

CHOICES

- Sterile Services Department
- Single use medical

Ensure the most appropriate choice is made for each item of equipment that is being processed. If processing locally, all the points listed should be addressed. **Without exception – Single Use Items must not be re-processed**

ROUTINE MAINTENANCE OF A STERILIZER

- Periodic testing by a competent person (pressure vessels) should be carried out
- All sterilizers should be insured for hazards associated with pressure vessels and steam.
- Each sterilizer should have a log book
- All test results should be stored for 11 years (25 years for paediatrics).
- Named users should be trained in the use, maintenance and legal requirements

ENVIRONMENT FOR LOCALISED DECONTAMINATION

In compliance with NHS Estates recommendations for carrying out localised decontamination the following requirements should be met to ensure adequate and appropriate facilities are available and enable a flow of items to occur.

- Designated room/area for decontamination
- Deep sink x 2/ or 1 deep sink and ultrasonic cleaner
- Separate hand wash basin
- Zoned to allow a flow of equipment from dirty to clean
- Ample work surface for segregation of clean and dirty equipment
- Personal protective equipment
- Intact, easily cleaned flooring

POLICIES

- HSC 1999/170 controls Assurance in Infection Control. Decontamination of Medical Devices
- HTM 2031 Clean Steam for Sterilisation
- HTM 2010 Sterilisation
- MDA DB 2002(06) Bench Top Steam Sterilizers: Guidance on Purchase, Operation and Maintenance
- MDA DB 2000(05) Guidance on the Purchase, Operation and Maintenance of Vacuum Bench Top Steam Sterilizers
- NHS Estates/DH 2003 A Guide to the Decontamination of re-usable Instruments
- NHS Estates/DH 2001 A Protocol for the Local Decontamination of Surgical Instruments

ROUTINE MONITORING OF A STERILIZER

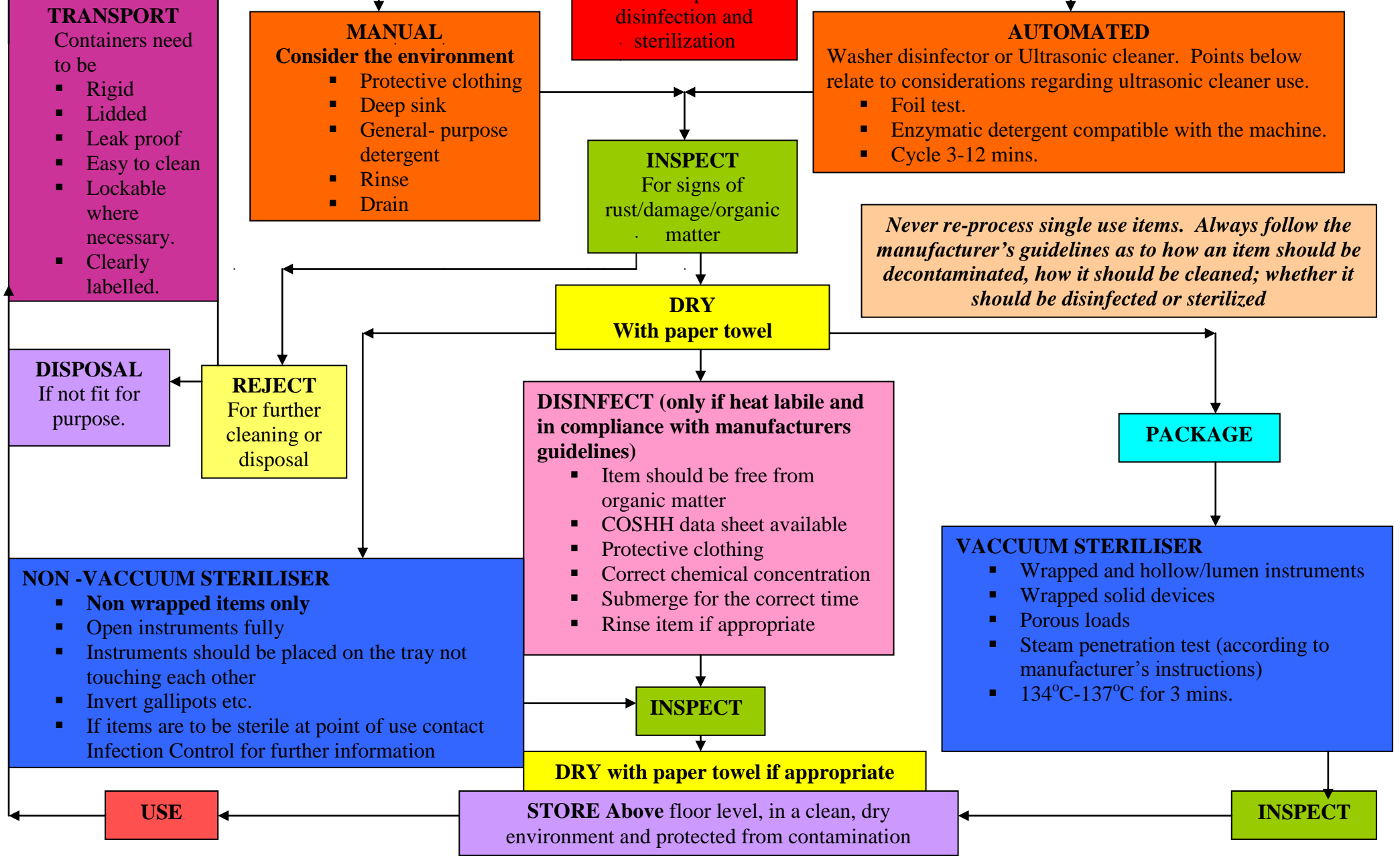
- Daily- the reservoir chamber must be filled with ‘sterile’ water or a risk assessment carried out and purified/distilled water used in compliance with the manufacturers guidelines.
- Ideally, at the end of the day it should be drained, cleaned, dried and left empty.
- Daily - a full cycle should be monitored and recorded. If there is no logging device, a manual test must be undertaken with a stop- watch. 134°C for 3 minutes.
- Weekly- Examine the door seals for signs of leakage or deterioration
- Weekly- check the security and the performance of the door safety device
- Quarterly and annual tests- requiring specialists test equipment

DECONTAMINATION OF EQUIPMENT BEFORE SERVICE AND REPAIR

- Decontamination certificates HSG (1993)

MANAGEMENT OF A STERILIZER

- A named user to ensure processes are undertaken in a controlled manor



FLOW CHART DETAILING DECONTAMINATION OF REUSABLE INSTRUMENTS – For further information contact the Infection Control Nurses on 01386 502552