Common Reasons for Bowie-Dick Type Test Pack Failures

**LOW VACUUM LEVEL**
1) Faulty vacuum pump.
2) Faulty pressure switch/sensor giving incorrect reading.
3) Water supply temperature to the vacuum pump is too high.

**NON CONDENSABLE GASES**
1) Softened hard water that contains high levels of bicarbonate which degrades to carbon dioxide.
2) High pressure leak from a pneumatic valve into the steam supply to the sterilizer chamber.

**LEAK**
1) Leak in sensor ports attached to the chamber.
2) Leak in chamber door seal due to normal wear or damage.
3) Leak through the pipe work where steam is passing.
4) High pressure leak from a pneumatic valve into the steam supply to the sterilizer chamber.

**Product Usage Instructions:**

**Frequency of Use**
Use daily to assess the efficacy of air removal and steam penetration in prevacuum sterilizers. Also use during sterilizer qualification.

**Reference**
“A cycle is run as specified by the sterilizer manufacturer. The recommended exposure time is 3.5 minutes, but if half-minute exposures cannot be selected on the sterilizer, a 4 minute exposure time may be used. The exposure time should never exceed 4 minutes at 134°C (273°F). Drying time may be omitted to save time without affecting the outcome of the test. When removed from the sterilizer, the test pack might still be hot and should be opened carefully to avoid thermal injury to the hands or face. The test sheet should be removed from the pack and examined by a person trained in its interpretation.”

**Storage and Shelf Life**
Store at controlled room temperature. The test pack has a three (3) year shelf life from date of manufacture.