



**NSAI**  
Standards

Irish Standard  
I.S. EN 868-6:2017

# Packaging for terminally sterilized medical devices - Part 6: Paper for low temperature sterilization processes - Requirements and test methods

**I.S. EN 868-6:2017**

*Incorporating amendments/corrigenda/National Annexes issued since publication:*

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I.S. xxx: Irish Standard — national specification based on the consensus of an expert panel and subject to public consultation.

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## National Foreword

I.S. EN 868-6:2017 is the adopted Irish version of the European Document EN 868-6:2017, Packaging for terminally sterilized medical devices - Part 6: Paper for low temperature sterilization processes - Requirements and test methods

This document does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

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EUROPEAN STANDARD

EN 868-6

NORME EUROPÉENNE

EUROPÄISCHE NORM

February 2017

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Supersedes EN 868-6:2009

English Version

## Packaging for terminally sterilized medical devices - Part 6: Paper for low temperature sterilization processes - Requirements and test methods

Emballages des dispositifs médicaux stérilisés au stade  
terminal - Partie 6: Papier pour des procédés de  
stérilisation à basse température - Exigences et  
méthodes d'essai

Verpackungsmaterialien für in der Endverpackung zu  
sterilisierende Medizinprodukte - Teil 6: Papier für  
Niedertemperatur-Sterilisationsverfahren -  
Anforderungen und Prüfverfahren

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 4 December 2016.

CEN members are bound to comply with the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations which stipulate the conditions for giving this European Standard the status of a national standard without any alteration. Up-to-date lists and bibliographical references concerning such national standards may be obtained on application to the CEN-CENELEC Management Centre or to any CEN member.

This European Standard exists in three official versions (English, French, German). A version in any other language made by translation under the responsibility of a CEN member into its own language and notified to the CEN-CENELEC Management Centre has the same status as the official versions.

CEN members are the national standards bodies of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and United Kingdom.



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**CEN-CENELEC Management Centre: Avenue Marnix 17, B-1000 Brussels**

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## European foreword

This document (EN 868-6:2017) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 102 “Sterilizers and associated equipment for processing of medical devices”, the secretariat of which is held by DIN.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by August 2017, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by August 2017.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

This document supersedes EN 868-6:2009.

Annex A provides details of significant technical changes between this European Standard and the previous edition.

EN 868 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Packaging for terminally sterilized medical devices*:

- *Part 2: Sterilization wrap — Requirements and test methods;*
- *Part 3: Paper for use in the manufacture of paper bags (specified in EN 868-4) and in the manufacture of pouches and reels (specified in EN 868-5) — Requirements and test methods;*
- *Part 4: Paper bags — Requirements and test methods;*
- *Part 5: Sealable pouches and reels of porous materials and plastic film construction — Requirements and test methods;*
- *Part 6: Paper for low temperature sterilization processes — Requirements and test methods;*
- *Part 7: Adhesive coated paper for low temperature sterilization processes — Requirements and test methods;*
- *Part 8: Re-usable sterilization containers for steam sterilizers conforming to EN 285 — Requirements and test methods;*
- *Part 9: Uncoated nonwoven materials of polyolefines — Requirements and test methods;*
- *Part 10: Adhesive coated nonwoven materials of polyolefines — Requirements and test methods.*

In addition, ISO/TC 198 “Sterilization of health care products” in collaboration with CEN/TC 102 “Sterilizers and associated equipment for processing of medical devices” has prepared the EN ISO 11607- series “Packaging for terminally sterilized medical devices”. The EN ISO 11607- series specifies general requirements for materials, sterile barrier systems and packaging systems (Part 1) and validation requirements for forming, sealing and assembly processes (Part 2).

According to the CEN-CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organisations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

## **EN 868-6:2017 (E)**

### **Introduction**

The EN ISO 11607 series consists of two parts under the general title “Packaging for terminally sterilized medical devices”. Part 1 of this series specifies general requirements and test methods for materials, preformed sterile barrier systems, sterile barrier systems and packaging systems that are intended to maintain sterility of terminally sterilized medical devices to the point of use. Part 2 of this series specifies validation requirements for forming, sealing and assembly processes.

General requirements for all types of sterile barrier systems are provided by EN ISO 11607-1.

The EN 868 series can be used to demonstrate compliance with one or more of the requirements specified in EN ISO 11607-1.

CEN/TC 102/WG 4 also appreciates the initiatives of CEN with regard to the minimization of adverse environmental impacts by standards. It was agreed that this subject should be given priority during the next edition of the EN ISO 11607 series that is the basic reference for all parts of the EN 868 series.



## 1 Scope

This European Standard specifies test methods and values for paper used in the manufacture of preformed sterile barrier systems and/or packaging systems that are intended to maintain sterility of terminally sterilized medical devices to the point of use.

Other than the general requirements as specified in EN ISO 11607-1 and EN ISO 11607-2 this part of EN 868 specifies materials, test methods and values that are specific to the products covered by this European Standard.

Paper specified in this European Standard is intended for use in part or complete manufacture of pouches and form and fill packs and lidding material for trays.

NOTE 1 The paper specified in this part of the EN 868 series is suitable for the manufacture of sterile barrier systems to be used in ethylene oxide, irradiation or low temperature steam formaldehyde sterilization processes and to produce coated paper according to EN 868-7.

NOTE 2 Paper according to EN 868-3 can also be used for these sterilization processes.

The materials specified in this part of EN 868 are intended for single use only.

## 2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

EN 20187, *Paper, board and pulps - Standard atmosphere for conditioning and testing and procedure for monitoring the atmosphere and conditioning of samples (ISO 187)*

EN ISO 535, *Paper and board - Determination of water absorptiveness - Cobb method (ISO 535)*

EN ISO 536, *Paper and board - Determination of grammage (ISO 536)*

EN ISO 1924-2, *Paper and board - Determination of tensile properties - Part 2: Constant rate of elongation method (20 mm/min) (ISO 1924-2)*

EN ISO 1974, *Paper - Determination of tearing resistance - Elmendorf method (ISO 1974)*

EN ISO 2758, *Paper - Determination of bursting strength (ISO 2758)*

EN ISO 11607-1:2009+A1:2014, *Packaging for terminally sterilized medical devices - Part 1: Requirements for materials, sterile barrier systems and packaging systems (ISO 11607-1:2006+AMD1:2014)*

ISO 2470-2, *Paper, board and pulps — Measurement of diffuse blue reflectance factor — Part 2: Outdoor daylight conditions (D65 brightness)*

ISO 3689, *Paper and board — Determination of bursting strength after immersion in water*

ISO 3781, *Paper and board — Determination of tensile strength after immersion in water*

ISO 5636-3, *Paper and board — Determination of air permeance (medium range) — Part 3: Bendtsen method*

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