
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:

- Head covering
- Mask
- Facial hair covering (if applicable)
- 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
 - a. Close instrument and make sure that jaw tips line up with no gaps
3. Check that instrument is clean
 - a. Open and close instrument to check for stiffness
 - i. Use steam-permeable instrument lubricant in box-lock. Follow manufacturer's recommendations for use
 - ii. If it is stiff instrument indicates that boxlock may be dirty – if stiff, send tray to decontamination for thorough cleaning
 - b. Check serrations for retained bioburden – if found, send tray to decontamination for thorough cleaning
 - i. 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

- a. If working properly, the clamp should not open
 - b. If clamp pops open while tapping, replace and send for repair
6. Notify supervisor if functionality is in question