

Frequently Used Terms

AP

Registered Authorised Person (sterilizers). A person designated by management to provide independent auditing and advice on sterilizers and sterilization and to review and witness validation and periodic test documentation. NB. HTM 2030, also recommends that impartial advice may be sought from APs in respect of the Washer Disinfectors.

Bio-Burden

The population of viable micro-organisms.

CJD

Creutzfeld-Jakob Disease. A rare and fatal neurological condition affecting the nervous system.

Competent Person

(pressure vessels) CP is a competent person or organisation undertaking certain legal responsibilities under the Pressure Systems Safety Regulations.

Disinfectant

A chemical which destroys or removes micro-organisms but not usually bacterial spores. Used to cleanse surgical instruments and surfaces of equipment or furniture.

EN

European Norm. Pan European standard. In the UK these appear as BSEN. If the standard is under development and not yet issued as a final standard it will usually be issued in draft (provisional) form as a prEN referenced document.

HAI

Healthcare Associated Infection, otherwise known as Hospital Acquired Infection.

HTM

Health Technical Memoranda, advisory documents issued by the Department of Health.

HTM 2010 Sterilizers

A six part document providing comprehensive information and guidance on the specification, purchase, installation, routine testing and use of sterilization equipment within the NHS.

HTM 2030 Washer-Disinfectors

A three part document providing comprehensive information and guidance on the specification, purchase and use of washer disinfectors within the NHS.

Immuno-compromised

A person who has impaired immunity due to disease (cancer) or treatment (radiotherapy) which leaves them prone to infection.

Infection

Invasion and multiplication of harmful micro-organisms in body tissues.

Manager

The person who is ultimately accountable for the operation of the premises. Depending on the nature of the organisation, this may be the owner, or other person of similar authority. In small, autonomous installations the manager might also be the user.

MDA

Medical Devices Agency, now known as Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency.

MDA DBs

Medical Devices Agency Device Bulletins which are guidelines written by the MDA now known as Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) providing advice on the correct and appropriate use of medical devices within the UK healthcare sector.

MHRA

Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (formerly known as the Medical Devices Agency (MDA)).

Micro-organism

An organism too small to be seen by the naked eye.

Operator

Any person with the authority to operate a sterilizer, including the noting of the sterilizer instrument readings and simple housekeeping duties and by agreement, daily/weekly testing.

Organic matter

Body fluid/substances on which micro-organisms thrive.

Pathogen

Disease causing micro-organism.

prEN 13060

The draft European standard for benchtop autoclaves. A publication date for this is has not yet been agreed. It does provide the classification system for autoclaves which has been adopted by the MHRA.

Prion

The word for proteinaceous infectious agent. Prions are now believed responsible for several transmissible neuro-degenerative diseases, e.g vCJD.

Pyrogen

A substance or agent that induces fever.

Spore

A resistant casing used by some bacteria to enclose their cells when in adverse environmental conditions. Spores germinate when conditions improve and the cell recommences multiplication.

Sterilization

A process which renders items free from viable micro-organisms, and in the case of medical instruments makes them safe for surgical procedures.

SWFI

Sterile Water for Irrigation – may sometimes be recommended for use in benchtop autoclaves.

Test Person

(sterilizers) TP is a person designated by management to carry out validation and periodic testing of sterilizers.

Type B autoclaves

Are intended for processing solid items (e.g. forceps, dental probes), hollow items (e.g. cannulae, tubing), wrapped or unwrapped, and for porous loads (e.g. fabrics, swabs and dressings). They are necessary for items that cannot be processed using a Type N cycle (or a Type S cycle, unless it is specifically intended for these load types). Type B autoclaves must have a drying stage.

Type N autoclaves

Are intended to only process solid instruments for immediate use.

Type S autoclaves

Are intended to process loads specified by the manufacturer, hence not all autoclaves in this category will process similar loads. Eschmann's Type 'S' autoclaves are suitable for processing single wrapped items and hollow instruments, such as dental hand pieces.

User

The person designated by management to be responsible for the management of the sterilizer. In a hospital the user could be a sterile services manager or theatre manager or, in primary care, a general practitioner, dentist, or other healthcare professional.

vCJD

Variant Creutzfeld Jakob Disease. A form of rare and fatal neurological disease. Commonly associated with BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy) also known as Mad Cow Disease.

Virus

A very small micro-organism of simple structure, only capable of surviving within a living host cell.

**SES Little Sister Benchtop Autoclave
Advice Sheets**

- No 1 The Decontamination Cycle
- No 2 Pre-sterilization Cleaning & Disinfection
- No 3 Selecting A New Autoclave
- No 4 Best Practice in Use of Benchtop Autoclaves
- No 5 Autoclave Testing
- No 6 Health Technical Memoranda
- No 7 Frequently used terms

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