



Safety Information 001/14

Correct Usage of Fume/Vapour Soaking Stations

24 January 2014

Distributed to:

- Chief Executives
- Directors of Clinical Governance

We recommend you also inform:

- Managers of sterilizing services
- Endoscopy units/settings
- Intensive care units
- Cardiac units/settings
- Gynaecological units/settings
- Ear, nose and throat units
- Oncology units/settings
- Infection prevention and control units

Expert Reference Group

Content reviewed by:

- HAI Sterilization Services Working Party

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Purpose

This Safety Information has been developed to advise health services of the functional limitations of fume/vapour soaking stations (such as the GUS System).

Issue

Fume/vapour soaking stations eliminate fumes associated with approved liquid chemical disinfectants used in the reprocessing of reusable non canulated medical devices such as flexible endoscopes and sonographic devices.

Fume/vapour soaking stations facilitate the immersion of reusable medical devices such as flexible endoscopes and/or sonographic devices to bring them into contact with a liquid chemical disinfectant.

Fume/vapour soaking stations are not listed on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG) as the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) does not consider them to be medical devices.

The high level disinfection occurs through the action of the active ingredient. The fume/vapour soaking stations just provides a receptacle to soak the device and remove the fumes and vapours. Manufacturers' instructions for the use of the fume/vapour soaking station and the active ingredient must be followed as well as any relevant work, health and safety instructions.

Steps for minimising risk when using fume/vapour soaking stations

- Health services review their facilities' use of fume/vapour soaking stations
- Where fume/vapour soaking stations are used, health services ensure that systems and procedures are in place to:
 - Monitor that they are used in accordance with their manufacturer's instructions for use
 - Monitor their performance.

Suggested actions by Local Health Districts/Networks

1. Forward information to appropriate area for action.
2. Ensure a system is in place to document actions taken.