positioning device, the at least one or a plurality of objects can be positioned and moved into an area, in which they are exposed to the fluid flow.

According to another embodiment, the positioning device comprises a temperature resistive belt-conveyor suitable for providing a continuous or step-wise transfer of a plurality of objects to be sterilized by way of the fluid flow.

In another preferred embodiment, the fluid is confined in a closed circuit wherein after sterilization of the at least one object the fluid is guided through a feed back channel and is fed back to the heating device.

In still another embodiment the apparatus further comprises a stopping device, which is adapted to process a flow-speed failure signal and/or a fluid-temperature failure signal for stopping and/or throttling the acceleration device and/or the heating device. In this way, overheating of the apparatus can be substantially prevented.

In another embodiment, there is provided a sterilization apparatus for the sterilization of an object by a gaseous or liquid fluid comprising:

- a sterilization chamber in which the object is positioned,
- at least an acceleration device for accelerating the fluid to a predetermined flow-speed,
- at least a filter device for separating particles from the fluid,
- at least an orifice device having a plurality of openings being arranged in a flow-path of the fluid,

characterized by a control apparatus for determining the flow-speed of the fluid on the basis of a pressure difference (Δp) across the orifice device.

In a further aspect the invention relates to a method for controlling of the sterilization of at least one object by a heated gaseous or liquid fluid wherein the at least one object is positioned in a sterilization chamber of a sterilization apparatus, inside which the object is sterilized by exposure to the fluid, wherein the method comprises the steps of: accelerating the fluid to a predetermined flow-speed by means of an acceleration device, separating particles from the fluid by means of a filter device and guiding the fluid through a plurality of openings in an orifice device arranged in the flow-path of the fluid and determining the flow-speed of the fluid on the basis of a pressure difference across the orifice device comprising a plurality of openings.

In another embodiment, there is provided a method for controlling asterilization of at least one object by a fluid wherein the at least one object is positioned in a sterilization chamber of a sterilization apparatus, and wherein the object exposed to the heated gaseous or liquid fluid, the method comprising the steps of:

- accelerating the fluid to a predetermined flow-speed by means of an acceleration device,

- separating particles from the fluid by a filter device, characterized by

- guiding the fluid through a plurality of openings of an orifice device arranged in the flow path of the fluid and

- determining the flow-speed of the fluid on the bases of a pressure difference (Δp) across the orifice device.

According to a further embodiment, the pressure difference is determined by comparing a first pressure measured upstream of the orifice device, and a second pressure measured downstream of the orifice device. By comparing first and second pressures a pressure difference can be obtained by e.g. subtracting the measured first and second pressures, wherein the pressure difference in the direction of flow across the orifice device is a direct indication for the flow speed to be determined.