

# EGG GRADING SANITATION PROGRAM

Maintaining clean and safe processing and packaging areas is a high priority for any food facility but is especially important when live animals are housed on common grounds or in close proximity to where finished product is being handled. Pathogens commonly found in poultry housing such as *Salmonella*, *E. coli*, *Campylobacter* and Avian influenza can all be transferred from animal housing to the processing environment through foot traffic, equipment movement, as well as on egg surfaces. Limiting risk in some key areas can help limit the potential for contamination in further processing.

## POSSIBLE AREAS OF RISK INCLUDE

### Entryways

Doorways, shipping and receiving bays, and other common areas that equipment and staff move through are an important control point for limiting movement of pathogens into the facility.

### Egg Trays

Egg trays have direct contact with shell eggs and thus have the potential to be a transfer point if they are not properly disinfected.

### Egg Tray Washers

Tray washing machines can be a harborage point for pathogens and biofilm. Anything in the washer can transfer back to the egg flats as the machine is used.

### Belting and Packaging Equipment

Any belting or equipment that contact the egg shell can be a potential transfer point. Interlocking belts can be hard to clean and disinfect and can create the perfect environment for biofilm growth.

### Floor and Drain Surfaces

All the surfaces in the plant eventually drain to the floors and drains, creating a natural catch point for all pathogens.

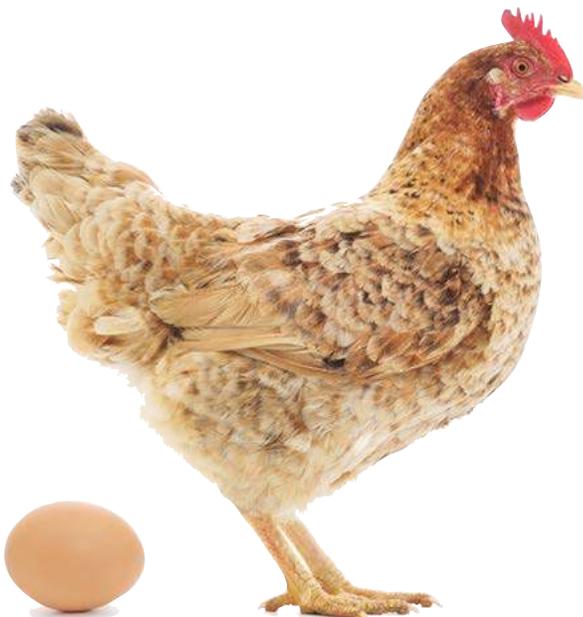
## STERILEX SOLUTIONS

Sterilex products are designed and labeled for use in control of the most common poultry and food processing pathogens and are compatible with a wide variety of surfaces\* and environments.

- o **Sterilex® Ultra Step** can be used as entryway control and directly on floor surfaces without any minimum water requirement, so it provides control through the day without need for drainage or equipment installation.
- o **Sterilex® Ultra Disinfectant Cleaner Solution 1** and **Ultra Soft Metal Activator** can be used during wet cleaning to disinfect food contact surfaces and remove biofilm\*\* on environmental surfaces.

\* See soft metal compatibility chart on Ultra Soft Metal Activator technical data sheet for additional compatibility information.

\*\* Biofilm removal claims approved for specific applications only. See product label for full label claims and usage instructions.



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## BENEFITS SUMMARY

- o Security in knowing that movement of harmful bacteria and viruses can be controlled at all the critical points in the facility without intentional introduction of moisture
- o Removal of biofilm\*\* harborage points on environmental surfaces
- o Maintenance of a sanitary environment, limiting the risk of product contamination
- o Hospital level disinfection specifically targeting those pathogens that are the highest risk for poultry and egg products



## RECOMMENDED USE OF STERILEX ULTRA STEP FOR ENTRYWAYS AND FLOORS

### Floor Maintenance Treatment Instructions:

- o To determine the minimum amount of powder needed to cover a set square foot area, optionally, pre-measure enough Sterilex Ultra Step to cover the area to be treated by dividing total square feet to be treated by 100 and then multiplying by  $3.7/16$ . This provides the weight in pounds of product needed (i.e. 10,000 ft<sup>2</sup> would need approximately 23 lb powder). The floor surface should contain no more than 0.97 fl oz of moisture per ft<sup>2</sup>.
- o Slowly add Sterilex Ultra Step to the Premium Spreader hopper or application device.
- o Walk forward at a deliberate pace (3 mph) and pull the handle to begin application.
- o The Sterilex Premium Spreader should be used at settings 3.5–4.0 to apply 3.7 oz of Sterilex Ultra Step/100 ft<sup>2</sup>. Sterilex hand-held spreaders can be used at settings 2.5 to apply a minimum of 3.7 oz of Sterilex Ultra Step/100 ft<sup>2</sup>.\*\*\*
- o Floor surface should have a light coating of Sterilex Ultra Step on the floor.
- o Once the floor surface has no more visible, undissolved Sterilex Ultra Step, it is time to reapply.

