

## **INSTRUCTIONS FOR CLEANING AND STERILIZATION OF RE-USEABLE HANDHELD SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS**

Thank you for purchasing your re-useable, hand-held instruments from Bailey Instruments Ltd. These instructions give general guidance as to the best way to prepare instruments for use. All of us, the clinicians, the cleaning operatives, the cleaning facilities, the cleaning agents, and the healthcare facility where these processes happen as well as the equipment being used have a role in the suitability of the medical equipment which is used on the patients when re-processed. Bailey Instruments single use instrument range, SUSOL which is supplied sterile are NOT suitable for re-processing.



**Transportation and Preparation for Cleaning** – Where instruments need to be transported to reach a cleaning facility those responsible for sending them, should ensure that devices are returned in a way that avoids any physical damage occurring during transportation. Cutting edges should be protected and delicate instruments should be separated from heavy devices. Instruments should be returned as soon as possible in order to avoid the drying on of debris onto the instruments. Consider using wet cloths to prevent drying on of blood or debris.

**The Cleaning Process** – Two methods of cleaning are addressed here. Bailey Instruments, recommends the automated cleaning method and the operators must be conversant with the papers and technical memorandum listed at the end of these instructions. However, whichever process is used all staff should use suitable protective clothing (PPE) throughout and be mindful of the instructions for use provided by the cleaning agent manufacturer for the correct handling and use of product.

**Automated Cleaning using a Washer Disinfector** – Bailey Instruments Preferred method – Use a detergent specifically formulated for cleaning medical devices and one that has been recommended for use in the machine you are using. You may need to add a rinsing agent in some machines.

Load the machine so that devices do not touch so the washing action is not obstructed. Jointed instruments should be open.

Start the cycle and on completion unload, inspecting all items visually as they are unloaded. If an item is still soiled, repeat the cleaning process. Any remaining wetness can be removed with compressed air or heating in an oven below 110 degrees C. (Washer disinfectors should comply with HTM 01-01-Part D/WHTM 01-01 Part D/SHTM 01-01 Part D. They should be serviced and tested in accordance with 15883.).

Water quality is important when diluting cleaning agents. Hard water staining may be observed in some areas. Descaling agents are available and can be considered.



**Hand Washing** - Firstly, ensure that you are wearing appropriate PPE.

Use a detergent specifically formulated for cleaning surgical instruments and dilute. Ideally use a mechanical drying unit or use a dedicated dryer. Otherwise use a lint free cloth to dry the instruments.

Submerge the instruments in the liquid. Wipe all surfaces and then using clean water rinse the instruments.

Dry, ideally by using a mechanical drying unit or use a dedicated dryer. Otherwise use a lint free cloth to dry the instruments.

Inspect, repeat process if necessary. Dispose of all cleaning materials and dirty water carefully.

Control = Hand washing is difficult to validate. Users should ensure that all staff have been properly trained and inspection procedures are understood.

**Inspection** - Prior to sterilisation all instruments should be inspected. In particular the operative should examine, joints for trapped debris, holes in scoops for example and any malfunctions in jointed instruments which may occur through wear and tear.

**Packaging** - If the device is to be wrapped prior to sterilization, then the methods and materials should comply with BS EN ISO 11607(1) Sterilization Medical Devices: Packaging of Terminally Sterilised Medical Devices.

**Sterilization** - All Bailey Instruments re-useable instruments can be decontaminated in accordance with HTM01-01 and Sterilised in accordance with HTM 01-01-part C WHTM 01 -01part C, SHTM 01-01 part C.

Steam temperatures should be maintained between 134-137 degrees C for a minimum period of 3 minutes to reach sterilisation. Refer to ISO 17665 for further guidance. Sterilisers should be operated and validated in accordance with this directive. It is the responsibility of the hospital or operator to ensure that all sterilisation cycles are validated.

Storage - Check labels and indicators to ensure sterilisation has taken place. Store in a clean dry place. Shelf life will depend on the sterile barrier used to pack the instruments and storage conditions. Shelf life should be determined by the Health Care Unit.

**References** - Further information can be obtained from the documents listed below.

ISO 15883 Washer Disinfectors

BS EN ISO 11607 Sterilization Medical Devices Packaging of Terminally Sterilised Medical Devices

ISO 17665 Sterilization of health care products- Moist heat requirements for validation and routine control

HTM01-01 UK guidance Part C Sterilisation Part D Washer disinfection

WHTM01-01 Welsh guidance Part C Sterilization Part D Washer disinfection

SHTM01-01 Scottish guidance Part C Sterilization Part D Washer disinfection