

Beyond Clean Low Temp Sterilization Expert TM:

## DEMYSTIFYING LIQUID VS VAPORIZED HYDROGEN PEROXIDE IN SPD

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Hydrogen peroxide (H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>) is a small and simple molecule with a formula close to water but having somewhat different properties. Across industries, H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> solutions are used in many ways. For instance, in textiles it is commonly used as a bleaching agent, while in the aerospace industry it is known as a rocket propellant.

H2O2 comes as a liquid solution always mixed with water. It is an excellent oxidizer making it very useful in the sterile processing department (SPD). Once H2O2 has reacted with bugs and microorganisms, only water and gaseous oxygen is left behind without any harmful by-products. Talk about a clean killer!

This same reactivity causes H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> solutions to decompose sitting on the shelf. Fortunately, to combat this, commercial solutions contain stabilizers to maintain their concentration during storage. Always follow recommended storage conditions to make sure your product doesn't literally turn into water sitting on the shelf.

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H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> can be found around the SPD for use in various processes in its liquid form for disinfection and sterilization of surfaces and medical devices.

Where we will be starting in this series is identifying key areas of interest with vaporized H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> sterilization. But how do we get to this gaseous version of the same molecule?

From its liquid state, high concentration H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> solution is heated under vacuum to vaporize it for use in terminal sterilization of medical devices. The implications of vaporized H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> are many and I'm excited to be your partner in discovering how a simple molecule can change the way we fight dirty!

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Have more low temp sterilization questions? Contact Jean-Luc at: jeanluc.lemyre@stryker.com

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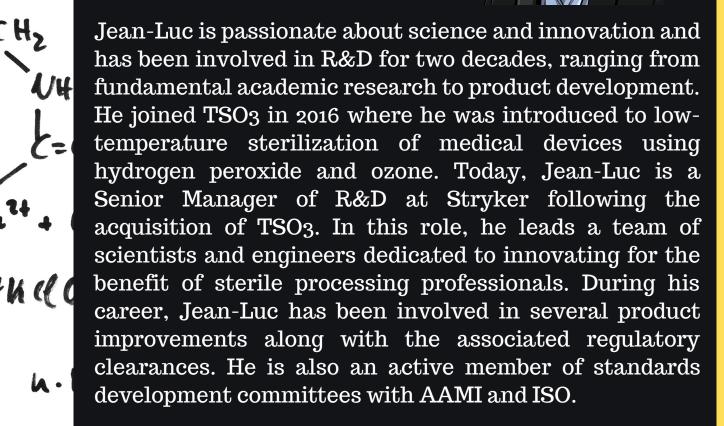
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## <u>stryker</u>

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HOOC

Before discovering his passion for sterile processing, he started his career doing R&D in the field of personal protective equipment. He has a PhD in chemistry from Université Laval in the beautiful Québec City, where he still lives with his family.

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