

THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO MEDICAL CENTER STERILE PROCESSING DEPARTMENT PROCEDURE

SUBJECT: OPERATION OF STEAM STERILIZERS IN SPD PROCEDURE NO: SP3-3

PROCEDURE STATEMENT

Whenever possible, steam sterilization will be used to sterilize surgical instrumentation.

PURPOSE OF PROCEDURE

To provide an effective sterilization method for surgical instruments able to withstand high temperatures.

PROCEDURE

I: LOAD SETUP

Inspect packaging to ensure that peel pouches are correctly sealed, wrapped instruments are properly wrapped and containerized instruments are properly packaged.

Make sure that all items to be sterilized are placed on the sterilizer cart with a gap between them wide enough to slide your hand in between the trays.

Place a chemical integrator challenge pack on the bottom front shelf of the sterilizer carriage, directly over the drain.

Place a BI challenge pack next to the chemical integrator challenge pack.
This is to be done on the 3rd cycle of the day and for any load that has an implant to be sterilized.

Place a sterilizer load sticker on all items to be sterilized.

The sterilizer load sticker contains the following data:

(Julian Date, Sterilizer #, Load #, Calendar Date)

II: RECORDING

Pick sterilizer and scan appropriate barcode.

STEAM STERILIZERS

1-#8103	2-#8104
3-#8105	4-#8119

Scan the following bar codes:

- Scan “OPEN LOAD” #9001
- Scan Biological barcode # 1107700 if required
- Scan Integrator Test Pack Bar code #1284000
- Scan items (Use “S” pattern) (Watch for duplications.)
- Scan “Close load” barcode # 9002.

Print out contents sheet. *Place a load sticker on the contents sheet.*

III: RUNNING THE LOAD

Verify that items on sterilizer cart match exactly what is listed on the contents sheet. Correct any errors.

Load sterilizer cart into sterilizer. Use caution as sterilizer is hot.

Choose load type and press Start:

- a. 10 Minutes at 270°F (135°C) *AAMI ST79:2010, 8.6.1 Table 5.*
- b. 60 Minutes at 250°F (121°C) *AAMI ST79:2010, 8.6.1 Table 4.*

Sterilizer tape will print at beginning of load. *Place a load sticker at the top of the sterilizer tape. Initial the top of tape.*

Attach Contents Sheet to sterilizer cart handle.

IV: COMPLETEION OF LOAD

When load is complete:

- a. Unlock door & allow residual steam to vent, (approximately 10 seconds).
- b. While steam is venting, verify that sterilization parameters were met:

Read “Sterilize time.” Write the time on tape next to printed time.

(If the time is below the cycle time requirements, the entire load is to be rewrapped and resterilized.)

Read “Temp Min.” Write the temp on the tape next to the printed temp.

(If the minimum temp is below the cycle temp requirements, the entire load is to be rewrapped and resterilized.)

If all parameters have been met, initial the bottom of tape. This indicates your acknowledgement and approval that the cycle has passed all parameters.

Opening the sterilizer door

- Open door and remove Biological and chemical test packs. **(BE VERY CAREFUL.)**
- Process both according to procedure.
- Close door for 5 minutes.
- Open door 1” for 10 minutes.
- Open door 2” for 10 minutes.
- Open door completely for 10 minutes.

Remove load:

- Verify tape color changes on packages.

When the load is cool to the touch:

- Verify that there are no wet packages. If there are, alert a Surgical Tech and inspect all packages that were in that load. All wet packages must be torn down, rewrapped and resterilized.
- The load may now be transferred to the Instrument delivery cart.

Reviewed/Revised:

2006
2007
2010
1/2014