

CLAIMS

1. System for the sterile filling of containers for pharmaceutical products, which comprises a device for sterilising containers and a sterilised-containers filling  
5 machine, characterised in that the device for sterilising containers comprises at least a first autoclave, and in that the system comprises an automated container-accumulation device and means for automatically transporting the containers sterilised in the autoclave from said autoclave to the container-filling machine via said container-accumulation device.
- 10 2. System according to claim 1, characterised in that the accumulation device comprises an accumulation plate.
3. System according to either claim 1 or claim 2, characterised in that the  
15 accumulation device comprises a buffer.
4. System according to either claim 1 or claim 2, characterised in that it also comprises a second autoclave, said second autoclave being positioned parallel to said first autoclave.
- 20 5. System according to claim 4, characterised in that it comprises said second autoclave and a third autoclave parallel to said first autoclave.
6. System according to any one of claims 4 to 5, characterised in that it comprises an  
25 automated autoclave-emptying device, said autoclave-emptying device and the container-filling machine being connected via the accumulation device.
7. System according to any one of claims 4 to 6, characterised in that it comprises an accumulator for filling the autoclaves, said accumulator comprising an automatic  
30 container-diverting device and control means configured to direct the containers to a second autoclave when the first autoclave is in operation.
8. System according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that it comprises a buffer at an output of each autoclave.
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9. System according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that it comprises a container-cleaning device and means for automatically transporting the cleaned containers to the at least one autoclave.

5 10. System according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that it comprises a device for capping containers after the filling machine.

11. System according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that the containers are vials.

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12. Method for the sterile filling of containers for pharmaceutical products, which comprises:

- a step of cleaning containers,
- 15 • a step of sterilising the clean containers,
- a step of filling the sterilised containers in a clean zone,

characterised in that the step of sterilising the clean containers is carried out in at least one autoclave, and in that the clean containers are directed by automatic  
20 transport means from the cleaning step to the sterilisation step and from the sterilisation step to the filling step, said containers being directed from the sterilisation step to the filling step via an accumulation device that comprises an accumulation plate.

25 13. Method according to claim 12, characterised in that the containers are directed from the sterilisation step to the filling step via an accumulation device which comprises a buffer.

14. Method according to either claim 12 or claim 13, characterised in that it comprises  
30 a step of arranging a second autoclave parallel to a first autoclave so that, while the clean containers are being sterilised in the first autoclave, the second autoclave is being loaded with new clean containers.

15. Method according to any one of claims 12 to 14, characterised in that it comprises

an additional step of capping the filled containers.

16. Method according to any one of claims 12 to 15, characterised in that the containers are vials.