



**CONSOLIDATED  
STERILIZER SYSTEMS**

# **AUTOCLAVE STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR LABORATORIES**

# Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide autoclave operators in laboratory settings with a set of SOPs that promote safety and the proper use of sterilizing equipment. Autoclaves present a risk of severe burns and scalds from hot surfaces, liquids, and the release of steam, so it's important that lab technicians fully understand the operation and capabilities of — as well as the safety measures related to — these machines.



To reduce the risk of serious injury to autoclave operators, sufficient training must be provided (and signed off on) prior to use and the unit must undergo regular maintenance.

## RISK MITIGATION

- It will be the responsibility of the lab supervisor to ensure that all autoclave operators (regardless of tenure) be sufficiently trained prior to use.
- The autoclave will only be operated according to the manufacturers' operating manual.
- This set of SOPs and the name of the person responsible for the autoclave will be posted near the unit.
- The autoclave will regularly undergo preventative maintenance as recommended by the manufacturer's Service Manual. This means an annual inspection from a certified autoclave technician as well as monthly visual checks performed by the individual responsible for the unit.




# SECTION 2: BEST PRACTICES FOR OPERATION



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Though extensive measures are put into place to ensure autoclave safety, incidents and malfunctions can occasionally occur.

#### RESPONDING TO INCIDENTS

- All autoclave incidents, including both spills and injuries, must be reported to the lab manager immediately.
- Remove all clothing that has been soaked in hot water or steam and treat injured areas with cool water.
- Put a notice on the responsible autoclave and discontinue use until the cause of the incident is known and the unit is determined to be safe for further use.
- If the incident involves a spill, do not clean up the spilled liquid until it has reached a safe temperature.
- Contain the spill using paper towels and be sure to wear the proper PPE and follow your lab's disposal protocols when doing so.
- Note all incidents on the log sheet.

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## Have any Questions?

If you have questions about any of these autoclave SOPs or looking for assistance with your sterilization setup, the experts at Consolidated Sterilizer Systems are always available to help. Contact us today for all your steam sterilization needs.