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| **Yale New Haven Health**  *Department of Central Sterile Supply*  Process #ASS005 Inspection Clamps and Ringed Instruments  Standard Operating Procedure  Original:  Last Reviewed:  Approved by: |

**Purpose:** To provide the procedures for inspecting clamps and Ringed instruments

**Definitions:**

**Background:**

PPE required:

* Head covering
* Clean surgical scrub attire

Equipment/tools required

* Lighted magnification (preferred, but optional)
* Magnifying glass

**Procedures:**

1. Inspect clamps and ringed instruments for cleanliness and functionality each time they are processed
2. Check jaws for proper alignment
   1. Close instrument and make sure that jaw tips line up with no gaps
3. Check that instrument is clean
   1. Open and close instrument to check for stiffness
      1. Stiff instrument indicates that boxlock may be dirty – if stiff, send tray to decontamination for thorough cleaning
      2. If, after additional cleaning instrument remains stiff, use steam-permeable instrument lubricant in box-lock. Follow manufacturer’s recommendations for use
   2. Check serrations for retained bioburden – if found, send tray to decontamination for thorough cleaning
      1. No cleaning is allowed in assembly area
4. Check boxlock for cracks using lighted magnification
5. To test ratchet mechanism close clamp on the first ratchet – hold at tip and tap the handle lightly on a table
   1. If working properly, the clamp should not open
   2. If clamp pops open while tapping, replace and send for repair
6. Notify supervisor if functionality is in question