

**Title:** REPROCESSING FLEXIBLE ENDOSCOPES: LEAK TESTING  
FOR KARL STORZ SCOPES

**Responsibility:** OR Staff (RN and Scrub Tech)

**Purpose of Guidelines:** The purpose is to provide standardization for leak testing of all Karl Storz endoscope and identify interior and /or exterior damage to scope prior to reprocessing.

**Procedure:**

1. Clean sink
2. Leak tester

Following endoscopic procedure and pre-cleaning. Leak testing is done in Decontamination Room.

1. Wear appropriate personal protective equipment.
2. Fill sink with clean water.
3. Ensure both the connective tube of the leak tester and the tester connection of the flexible scope are completely dry before connection the leak tester.
4. Attach the tester connection cap firmly to the leak tester connector and lock it by turning 25 degree clockwise.
5. Pump up the leak tester until the maximum test of 200mmHg is reached. Articulate the distal tip 5 times in each direction and readjust pressure to 160mmHg. This step is necessary to ensure all cavities within the endoscope are pressurized.
6. Completely immerse the scope in water. If surface bubbles are visible after submerging, use a syringe filled with water to remove them.
7. Keep the scope fully submerged for 1 minute while fully deflecting the distal tip in both directions and watching the pressure gauge. If the pressure does not drop by more the 10 mmHg, and if there is not a steady stream of air bubbles appearing from a single part of the scope enclosure or channel opening, the scope is watertight and does not have a leak.
8. Remove the endoscope from the water bath, straighten the distal tip, and press the release button to release the pressure to 0. When remove the leak tester.
9. If the pressure drops by more than 10 mmHg, or a steady stream of bubbles is observed, immediately remove the endoscope from the water. See IFU by manufacturer's instructions or guidelines for cleaning and high-level disinfecting damaged endoscope equipment to send for repair.

Reviewed by: Tammy Helle RN, Lead Nurse

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