
**Processing of health care products —
Information to be provided by the
medical device manufacturer for the
processing of medical devices**

*Traitement de produits de soins de santé — Informations relatives
au traitement des dispositifs médicaux à fournir par le fabricant du
dispositif*



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Contents

Page

Foreword	iv
Introduction	v
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	1
3 Terms and definitions	2
4 Validation of the processes identified in the information provided by the medical device manufacturer	5
5 Risk analysis	5
6 Information to be provided by the medical device manufacturer	6
6.1 General	6
6.2 Processing instructions	6
6.3 Limitations and restrictions on processing	6
6.4 Initial treatment at the point of use	7
6.5 Preparation before cleaning	7
6.6 Cleaning	7
6.6.1 General	7
6.6.2 Automated cleaning	7
6.6.3 Manual cleaning	8
6.7 Disinfection	9
6.7.1 General	9
6.7.2 Automated disinfection	9
6.7.3 Manual disinfection	9
6.8 Drying	10
6.9 Inspection and maintenance	10
6.10 Packaging	10
6.11 Sterilization	11
6.12 Storage	11
6.13 Transportation	11
7 Presentation of the information	12
Annex A (informative) Commonly utilized processing methods	13
Annex B (informative) Example of processing instructions for reusable medical devices	18
Annex C (informative) Classification of medical devices	20
Annex D (informative) Additional guidance on information to be provided by the medical device manufacturer	23
Bibliography	24

Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

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For an explanation on the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 198, *Sterilization of health care products*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 17664:2004), which has been technically revised. The scope has been increased to include medical devices requiring disinfection and/or sterilization prior to use.

Introduction

This document applies to manufacturers of those medical devices that are intended to be processed by the user or a third party to be made ready for use. This includes

- medical devices that are intended for reuse and require processing to take them from their state after clinical use to the state of being cleaned, disinfected and/or sterilized and ready for their next use, and
- single-use medical devices that are supplied non-sterile but are intended to be used in a clean, disinfected and/or sterile state and therefore will require processing prior to use.

Significant advances in technology and knowledge have resulted in the development of complex medical devices to support the delivery of healthcare to patients. These advances have led to medical devices being designed that are potentially more difficult to clean, disinfect and/or sterilize.

Cleaning, disinfecting and sterilizing technologies have also undergone significant change in the past decade, resulting in new systems and approaches that can be applied in the processing of medical devices. This has led to a greater appreciation of the need for validation of processing including cleaning, disinfection and/or sterilization in order to ensure that medical devices are effectively processed. These developments have led to the need to ensure that manufacturers of reusable medical devices provide adequate instructions that support the end users to undertake safe and effective processing of medical devices, utilizing the available equipment and processes.

A medical device requiring processing is supplied with detailed processing instructions in order to ensure that, when followed correctly, the risks of transmission of infectious agents are minimized. In addition, effective processing minimizes the risk of other adverse effects on medical devices.

Cleaning is an important step in rendering a used medical device safe for reuse. Failure to remove contaminants (e.g. blood, tissues, microorganisms, cleaning agents and lubricants) from both the inside and outside surfaces of medical devices could compromise any subsequent disinfection and/or sterilization process or the correct functioning of the medical device. Single-use medical devices provided by the medical device manufacturer for processing prior to use can also require cleaning prior to further processing.

After cleaning, other factors can affect the safe and effective use of a medical device. For example, procedures for inspection and functional testing might be necessary to ensure that a medical device does not pose a safety risk when used. Manufacturers of medical devices can assist users by providing instructions on how this inspection and testing should be performed.

Manufacturers of medical devices that are to be processed have a responsibility to ensure that the design of the medical devices facilitates achievement of effective processing. This includes consideration of commonly available validated processes; examples are shown in [Annex A](#). This annex can be used as a guide to validate procedures.

Processing of health care products — Information to be provided by the medical device manufacturer for the processing of medical devices

1 Scope

This document specifies requirements for the information to be provided by the medical device manufacturer for the processing of a medical device that requires cleaning followed by disinfection and/or sterilization to ensure that the device is safe and effective for its intended use.

This includes information for processing prior to use or reuse of the medical device. The provisions of this document are applicable to medical devices that are intended for invasive or other direct or indirect patient contact.

Processing instructions are not defined in this document. Rather, this document specifies requirements to assist manufacturers of medical devices in providing detailed processing instructions that consist of the following activities, where applicable:

- a) initial treatment at the point of use;
- b) preparation before cleaning;
- c) cleaning;
- d) disinfection;
- e) drying;
- f) inspection and maintenance;
- g) packaging;
- h) sterilization;
- i) storage;
- j) transportation.

This document excludes processing of the following:

- non-critical medical devices not intended for direct patient contact;
- textile devices used in patient draping systems or surgical clothing;
- medical devices specified by the manufacturer for single-use only and supplied ready for use.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 14971, *Medical devices — Application of risk management to medical devices*