

# Technical Information Report

ANSI/AAMI/ISO TIR1135-2:2008



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## **Sterilization of health care products — Ethylene oxide — Part 2: Guidance on the application of ANSI/AAMI/ISO 11135-1**



Association for the Advancement  
of Medical Instrumentation

## Objectives and uses of AAMI standards and recommended practices

It is most important that the objectives and potential uses of an AAMI product standard or recommended practice are clearly understood. The objectives of AAMI's technical development program derive from AAMI's overall mission: the advancement of medical instrumentation. Essential to such advancement are (1) a continued increase in the safe and effective application of current technologies to patient care, and (2) the encouragement of new technologies. It is AAMI's view that standards and recommended practices can contribute significantly to the advancement of medical instrumentation, provided that they are drafted with attention to these objectives and provided that arbitrary and restrictive uses are avoided.

A voluntary *standard* for a *medical device* recommends to the manufacturer the information that should be provided with or on the product, basic safety and performance criteria that should be considered in qualifying the device for clinical use, and the measurement techniques that can be used to determine whether the device conforms with the safety and performance criteria and/or to compare the performance characteristics of different products. Some standards emphasize the information that should be provided with the device, including performance characteristics, instructions for use, warnings and precautions, and other data considered important in ensuring the safe and effective use of the device in the clinical environment. Recommending the disclosure of performance characteristics often necessitates the development of specialized test methods to facilitate uniformity in reporting; reaching consensus on these tests can represent a considerable part of committee work. When a drafting committee determines that clinical concerns warrant the establishment of *minimum* safety and performance criteria, referee tests must be provided and the reasons for establishing the criteria must be documented in the rationale.

A *recommended practice* provides guidelines for the use, care, and/or processing of a medical device or system. A recommended practice does not address device performance *per se*, but rather procedures and practices that will help ensure that a device is used safely and effectively and that its performance will be maintained.

Although a device standard is primarily directed to the manufacturer, it may also be of value to the potential purchaser or user of the device as a frame of reference for device evaluation. Similarly, even though a recommended practice is usually oriented towards healthcare professionals, it may be useful to the manufacturer in better understanding the environment in which a medical device will be used. Also, some recommended practices, while not addressing device performance criteria, provide guidelines to industrial personnel on such subjects as sterilization processing, methods of collecting data to establish safety and efficacy, human engineering, and other processing or evaluation techniques; such guidelines may be useful to health care professionals in understanding industrial practices.

In determining whether an AAMI standard or recommended practice is relevant to the specific needs of a potential user of the document, several important concepts must be recognized:

All AAMI standards and recommended practices are *voluntary* (unless, of course, they are adopted by government regulatory or procurement authorities). The application of a standard or recommended practice is solely within the discretion and professional judgment of the user of the document.

Each AAMI standard or recommended practice reflects the collective expertise of a committee of health care professionals and industrial representatives, whose work has been reviewed nationally (and sometimes internationally). As such, the consensus recommendations embodied in a standard or recommended practice are intended to respond to clinical needs and, ultimately, to help ensure patient safety. A standard or recommended practice is limited, however, in the sense that it responds generally to perceived risks and conditions that may not always be relevant to specific situations. A standard or recommended practice is an important *reference* in responsible decision-making, but it should never *replace* responsible decision-making.

Despite periodic review and revision (at least once every five years), a standard or recommended practice is necessarily a static document applied to a dynamic technology. Therefore, a standards user must carefully review the reasons why the document was initially developed and the specific rationale for each of its provisions. This review will reveal whether the document remains relevant to the specific needs of the user.

Particular care should be taken in applying a product standard to existing devices and equipment, and in applying a recommended practice to current procedures and practices. While observed or potential risks with existing equipment typically form the basis for the safety and performance criteria defined in a standard, professional judgment must be used in applying these criteria to existing equipment. No single source of information will serve to identify a particular product as "unsafe". A voluntary standard can be used as one resource, but the ultimate decision as to product safety and efficacy must take into account the specifics of its utilization and, of course, cost-benefit considerations. Similarly, a recommended practice should be analyzed in the context of the specific needs and resources of the individual institution or firm. Again, the rationale accompanying each AAMI standard and recommended practice is an excellent guide to the reasoning and data underlying its provision.

In summary, a standard or recommended practice is truly useful only when it is used in conjunction with other sources of information and policy guidance and in the context of professional experience and judgment.

### INTERPRETATIONS OF AAMI STANDARDS AND RECOMMENDED PRACTICES

Requests for interpretations of AAMI standards and recommended practices must be made in writing, to the AAMI Vice President, Standards Policy and Programs. An official interpretation must be approved by letter ballot of the originating committee and subsequently reviewed and approved by the AAMI Standards Board. The interpretation will become official and representation of the Association only upon exhaustion of any appeals and upon publication of notice of interpretation in the "Standards Monitor" section of the *AAMI News*. The Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation disclaims responsibility for any characterization or explanation of a standard or recommended practice which has not been developed and communicated in accordance with this procedure and which is not published, by appropriate notice, as an *official interpretation* in the *AAMI News*.

