

The sealing device performance test is to take place on a weekly basis, preferably on a Monday. Please note the date of the process on the test strip. The test is to be carried out using transparent sterilization packaging, 100mm or greater in width. Sealing should be effected in conformity with the standardized instructions for transparent sterilization packaging. The MELAG seal check verifies the quality of the seal on the paper via the contrast on the special print. Correct melting of the inner film layer and the pressure on the paper will produce a sealed seam along the full length of the surface. An inefficient seal temperature, a worn sealing bar or insufficient pressure thus becomes visible.

Application of the test strip:

1. Should the sealing device require a pre-heating time, switch it on before the test and wait until the set temperature has been reached (e.g. the MELAsea[®]100+).
2. Introduce the test strip in the sterilization packaging so that the grey test field can be seen through the clear film.
3. Lay the packaging with the inserted test strip in the sealing device so that the seal seam to be produced runs along the middle of the entire length of the grey test field. Produce a seal seam as described in the instructions.

Evaluating the test strip:

1. Appraising the seal seam: The colouration of the test field must be evenly visible over the entire area and have sharp contours. The seal seam may not contain any skips or anomalies.
2. Check the width of the seal seam. According to EN 868 part 5, it must be a minimum of 6 mm in width along the entire width of the test field. With MELAsea/ Pro[®] the seal seam consists of partial seal seams which must also be 6 mm altogether.
3. Cut open the sterilization packaging and fill out the fields on the test strips. The test strips will be subsequently archived.

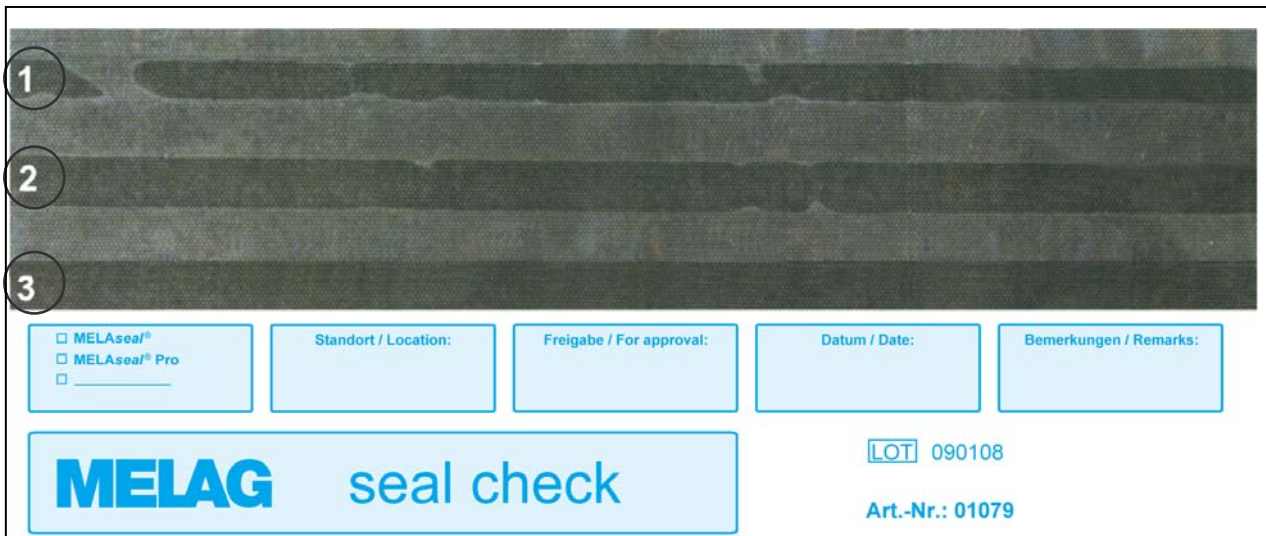


Figure 1 – Evaluating the quality of the seal seam

- Seal seam 1 - Insufficient contact pressure
- Seal seam 2 - Seal temperature not constant
- Seal seam 3 - Seal seam produced correctly