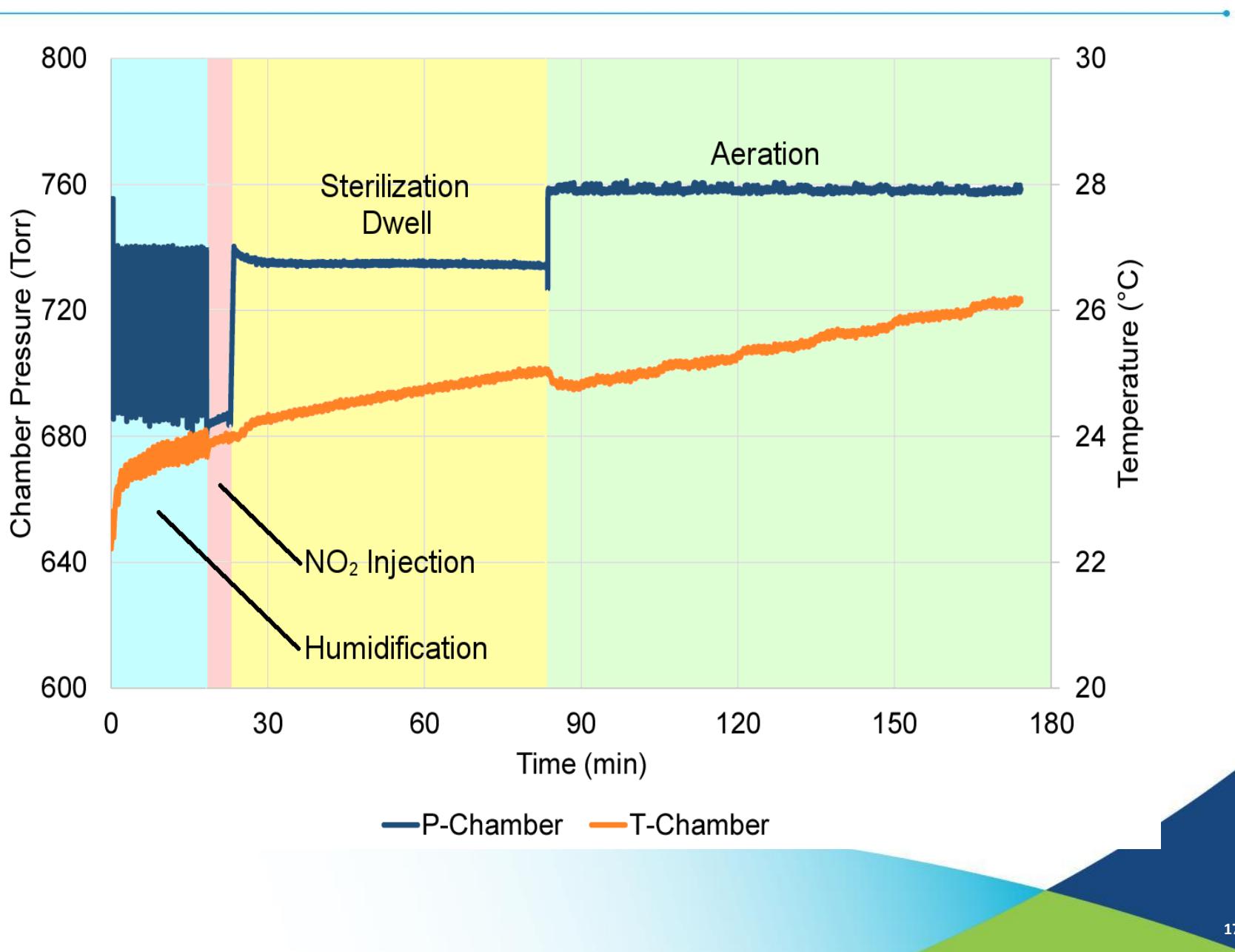
Microbiological deactivation
is more effective multiplr pulses (**Total Cycle time = 10-18h**)



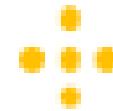
2-Step Process



What does the cycle look like(NO₂灭菌循环)

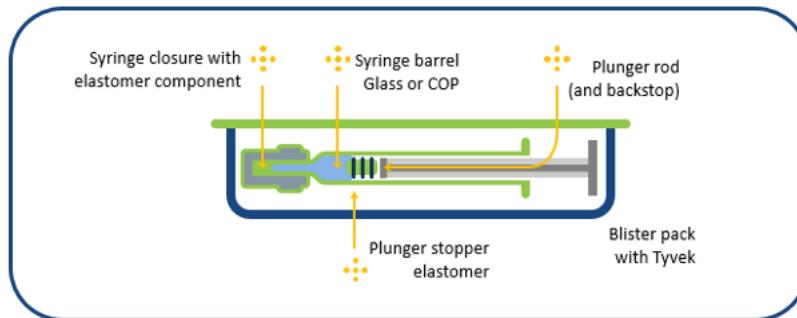


Gas Residues :

