

# Contents

	Page
Glossary of equivalent standards .....	vii
Committee representation .....	ix
Foreword .....	xi
Introduction: Need for the recommended practice .....	xii
<b>1</b> Scope .....	<b>1</b>
<b>1.1</b> General .....	<b>1</b>
<b>1.2</b> Inclusions .....	<b>1</b>
<b>1.3</b> Exclusions .....	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> Definitions, symbols, and abbreviations .....	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> Design considerations .....	<b>5</b>
<b>3.1</b> General rationale .....	<b>5</b>
<b>3.2</b> Work area design and functional work flow .....	<b>6</b>
<b>3.2.1</b> Definitions of work areas .....	<b>6</b>
<b>3.2.2</b> Design criteria for work areas .....	<b>7</b>
<b>3.2.3</b> Functional work flow patterns .....	<b>8</b>
<b>3.2.4</b> Traffic control .....	<b>8</b>
<b>3.3</b> Physical facilities: laundry area .....	<b>8</b>
<b>3.3.1</b> Space requirements .....	<b>8</b>
<b>3.3.2</b> Mechanical systems .....	<b>8</b>
<b>3.3.3</b> Floors, walls, ceilings, and vents .....	<b>8</b>
<b>3.3.4</b> Ventilation .....	<b>9</b>
<b>3.3.5</b> Temperature and humidity control .....	<b>9</b>
<b>3.3.6</b> Lighting systems .....	<b>9</b>
<b>3.3.7</b> Handwashing facilities .....	<b>9</b>
<b>3.3.8</b> Emergency eyewash/shower equipment .....	<b>9</b>
<b>3.3.9</b> Soil-sort area .....	<b>10</b>
<b>3.3.10</b> Chemical storage area .....	<b>10</b>
<b>3.3.11</b> Storage area for clean textile packs .....	<b>10</b>
<b>3.3.12</b> Housekeeping .....	<b>10</b>
<b>3.4</b> Physical facilities: surgical pack assembly area .....	<b>11</b>
<b>3.4.1</b> Space requirements .....	<b>11</b>
<b>3.4.2</b> Mechanical systems .....	<b>11</b>
<b>3.4.3</b> Floors, walls, ceilings, and vents .....	<b>11</b>
<b>3.4.4</b> Ventilation .....	<b>11</b>
<b>3.4.5</b> Temperature and humidity control .....	<b>11</b>
<b>3.4.6</b> Lighting systems .....	<b>12</b>
<b>3.4.7</b> Hand hygiene facilities .....	<b>12</b>
<b>3.4.8</b> Storage area for clean textile packs .....	<b>12</b>
<b>3.4.9</b> Surgical pack sterilization area .....	<b>12</b>
<b>3.4.10</b> Sterile storage area .....	<b>12</b>
<b>3.4.11</b> Housekeeping .....	<b>12</b>
<b>4</b> Personnel considerations .....	<b>12</b>
<b>4.1</b> General rationale .....	<b>12</b>
<b>4.2</b> Qualifications .....	<b>13</b>
<b>4.2.1</b> Supervisors/managers .....	<b>13</b>
<b>4.2.2</b> Personnel .....	<b>13</b>
<b>4.3</b> Training and education .....	<b>13</b>
<b>4.4</b> Health and personal hygiene .....	<b>14</b>
<b>4.5</b> Attire .....	<b>15</b>
<b>4.5.1</b> General .....	<b>15</b>

