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Irish Standard
I.S. EN 868-8:2009

Packaging for terminally sterilized medical devices - Part 8: Reusable sterilization containers for steam sterilizers conforming to EN 285 - Requirements and test methods

I.S. EN 868-8:2009

Incorporating amendments/corrigenda issued since publication:

<i>This document replaces:</i> I.S. EN 868-8:1999	<i>This document is based on:</i> EN 868-8:2009 EN 868-8:1999	<i>Published:</i> 20 May, 2009 19 November, 1999
This document was published under the authority of the NSAI and comes into effect on: 10 August, 2009		ICS number: 11.080.30
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Údarás um Chaighdeáin Náisiúnta na hÉireann		

English Version

Packaging for terminally sterilized medical devices - Part 8: Re-usable sterilization containers for steam sterilizers conforming to EN 285 - Requirements and test methods

Matériaux d'emballage pour les dispositifs médicaux stérilisés au stade terminal - Partie 8: Conteneurs réutilisables de stérilisation pour stérilisateur à la vapeur d'eau conformes à l'EN 285 - Exigences et méthodes d'essai

Verpackungen für in der Endverpackung zu sterilisierende Medizinprodukte - Teil 8: Wiederverwendbare Sterilisierbehälter für Dampf-Sterilisatoren nach EN 285 - Anforderungen und Prüfverfahren

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 23 April 2009.

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 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 Management Centre has the same status as the official versions.

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



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Foreword

This document (EN 868-8:2009) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 102 "Sterilizers for medical purposes", 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 November 2009, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by November 2009.

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

This document supersedes EN 868-8:1999.

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 for medical purposes" 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 organizations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

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.

Every sterile barrier system shall fulfil the requirements of 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.

During the revision of EN 868 parts 2 to 10 CEN/TC 102/WG 4 recognized Resolution CEN/BT 21/2003 relating to the implementation of the uncertainty of measurement concept in standards. Following this Resolution and the corresponding guidance, CEN/TC 102/WG 4 has initiated a review of the test methods needed to show compliance with the requirements specified in EN 868 parts 2 to 10 with the intention that the information required by CEN/BT 21/2003 be available for inclusion in EN 868 parts 2 to 10 during one of their next revisions.

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 part of EN 868 provides test methods and values for re-usable containers used as sterile barrier systems that are intended to maintain sterility of terminally sterilized medical devices to the point of use. These containers are intended to be used in steam sterilizers conforming to EN 285.

NOTE 1 The need for a packaging material inside the container is determined by the manufactures and users.

This part of EN 868 only introduces performance requirements and test methods that are specific to the products covered by this part of EN 868 but does not add nor modify the general requirements specified in EN ISO 11607-1.

As such, the particular requirements in 4.2 to 4.5 can be used to demonstrate compliance with one or more but not all of the requirements of EN ISO 11607-1.

NOTE 2 When it is intended to use the containers in a steam sterilizer not conforming to EN 285 the sterilization performance of the container in the specific sterilization cycle to be used is validated by the user. Other attributes of the container are also reviewed for compatibility with the sterilizer cycle e.g. operating temperature.

NOTE 3 When additional materials are used inside the sterile barrier system in order to ease the organization, drying or aseptic presentation (e.g. inner wrap, container filter, indicators, packing lists, mats, instrument organizer sets, tray liners or an additional envelope around the medical device) then other requirements, including the determination of the acceptability of these materials during validation activities, may apply.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application 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.

EN 285:2006, *Sterilization — Steam sterilizers — Large sterilizers*

EN 10088-1, *Stainless steels — Part 1: List of stainless steels*

EN ISO 4017, *Hexagon head screws — Product grades A and B (ISO 4017:1999)*

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

ISO 4582, *Plastics — Determination of changes in colour and variations in properties after exposure to daylight under glass, natural weathering or laboratory light sources*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in EN ISO 11607-1:2006 and EN 285:2006 apply.

4 Requirements

4.1 General

The requirements of EN ISO 11607-1 apply.

NOTE 1 EN ISO 11607-1, 5.1.10 specifies additional requirements for reusable containers.

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