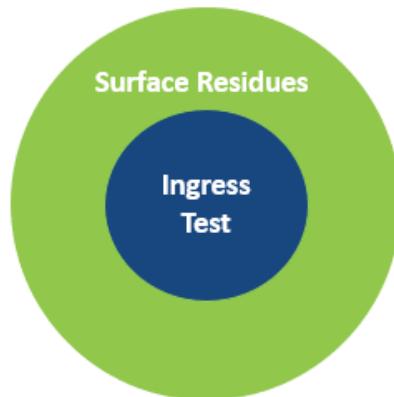


NO₂⁻ / NO₃⁻

Gas ingress pathways :



- The **hazards** posed by these residuals are considered **low**
- No international standard for NO₂sterilant residuals
- Limits to be justified by customer based on product usage
- Biocompatibility (E&L) testing by customer



NO₂ Packaging Compatibility (NO₂包装相容性)

NO₂ is compatible with commonly-used sterile barrier packaging materials

- Tyvek® based pouches
- Extrusion Coated / Laminated Films
- Thermoformed Trays (PETG) with Tyvek® lids



NO₂ interacts chemically with cellulosic materials

NO₂ Material Compatibility (NO₂材料相容性)

- NO₂ is compatible with many Drug Delivery materials:
 - Cyclic Olefins (COC, COP)
 - Bromo/Chlorobutyl Rubber
 - Borosilicate Glass
 - PTFE/Teflon
 - Stainless steel
 - Polycarbonate
 - Polypropylene
 - Polyethylene
 - ABS
- NO₂ may chemically interact with:
 - Polyacetal (Delrin®)
 - Polyurethanes
 - Nylons

Examples of products sterilized with NO₂



Medical Devices



Orthopedic Implants



Electronic Implants



Drug Products



Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients



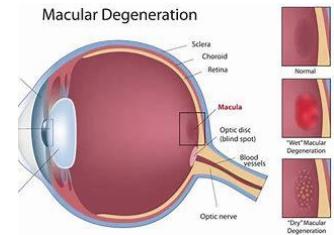
Prefilled syringes (external)



Drug Implants

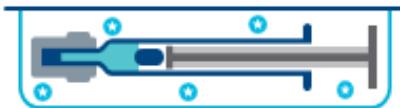
Pre-filled devices present a unique challenges for sterilization

- Temperature-sensitive drugs products (biologics)
- Complex formulation challenges
- Innovative plastic material with coating
- Syringe Plunger movement
- Impurities (ingress, stability)
- Sterilization SAL $\leq 10^{-6}$ at worst-case position
- Regulatory complexity



NO₂ versus EO (No2 对比EO)

Pre-filled devices



Characteristic	EO	NO ₂
Lethality	high	medium
Diffusion into most polymers/plastics	high	low
Sterilant concentration (mg/L)	High (200-400mg/L)	Low (10-20 mg/L)
Load Volume	1-32 Pallets	1 Pallet
Processing temperature	40°C	20°C
Processing Time	Long (> 3 days)	Medium (±15h)
Microorganism for BI	B. Atrophaeus (7days incubation)	G. Stearothermophilus (14 days incubation)
Residues	ETO,ECH,(EG)	NO ₂ ,NO ₃ – Low hazard



Drug Substance Sterilization



Gaseous
(EO and NO²)



Irradiation with
Gamma
ray and E-Beam

Aciclovir

Dexamethasone

Tetracycline
hydrochloride

Triamcinolone

Methylprednisolone

Drug Substance Sterilization

	EO	Gamma		
	Assay	Related substances	Assay	Related substances
Dexamethasone	+	+	+	< x dose
Methylprednisolone	+	+	+	< x dose
Aciclovir	+	+	+	+
Tetracycline.HCl	+	+	+	+
Triamcinolone	+	+	+	+

- *The effect of Gamma and Ethylene Oxide Sterilization on a Selection of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients for Ophthalmics - Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences*
- *Sterilization of biopharmaceuticals: Effect of gamma irradiation, e-beam irradiation and nitrogen dioxide on human insulin - ScienceDirect*



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No2



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Laboratory Testing

Market Segment



Medical Packaging and the Impact of NO2 Sterilization

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Thank You

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