4.5.2	Personal protective equipment (PPE) .....	15
<b>5</b>	Receiving and handling of reusable surgical textiles .....	15
5.1	General rationale .....	15
5.2	Newly purchased items .....	16
5.2.1	Identification and handling .....	16
5.2.2	Washing .....	16
5.3	Collecting and transporting soiled surgical textiles .....	16
5.3.1	Collecting soiled surgical textiles at the point of use .....	16
5.3.2	Transporting soiled surgical textiles .....	16
5.4	Sorting of soiled textiles .....	17
5.4.1	General considerations .....	17
5.4.2	Pre-sort systems .....	17
5.4.3	Post-sort systems .....	17
<b>6</b>	Laundry processing recommendations .....	18
6.1	General rationale .....	18
6.2	Washing .....	18
6.2.1	Procedures .....	18
6.2.2	Loading of washing equipment .....	18
6.2.3	Steps in the washing process: laundry formulas .....	18
6.3	Drying .....	20
6.3.1	Procedures .....	20
6.3.2	Equipment loading .....	20
6.3.3	Steps in the drying process: drying formulas .....	21
6.4	Process monitoring .....	21
6.4.1	Rationale for process monitoring .....	21
6.4.2	Process monitoring: supplies .....	21
6.4.3	Process monitoring: equipment operation .....	23
6.4.4	Process monitoring: finished products .....	23
<b>7</b>	Inspection, testing, and maintenance of laundered textiles .....	24
7.1	General rationale .....	24
7.2	Visual inspection .....	25
7.2.1	Quality standards .....	25
7.2.2	Stains .....	25
7.2.3	Physical defects .....	27
7.2.4	Chemical or thermal damage .....	27
7.2.5	Foreign debris .....	27
7.2.6	Labeling .....	28
7.2.7	Tracking system .....	28
7.3	Testing .....	28
7.3.1	Test procedures .....	28
7.3.2	Microbiological cleanliness .....	29
7.3.3	Effective life .....	29
7.3.4	Important functional attributes .....	29
7.4	Maintenance .....	31
7.4.1	Patching .....	31
7.4.2	Mending .....	31
7.4.3	Rewash .....	31
7.4.4	Rejuvenation .....	32
7.4.5	Retirement or alternate use .....	32
<b>8</b>	Preparation and packaging .....	32
8.1	General rationale .....	32
8.2	Procedures .....	32
8.3	Folding .....	32
8.3.1	General considerations .....	32
8.3.2	Guidelines for folding gowns .....	32
8.3.3	Guidelines for folding drapes .....	33
8.4	Pack assembly .....	34

8.5	Wrapping.....	34
8.6	Labeling/identification of packs.....	34
<b>9</b>	<b>Handling, transport, and storage of laundered textiles .....</b>	<b>35</b>
9.1	General rationale.....	35
9.2	Procedures.....	35
9.3	Personnel attire and hygiene.....	35
9.4	Handling clean/sterile textiles.....	35
9.5	Transport.....	35
9.5.1	General considerations .....	35
9.5.2	Method of transport.....	35
9.5.3	Separation of clean/sterile and soiled textiles .....	36
9.5.4	Laundry cart cleaning, disinfection, and loading.....	36
9.5.5	Truck cleaning and loading .....	36
9.6	Storage.....	37
9.6.1	Storage conditions .....	37
9.6.2	Storage shelving .....	37
9.6.3	Stock rotation .....	37
<b>10</b>	<b>Installation, operation, care, and maintenance of laundry equipment .....</b>	<b>37</b>
10.1	General rationale.....	37
10.2	Documentation .....	38
10.2.1	Identification.....	38
10.2.2	Safety.....	38
10.2.3	Manuals and installation/operating instructions.....	38
10.3	Installation .....	38
10.3.1	General considerations .....	38
10.3.2	Utilities .....	39
10.4	Operation .....	40
10.4.1	General considerations .....	40
10.4.2	Washing, extraction, and drying equipment .....	40
10.4.3	Support systems .....	40
10.5	Routine care and maintenance.....	42
10.5.1	Routine care.....	42
10.5.2	Scheduled (preventive) maintenance.....	42
10.5.3	Unscheduled maintenance (repairs) .....	42
10.5.4	Calibration.....	42
10.5.5	Recordkeeping.....	43
<b>11</b>	<b>Quality control.....</b>	<b>43</b>
11.1	General rationale.....	43
11.2	General quality control criteria.....	43
11.2.1	Functional performance criteria.....	43
11.2.2	Verification of laundry processes .....	44
11.3	Policies and procedures.....	44
11.4	Barrier efficacy .....	44
11.5	Tracking uses of reusable surgical textile products .....	45
11.6	Process performance .....	45
11.6.1	Quality assessment.....	45
11.6.2	Quality process .....	46
<b>12</b>	<b>Medical device regulatory considerations.....</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Annexes</b>		
<b>A</b>	<b>Examples of folding procedures.....</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>Bibliography .....</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>Tables</b>		
<b>1</b>	<b>An example of inspection criteria for stains .....</b>	<b>26</b>

**Figures**

**A.1** Example of a folding procedure for gowns .....48

**A.2** Example of a folding procedure for standard laparotomy drapes .....49

**A.3** Example of a folding procedure for mayo stand covers .....50

**A.4** Example of a folding procedure for towels .....50

**A.5** Example of a folding procedure for sheets .....50