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COVID-19 FAQs

Q. Are our facilities open during this COVID-19 pandemic?

A: Yes. We are supplying many customers that are considered essential, and for that reason, Worldwide Foam will continue to operate in every location that it exists. We are communicating regularly with our employees regarding the importance of hygiene and social distancing.

Q. Do we supply materials for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)?

A: Yes. We stock and supply a variety of materials including Armacell Monarch 3071 with antimicrobial additives, Zotefoams Azote series, Sekisui Voltek, LLC Volara crosslinked roll foams and Wm. T. Burnett & Co. Urethane. These are commonly used in medical applications and PPE.

Q. Do the materials we carry have Latex?

A: Our Cross-linked Polyethylene Foams (XLPE) are unique, closed-cell materials used extensively to create medical packaging solutions. XLPE foam is non-toxic, hypoallergenic, and latex-free and can come in direct contact with skin and be used in operating rooms.

Q. Can our materials be sterilized?

A: Common sterilization techniques can be summarized in three groups:

Heat Sterilization

Direct heat sterilization or steam sterilization in an autoclave requires a material to be exposed to elevated temperatures and/or pressures for a certain amount of time to ensure that the heat (and steam) will kill off all pathogens within a device/ material. These conditions are typically severe enough to cause shrinkage and deformation as well as changes in the mechanical properties of Worldwide Foams. The extent of the effect such treatment has on Worldwide Foam materials will vary between grades and will depend on the conditions of the sterilization process.

Chemical Sterilization

Ethylene Oxide is used for sterilization for certain (medical) applications. In this process, the material is subjected to ethylene oxide at a slightly elevated temperature. Since Ethylene Oxide is highly toxic and potentially carcinogenic, this process requires degassing of the material after the exposure, which is typically done in a vacuum environment. Due to the safety regulations the process is fairly time-consuming when compared to sterilization by irradiation and is becoming less common for materials that can be sterilized by irradiation.

Irradiation Sterilization

Three different types of irradiation sterilization are currently available, namely, electron beam irradiation, gamma irradiation, and x-ray irradiation. While the first two types are commonly used, the third, x-ray irradiation, is still a new development and few facilities are in operation that can offer this treatment.