

Operation, Maintenance and Validation of the Cage/Rack Washer

Purpose:

To outline instructions for operation and preventative maintenance procedures of the rack washer.

Procedure:

- 1) Operation:
 - a) The cage washer has a master on/off switch. This switch is turned on in the morning, and off at the end of the work day. It also has a standby switch that serves as on/off in cases where the machine remains on.
 - b) The cage washer has one standard setting using a mix of alkaline detergent, an acid base, and a neutralizer.
 - c) At the final rinse cycle, a temperature of at least 180° must be reached to kill organisms. If the machine does not reach 180° ACF Manager contacts the Steris (manufacturer) Representative who then services the washer. The Steris Representative does a monthly Preventive Maintenance on the machine.
 - d) If temperature reaches 180° but equipment does not appear clean after a complete cycle, the operator will assess the problem and either return the load to the rack washer for prewash, or return to rack washer for repeat cleaning/sanitization.
 - e) Water and steam is operated by Steris or Facilities. They have one main setting. If is malfunctions, either Steris or Facilities will be contacted.

- 2) Validation:
 - a) Once daily, temperature-sensitive tape, such as temp-tape 180° will be affixed to two areas not receiving a direct spray from the washer nozzles.
 - b) Temperature sensitive tapes are examined immediately after the caging is removed from the washer. The color strip should be entirely black; if one or more strips are not entirely black, the process for that washer should be repeated. If after the second test, one or more strips are not entirely black, then the washer will have “failed” the validation test. The ACF Manager will contact the Steris technician who will service the ACF cage washer. The machine will not be used until the problem has been resolved.
 - c) The above checks will be documented on a rack washer validation log.

- 3) Preventive Maintenance:

The following is conducted quarterly by Steris:

 - (1) Inspect all spray jets/remove debris
 - (2) Remove debris on/under pump screen (sump screen)
 - (3) Check around door load seal and remove any debris
 - (4) Clean floor grating
 - (5) Check the Safety Cable Emergency Stop
 - (6) Visually inspect the header feeder hose and clamps
 - (7) Inspect temperature & water probes
 - (8) Clean spot / stain from exterior cabinet
 - (9) Check all water/air fitting for any leakage
 - (10) Check all steam line
 - (11) Check cable tension & roller
 - (12) Check supply hoses
 - (13) Clean interior debris filter
 - (14) Remove pipe plug on header, run pump manually or use quick wash cycle

- (15) Clean the screen exterior (filter screen)
- (16) Clean the probes
- (17) Verify and adjust header cable tension
- (18) Grease header slide