

SOP: Operation of Harvey Sterilemax Autoclave

Approvals

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Date: 23OCT12

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Date: 23OCT12

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Date: 13JAN15

1. Purpose

1.1. Operation of the Harvey Sterilemax autoclave.

2. Scope and Applicability

2.1. Applies to the steam sterilization of a variety of materials.

3. Summary of Method

3.1. Prepare the items to be sterilized

3.2. Load the autoclave

3.3. Select and sterilization program.

3.4. Open the autoclave and allow the load to cool.

3.5. Perform a visual inspection and verify the sterilizing indicators.

4. References

4.1. Thermo-Scientific (Harvey) Sterilemax Operation Manual

5. Definitions: N/A

6. Precautions

6.1. Do not attempt to open the door before display reads "cycle complete". Pressure in the chamber could cause the door to open with extreme force.

6.2. Use caution when opening the door. Open door slowly and partially to protect yourself from steam releasing, boiling liquids and exploding flasks.

6.3. Sterilizer trays and items being autoclaved will be very hot after cycle is complete. Always wear protective gloves when handling these items.

6.4. When autoclaving liquids in bottles, beakers or tubes, never fill them more than 75%.

6.5. Do not add water to the reservoir while cycle is running.

6.6. Refer to pages 6-8 in operation manual for further precautions.

7. Responsibilities

7.1. It is the responsibility of the course instructor/lab assistant to ensure that this SOP is performed as described and to update the procedure when necessary.

7.2. It is the responsibility of the students/technician to follow the SOP as described and to inform the instructor about any deviations or problems that may occur while performing the procedure.

8. Equipment and Materials

8.1. Item(s) to be sterilized

8.2. Aluminum foil (if no lid applies)

8.3. Autoclave tape

9. Procedure

9.1. Turn on power switch under the right front corner.

9.2. Check water level in the reservoir. The water level should be between the white arm at the bottom of the reservoir and the metal arm towards the top of the reservoir. If water is needed, add MilliQ water making sure to not overfill.

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- 9.3. For items lacking a lid, for example over an open beaker or bottle with no lid, loosely place aluminum foil over the mouth of the vessel to create a lid.
- 9.4. If a bottle or test tube has a lid or cap, loosen the lid or cap.
- 9.5. Any container containing a liquid should be filled no more than 75%.
- 9.6. Place a piece of autoclave tape on item(s).
- 9.7. Load the sterilizer chamber, with your item(s), onto the perforated tray.
- 9.8. Close the door completely and tighten the lever clockwise.
- 9.9. Select process cycle by first pressing the start button on touch pad.
 - 9.9.1. Choose cycle (refer to page 12 of manual).
 - 9.9.2. Press start again.
- 9.10. After cycle is complete autoclave will beep and the screen will read “cycle complete” and “open door”. To open the door you must first untighten the lever counter clockwise then open the door release on the bottom left of the door. **DO THIS WITH CAUTION BECAUSE OF STEAM RELEASING OUT!!**
- 9.11. To retrieve your items out of the autoclave when cycle is finished, be sure to be wearing protective gloves.

10. Attachments: N/A

11. History

<i>Revision Number</i>	<i>Effective Date</i>	<i>Preparer</i>	<i>Description of Change</i>
0	24OCT12	Tim Kull	Initial release
1	13JAN15	Jason McMillan	Format change and minor revisions