

Recommendations by the Quality Task Group (35) Loading Pattern and Its Implications for Successful Cleaning in the Washer-Disinfector

Special importance is ascribed to how the loading cart is loaded when processing medical devices in a washer-disinfector. The user can exert major influence on the cleaning and disinfection outcome depending on how he → **LOADS** the loading cart. Here we are therefore giving some tips and suggestions for achieving an optimal cleaning result.

→ **THE LOADING** exerts major influence on the cleaning and disinfection outcome

Loading cart:

Special loading systems tailored to the items to be processed are available. One must ensure that the correct loading cart is always used for the sterile supplies, especially in view of the fact that in the meantime many systems are equipped with automatic programme selection. In principle the trays and loading cart should be loaded such that all parts of the sterile supplies are exposed to the water pressure and that spray shadowing is avoided. Before starting the programme check that the rotary arms are not obstructed or impeded, for example, by cables.

The Recommendations by the Quality Task Group (33) in *Central Service 2*, 2004 give illustrations of suitable mesh trays. In this respect, we would now like to make a correction:

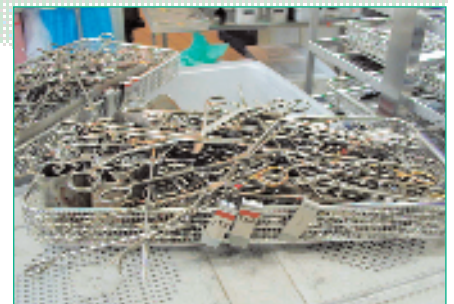
In the Recommendations by the Quality Task Group (33) "*Mesh Trays and Their Implications for Successful Cleaning in the Washer-Disinfector*" (*Central Service* Volume 12, 2004, issue no. 2) these mesh trays were designated as "old" by mistake. They are of course mesh trays recommended for sterilisation as per DIN 58952 Part 3 (sterilisation trays made of perforated plate StS-B). We apologise for this mistake and for any misunderstanding it might have caused.

Instruments:

Jointed instruments must in general be opened when placed on the tray so that the water pressure can access all surfaces. The trays must not be too full (spray shadowing). No large-surface objects (kidney dishes) should be placed on top of the instruments. This practice can already be observed in the OR. Instruments should not be cleaned or disinfected in plastic trays as these systems cause extensive spray shadowing and hence the instruments will not be properly cleaned. Please also consult Recommendation No. 33.

For delicate microsurgical instruments such as e.g. those used in ophthalmology, neurosurgery, ENT, etc. special support and connection systems tailored to the washer-disinfectors should be used.

Electrical cables must be covered when fitted.



Spray shadowing because of a load that is too dense

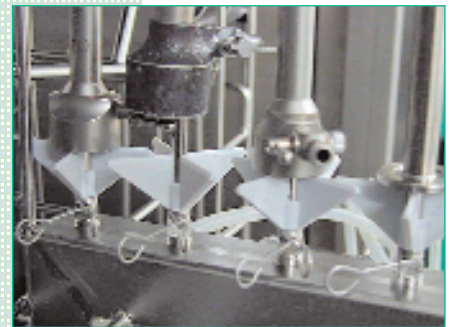


Spray shadowing because of kidney bowls and small dishes

MIS:

In the case of systems used to process lumens, e.g. MIS instruments, the instruments – which must be dismantled as far as possible – must be connected to matching devices and sleeves and this connection must be secured with hose adapters and Luer-lock connectors. One must make sure that the hoses are not kinked so as to ensure unimpeded flushing action. Detached hoses or defective sleeves must immediately be reconnected or replaced, respectively, as otherwise the water pressure within the entire system can collapse. Accessory standard instruments and small components must be placed on the surface designated for this purpose.

Optics must not be transported or processed unsecured on the same tray as other instruments. They must always be secured tightly using appropriate supports and be protected against displacement.



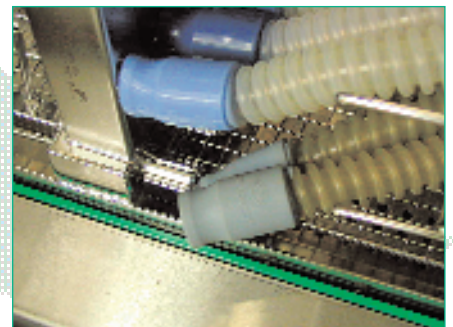
No flushing action – valves not connected



Valves connected with Luer-lock connections

Anaesthesia:

Breathing accessories should be dismantled for processing. They should be loaded such that all inner and outer surfaces are accessible to the cleaning solution. (Observe the manufacturer’s instructions). When connecting these materials, it must be ensured that this connection is not interrupted. To ensure adequate drying, the materials should be stored such that no water reservoirs are formed, e.g. due to kinking of ambu bags or sagging of tubes.



No flushing action – anaesthesia tubes disconnected

Containers:

When loading the loading carts attention must be paid to the different systems (filter or valve systems). The method of loading will depend on the design of the loading cart. There are special loading systems for, inter alia, milk bottles, urology, OR shoes, dishes and kidney bowls. The criteria outlined above apply for these in principle.