\*\*\* **NOTE:** Spreader application settings can vary based on a number of factors, including walking speed. Ensure product is applied above the minimum required rate on the product label.

### Entryway Mat/Floor Pan Maintenance Treatment Instructions:

- o Cover the entryway mat or floor pan with a 0.25–0.50 inch coating of Sterilex Ultra Step. Ensure that product is used at a rate of at least 3.7 oz/100 ft<sup>2</sup>, with no more than 0.97 fl oz of moisture per ft<sup>2</sup>.
- o Reapply Sterilex Ultra Step to the floor mat during the course of the day as the powder is either dissolved or moved away from the mat.

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## RECOMMENDED DISINFECTION PROTOCOL

In egg grading facilities, Sterilex products are best used on a routine maintenance schedule. Under certain conditions, biofilm can re-form on a completely clean surface within one week. Ongoing maintenance programs utilizing Sterilex PerQuat® chemistry at least 1x per week help mitigate this risk and maintain sanitary surfaces.

### Preparation

1. Treat all surfaces with an alkaline detergent, followed with a water rinse.
2. Identify potential harborage niches and biofilms utilizing **Sterilex Indicon® Gel**, noting hot-spots by spraying Indicon Gel gently on surfaces to be tested at a distance of 4 to 6 inches ensuring full coverage. For vertical surfaces, spray from left to right while activating the spray head to enhance product cling on the vertical surface.
3. Visually inspect the surface within 2 minutes following application.
4. A positive reaction with Indicon Gel generates rapidly growing white micro-bubbles. The white micro-bubbles clearly contrast with the product's original blue color. A negative reaction is the absence of micro-bubbles after 2 minutes.
5. Rinse Indicon Gel from surfaces with abundant water.

**Note:** (1) When spraying Indicon Gel onto a surface, a small number of large bubbles may be generated due to the shear created when the gel hits the surface. This is different from the rapid, growing microbubbles which indicate the presence of biofilm. (2) The lack of a positive reaction from Indicon Gel does not guarantee that the surface is free from microorganisms. Indicon Gel is not meant to take the place of routine microbial monitoring or organism specific diagnostic tests. (3) Not for use on galvanized surfaces.

### Product Application

1. Fill **Sterilex EZBlend™ Foam Unit** with **Sterilex Ultra Disinfectant Cleaner Solution 1, Ultra Soft Metal Activator** and water. The EZBlend Foam Unit will dispense Sterilex products at the labeled use dilution range of 1:1:10 to 1:1:8.
  - a. Alternatively, prepare a solution of **Sterilex Ultra Disinfectant Cleaner Solution 1, Ultra Soft Metal Activator** and water mixed at a 1:1:10 to 1:1:8 ratio (12.8–16.0 fl oz of each solution/gallon of water) for use in a rinsed tank foamer. Use solution within 8 hours of mixing.
2. Generously foam surfaces, including egg flats, egg flat washers, belts and other equipment throughout the egg grading facility. Allow chemistry to soak in all crevices of treated surfaces.
  - a. **Minimum contact time:** 10 minutes
  - b. **Recommended contact time:** 30 minutes
  - c. **Water Temperature:** not to exceed 150°F
3. Rinse all surfaces thoroughly with a potable water rinse and then follow with a final sanitizer.

### Verify Results

1. Re-apply Sterilex Indicon Gel to hot-spots identified prior to the total facility disinfection event to verify the elimination of biofilm harborage niches.
2. If Indicon Gel indicates a positive reaction, reapply Sterilex Ultra Disinfectant Cleaner Solution 1 and Ultra Soft Metal Activator to trouble areas. If negative reaction, rinse surface with abundant water and apply final sanitizer.

Sterilex products are available from sanitation chemical providers.

Please contact us for more information.

**1.800.511.1659 | [www.sterilex.com](http://www.sterilex.com) | [marketing@sterilex.com](mailto:marketing@sterilex.com)**