

Recommendations by the Quality Task Group (28): Daily Check of Washer-Disinfectors Before Placing Them in Operation

Thanks to specialist qualification it is now possible to focus on processing as an overall entity rather than reflecting merely on sterilisation. Just as the sterilisers must be checked each day before they are placed in operation, so all CSSD personnel must acquire the habit of checking the washer-disinfectors too.

The first and most important processing step is proper, successful cleaning and disinfection; if this is not assured, reliable sterilisation is not guaranteed.

In order to be able to meet this requirement, just as in the case of the sterilisers, a daily → **ROUTINE CHECK** of the washer-disinfectors must be carried out to check for problem-free functioning.

To comply with the dictates of quality management, these checks must be documented, using → **CHECKLISTS** in conjunction with "Instructions". To exemplify how this is done in practice, we outline below an instruction with its related checklist. This can be adapted to the needs of the respective CSSD.

To implement this instruction, the → **MANUFACTURER'S SPECIFICATIONS** must be taken into account in all cases.

Instruction governing the individual checklist points

*Chemical substances/
dosage:*

Check the levels in the storage containers by means of visual inspection (different approaches needed for integrated containers, individual canisters, dosage systems)
Check stocks

Filters:

Check and clean all filters and check for proper functioning

Pump well:

Check and clean, removing if necessary any small parts, e.g. scalpel blades, needles (risk of rust!)

Rotary arms:

Check in washer-disinfector and on loading cars for unimpeded rotation, bearings (noticeable stress marks?), check nozzles for blockage and clean if necessary.

Loading cars:

Check the docking systems in the washer-disinfector as well as the Luer locks, tube connections, closure mechanisms, etc. on the loading cars.

*Visual inspection of
washer-disinfector:*

Check the internal chamber for cleanliness and for any deposits (e.g. silicates, rust); check the door gaskets for correct functioning, cleanliness and leakage

Other:

Note any other irregularities on the rear of the checklist

- **ROUTINE CHECK** of washer-disinfectors must be conducted each day before placing them in operation
- Compile **CHECKLIST** and instructions
- **MANUFACTURER'S SPECIFICATIONS** must be observed
- **In the event of any irregularities, appropriate measures must be immediately taken and documented**

