

American National Standard



ANSI/AAMI ST98:2022

Cleaning validation of health
care products—Requirements
for development and
validation of a cleaning
process for medical devices

Cleaning validation of health care products— Requirements for development and validation of a cleaning process for medical devices

Approved 20 May 2022 by
AAMI

Approved 17 June 2022 by
American National Standards Institute, Inc.

Abstract: This standard covers the requirements to validate cleaning processes that are developed by the medical device manufacturer for processing medical devices.

Keywords: cleaning, validation

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Published by

AAMI
901 N. Glebe Road, Suite. 300
Arlington, VA 22203-1853
www.aami.org

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Printed in the United States of America

ISBN 978-1-57020-852-2

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Committee representation

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Foreword

This standard was developed by the AAMI Cleaning of Reusable Medical Devices Working Group under the auspices of the AAMI Sterilization Standards Committee.

To comply with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) requirements, manufacturers of medical devices must provide validated cleaning instructions for medical devices that are required to be processed prior to each clinical use. More importantly, cleaning validations can help ensure that their medical devices can be effectively cleaned prior to disinfection and/or sterilization (as applicable) in facilities that process medical devices. In addition, single-use device reprocessors, which are regulated as manufacturers, must validate the cleaning of clinically used devices processed at their facilities prior to supplying them to health care facilities.

The objective of this standard is to provide the medical device manufacturer the requirements to validate the cleaning process for their medical device. In addition, this standard also provides valuable information for the development of cleaning protocols, test soil selection, and determination of acceptance criteria.

This document evolved from AAMI TIR30 into a standard. A fundamental problem that exists with the creation of any document of this type is its relevancy and utility after it has been published. The development of a new class of medical device, cleaning agent, or the emergence of an extremely hardy pathogen, could cause enough of a change to invalidate cleaning processes that previously had been used with acceptable results. To address this problem, an attempt has been made to systematically define and categorize the underlying problems and challenges that cleaning processes, test soils, and test methods must overcome to yield a validated cleaning process.

At least two underlying challenges prompted the creation of this document. The first is a significant increase in the complexity of the medical devices being manufactured today. Generally, the complexity of validated cleaning procedures will be proportional to the complexity of the medical devices for which they are designed. Second, new pathogens (e.g., antibiotic-resistant forms of existing microorganisms) continue to emerge. While there has been an increase in the complexity of medical devices and an introduction of new pathogens, there has also been an increase in the scientific advancement of processing medical devices. This document provides requirements for performing validations with consideration of the increased complexity of medical devices, emergence of new pathogens, and the scientific advancement in the processing of medical devices.

The following verbal forms are used within AAMI documents to distinguish requirements from other types of provisions in the document:

- “shall” and “shall not” are used to express requirements;
- “should” and “should not” are used to express recommendations;
- “may” and “may not” are used to express permission;
- “can” and “cannot” are used as statements of possibility or capability;
- “must” is used for external constraints or obligations defined outside the document; “must” is not an alternative for “shall.”

Suggestions for improving this document are invited. Comments and suggested revisions should be sent to Standards, AAMI, 901 N. Glebe Road, Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22203 or standards@aami.org.

NOTE This foreword does not contain provisions of ANSI/AAMI ST98, *Cleaning validation of health care products - Requirements for development and validation of a cleaning process for medical devices*, but it does provide important information about the development and intended use of the document.

Cleaning validation of health care products— Requirements for development and validation of a cleaning process for medical devices

1 Scope

This document specifies the requirements to validate cleaning processes that are developed by the medical device manufacturer for processing medical devices.

1.1 Inclusions

This document applies to all medical devices that require cleaning prior to each clinical use of that device. Clinical uses may be in health care facilities, home uses, or use by first responders, etc.

1.2 Exclusions

This document does not apply to:

- single-use medical devices that are supplied ready for patient use;
- textile devices used in patient draping systems or surgical clothing; or
- devices that might have been exposed to prions, such as those that cause Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE).

2 Normative references

The following document is referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of its 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 11139:2018, *Sterilization of health care products—Vocabulary of terms used in sterilization and related equipment and process standards*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

3.1

analyte

chemical substance that is the subject of chemical analysis

[SOURCE: ISO 11139, 3.12]

3.2

automated cleaning

removal of contaminants using a machine specifically designed for this purpose

3.3

chemical disinfection

disinfection achieved by the action of one or more chemicals

[SOURCE: ISO 11139, 3.42]

3.4

clean

visually free of soil and below specified levels of analytes

Note 1 to entry: For noncritical devices, see Section 8.1.2.

[SOURCE: ISO 11139, 3.45, modified – Note to entry has been added.]

3.5

cleanability

ability of a medical device that has been exposed to soil to be freed from it without damage through use of appropriate processes

3.6

cleaning

removal of contaminants to the extent necessary for further processing or for intended use

[SOURCE: ISO 11139, 3.46]

3.7

cleaning agent

physical or chemical entity, or combination of entities, having activity to render an item clean

[SOURCE: ISO 11139, 3.47]

3.8

cleaning solution

solution of chemical substances intended for use in the cleaning process prepared by dilution

3.9

clinical use

use of a health care product during a procedure on a patient

[SOURCE: ISO 11139, 3.49]

3.10

clinically-relevant analyte

defined component of test soil that is also present in the clinical soil that can be detected with sufficient sensitivity and specificity reflective of the test method

3.11

exposure time

period for which the process parameters are maintained within their specified tolerances

[SOURCE: ISO 17665-1]

3.12

intended use

use for which a product, process or service is intended according to the specifications, instructions and information provided by the manufacturer

Note 1 to entry: The intended medical indication, patient population, part of the body or type of tissue interacted with, user profile, use environment, and operating principle are typical elements of the intended use.

[SOURCE: ISO 14971, 1113.6]

3.13

limit of detection

the detection limit is the lowest amount of an analyte in a sample which can be detected but not necessarily quantitated as an exact value

[SOURCE: ICH Requirements for Pharmaceuticals for Human Use ICH Harmonised Guideline Analytical Procedure Development Q14, Draft version, Endorsed on 24 March 2022, Currently under public consultation]

3.14

limit of quantitation

(analytical procedure) lowest concentration or amount of the analyte in a test sample which can be quantitatively determined with an acceptable level of precision and accuracy, as demonstrated by a collaborative trial or other appropriate validation

[SOURCE: ISO 24276]

3.15

manual cleaning

removal of contaminants, without the use of an automated process, from an item to the extent necessary for further processing or for the intended use

[SOURCE: ISO 11139, 3.159]

3.16

master product

health care product or procedure set used to represent the most difficult to clean item in a product family or processing category

3.17

medical device

instrument, apparatus, implement, machine, appliance, implant, reagent for *in vitro* use, or software material, or other similar or related article, intended by the manufacturer to be used, alone or in combination, for human beings, for one or more of the specific medical purposes(s) of:

- diagnosis, prevention, monitoring, treatment, or alleviation of disease;
- diagnosis, monitoring, treatment, alleviation of, or compensation for an injury;
- investigation, replacement, modification, or support of the anatomy, or of a physiological process;
- supporting or sustaining life;
- control of conception;
- disinfection of medical devices;
- providing information by means of *in vitro* examination of specimens derived from the human body;