

Vacuum Packing of Processed Endoscopes

1. Purpose

This procedure details the process for vacuum packing of processed endoscopes.

2. Responsibilities

This activity is carried out by staff trained in the inspection and handling of endoscopes and the use of vacuum packing systems.

Management should ensure that this procedure is available and followed by all staff involved in the decontamination process. Management should ensure that staff are trained on this procedure. Management take any required action when there is a non-conformance confirmed.

All staff shall adhere to Standard infection control precautions listed in **National Infection Prevention and Control Manual (NIPCM)** Health Protection Scotland www.nipcm.hps.scot.nhs.uk/

3. Procedure

- confirm the requirement for dryness of the endoscope prior to packing the endoscope, refer to SOP (PRO 179-130) for manual drying or drying in a drying cabinet or in an appropriate endoscope storage cabinet. Refer to SOP (PRO 179-100);
- use the vacuum packaging system that has been validated by the system manufacturer for the endoscopes to be packed;
- check that a valid calibration label is attached on the vacuum packing equipment prior to use;
- follow the equipment manufacturer's instructions in vacuum packing the endoscope;
- on completion of the vacuum packing process confirm the details of the equipment printout are satisfactory as applicable;
- verify by visual examination that the bag seal is satisfactory;
- confirm the packed product label details are correct, refer to SOP (PRO 179-80).