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(54) **PROCESSES AND DEVICES FOR
STERILIZING CONTAMINATED OBJECTS**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

The present invention relates to a process for sterilizing a contaminated object. The process comprises the insertion of the object in a sterilization chamber having at least one discharge tube in communication therewith. Then, the tube is fed with a liquid or gas stream, and the stream is subjected to an electric field so as to generate a plasma, thereby exposing the contaminated object to the action of sterilizing species that are present in a post-discharge zone or in a zone of excitation of the plasma. A device for carrying such a process is also provided.

39 Claims, 13 Drawing Sheets

