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FLASH-GUARD

PRODUCT USE

To safely transport unwrapped flash sterilized instruments in a closed system from the sterilizer to the point of use, in keeping with the AAMI Recommended Practices for Sterilization using the Unwrapped (Flash) Method.

FEATURES AND BENEFITS

* Maintains product sterility by protecting Flash-Guard contents from airborne contamination and the greater the instrument mass within the Flash-Guard, the longer the protection period. AORN Journal Feb. 1981 by Colleen K. Harvey, RN and The AORN Professional Advisory Committee:

"Unwrapped metal instrument sets containing no porous material can be steam sterilized at 270 degrees F for three (3) minutes no matter how many instruments (under 16 lbs. Total weight) are present".

* Permits flash sterilization of full instrument sets, i.e. open heart, ophthalmic, orthopedic, etc.

* Heavy instrument sets can be placed on a cart, table, ring stand upon removal from the autoclave thus eliminating the need for staff to carry them.

* Multiple sets can be sterilized at the same time in one sterilizer.

* Flash-Guard baskets can be placed on the sterile field after autoclaving thus freeing up the Flash-Guard for another use.

* Flash-Guard insert baskets permit separation of special or delicate instruments from others.

* Maximizes sterilizer output. The Flash-Guard can be removed immediately and set aside until the contents are needed thus freeing up the autoclave.

* Operational simplicity with no need for filters, thematic valves, gloves, drapes, towels.

* Flash-Guards not only pay for themselves in less than a year, but they can also additionally save facilities considerable money.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE FLASH-GUARD TRANSPORT SYSTEM

Placed properly cleaned instruments into the Flash-Guard Basket, and place the Basket into the Flash-Guard unit. NOTE: The Instrument Rack is used for one or two items; the Insert Basket is used to separate sharps or delicate instruments and sits inside the Basket.

Insert Flash Integrator (Reorder # SC1100) through the open exhaust port and position it under the basket or rack near the exhaust port, allowing the end of the integrator to extend out through the opening.

Position the Flash-Guard in the autoclave with the exhaust port in the fully open position, facing out toward the operator. Slide the lid forward so at least a three (3) inch opening is created on the rear portion of the Flash-Guard unit. This is essential for proper steam circulation.

Proceed with flash sterilization utilizing recommended guidelines and following autoclave manufacturer's operator instructions for flash sterilization.

When the sterilization cycle is complete, open the sterilizer, remove and read the integrator and place the integrator onto the lid.

Using the Universal Handles, slide the lid to closed position, latch the exhaust port door, and remove the unit from the autoclave, sliding onto the transfer cart. Lifting the unit is not recommended or necessary. The Flash-Guard unit is now ready for transport to the point of use.

To protect the sterilized contents of the Flash-guard when the unit must be transported a distance, the airtight, insulated Flash-Guard Combo-Cart can be used. It is not advisable to maintain flash-sterilized instruments in storage for longer than necessary.

As with any sterilization process, Healthmark strongly advises adherence to recommended practices as established in AAMI, AORN, JCAHO and OSHA guidelines.

FLASH-GUARD STERILIZATION MONITORING

Air entrapment adversely effects steam sterilization. Unless steam is able to displace all of the air within the sterilizer, Flash-Guard and contents, the temperature will be cooler where air is present, with a high probability of sterilization failure.

Gravity displacement high-speed (flash) steam autoclaves rely upon the pressure of steam to displace all of the air down and out of sterilizer exhaust opening in the front bottom of the chamber. The trap passes air-steam mixtures and retains the pure steam, when working properly. If the trap malfunctions and closes prior to complete air evacuation, placing the integrator directly in close proximity to the sterilizer air outlet best identifies this situation.

The Flash-Guard operates exactly in synchronization with the autoclave. If the sterilizer malfunctions and entraps air, the Flash-guard will also. This is the reason for placing an integrator just inside of the Flash-Guard exhaust port to achieve the most valid test. If the integrator shows a cycle failure, the test indicates trapped air within the autoclave. This can be verified with placement of integrators in both the Flash-Guard and sterilizer exhausts. Both integrators indicating sterilization failure is diagnostic of retained air.

GRAVITY DISPLACEMENT HIGH SPEED (FLASH) STEAM AUTOCLAVE WITH FLASH-GUARDS

Always have the Flash-Guard exhaust port open and facing the front of the sterilizer - the lid displaced forward to be even with the open exhaust door, as in the diagram. A sterilization integrator should be placed onto the Flash-Guard exhaust port, and read prior to removal of the Flash-Guard from the autoclave. It is highly recommended that the monitoring strip be placed on top of the Flash-Guard lid to provide sterilization process validation for the end user. Room member, case number, surgeon, time and date must be written on the back to assure confirmation of the appropriate destination.

SCIENTIFIC PRINCIPLES RELATING TO POST-STERILIZATION

PRODUCT PROTECTION

1. The Flash-Guard is a closed container flash sterilization/transport system.
2. The lid displacement and open exhaust port during the sterilization cycle provide a unit which functions in complete synchronization with the sterilizer. Uniquely, the Flash-Guard is the only contain system capable of sterilizing full instrument sets 16 lbs.
Or less of non-porous, non-cannulated instruments at 270° F for three (3) Minutes. For cannulated and porous items, a ten (10) minute cycle is required. These sterilization parameters are identical to the recommended practices of AAMI and AORN. NO OTHER COMPETITOR CAN MAKE THIS CLAIM.
3. Both the flash autoclave and the Flash-Guard are exhausting steam when the clave door is opened. The escape of steam continues as long as the temperature inside of the sterner and Flash-Guard remains higher than atmospheric temperature. Charles' Gas Law further explains how positive pressure within the Flash-Guard, precludes contamination from entering, while closing the exhaust port and replacing the lid. These same principles offer protection for the sterilized Flash-Guard contents after removal from the sterilizer.
4. Shelf life is event related, but as long as the Flash-Guard remains warmer than the environmental temperature, positive pressure inside offers protection for the sterilized contents.