An ANSI Technical Report prepared by AAMI

**ANSI/AAMI/ISO TIR11135-2:2008**  
(Partial revision of ANSI/AAMI/ISO 11135:1994)  
(Identical to corrected copy of ISO/TS 11135-2:2008)



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# **Sterilization of health care products – Ethylene oxide – Part 2: Guidance on the application of**

## **ANSI/AAMI/ISO 11135-1**

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**Abstract:** AAMI/ISO TIR11135-2 provides guidance for validation and routine control of ethylene oxide sterilization processes for medical devices.

**Keywords:** EO, industrial sterilization, validation, routine control, medical device, product release, process control, process monitoring



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## AAMI Technical Information Report

A technical information report (TIR) is a publication of the Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation (AAMI) Standards Board that addresses a particular aspect of medical technology.

Although the material presented in a TIR might need further evaluation by experts, releasing the information is valuable because the industry and the professions have an immediate need for it.

A TIR differs markedly from a standard or recommended practice, and readers should understand the differences between these documents.

Standards and recommended practices are subject to a formal process of committee approval, public review, and resolution of all comments. This process of consensus is supervised by the AAMI Standards Board and, in the case of American National Standards, by the American National Standards Institute.

A TIR is not subject to the same formal approval process as a standard. However, a TIR is approved for distribution by a technical committee and the AAMI Standards Board.

Another difference is that, although both standards and TIRs are periodically reviewed, a standard must be acted on—reaffirmed, revised, or withdrawn—and the action formally approved usually every five years but at least every 10 years. For a TIR, AAMI consults with a technical committee about five years after the publication date (and periodically thereafter) for guidance on whether the document is still useful—that is, to check that the information is relevant or of historical value. If the information is not useful, the TIR is removed from circulation.

A TIR may be developed because it is more responsive to underlying safety or performance issues than a standard or recommended practice or because achieving consensus is extremely difficult or unlikely. Unlike a standard, a TIR permits the inclusion of differing viewpoints on technical issues.

**CAUTION NOTICE:** This AAMI TIR may be revised or withdrawn at any time. Because it addresses a rapidly evolving field or technology, readers are cautioned to ensure that they have also considered information that might be more recent than this document.

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Comments on this technical information report are invited and should be sent to AAMI, Attn: Standards Department, 1110 N. Glebe Road, Suite 220, Arlington, VA 22201-4795.

## ANSI Technical Report

This AAMI TIR has been registered by the American National Standards Institute as an ANSI Technical Report.

Publication of this ANSI Technical Report has been approved by the accredited standards developer (AAMI). This document is registered as a Technical Report series of publications according to the Procedures for the Registration of Technical Reports with ANSI. This document is not an American National Standard and the material contained herein is not normative in nature.

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## Glossary of equivalent standards

International Standards adopted in the United States may include normative references to other International Standards. For each International Standard that has been adopted by AAMI (and ANSI), the table below gives the corresponding U.S. designation and level of equivalency to the International Standard. NOTE: Documents are sorted by international designation.

Other normatively referenced International Standards may be under consideration for U.S. adoption by AAMI; therefore, this list should not be considered exhaustive.

| International designation                | U.S. designation   | Equivalency                             |
|--|--|---|
| IEC 60601-1:2005                         | ANSI/AAMI ES60601-1:2005   | Major technical variations              |
| IEC 60601-1-2:2007                       | ANSI/AAMI/IEC 60601-1-2:2007                                       | Identical                               |
| IEC 60601-2-2:2006                       | ANSI/AAMI/IEC 60601-2-2:2006                                       | Identical                               |
| IEC 60601-2-4:2002                       | ANSI/AAMI DF80:2003  | Major technical variations              |
| IEC 60601-2-19:1990 and A1:1996          | ANSI/AAMI I136:2004  | Major technical variations              |
| IEC 60601-2-20:1990 and A1:1996          | ANSI/AAMI I151:2004  | Major technical variations              |
| IEC 60601-2-21:1994 and Amendment 1:1996 | ANSI/AAMI/IEC 60601-2-21 and Amendment 1:2000 (consolidated texts) | Identical                               |
| IEC 60601-2-24:1998                      | ANSI/AAMI ID26:2004  | Major technical variations              |
| IEC 60601-2-47:2001                      | ANSI/AAMI EC38:2007  | Major technical variations              |
| IEC 60601-2-50:2001                      | ANSI/AAMI/IEC 60601-2-50:2006                                      | Identical                               |
| IEC/TR 60878:2003                        | ANSI/AAMI/IEC TIR60878:2003  | Identical                               |
| IEC/TR 62296:2003                        | ANSI/AAMI/IEC TIR62296:2003  | Identical                               |
| IEC 62304:2006                           | ANSI/AAMI/IEC 62304:2006   | Identical                               |
| IEC/TR 62348:2006                        | ANSI/AAMI/IEC TIR62348:2006  | Identical                               |
| ISO 5840:2005                            | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 5840:2005  | Identical                               |
| ISO 7198:1998                            | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 7198:1998/2001/(R)2004                               | Identical                               |
| ISO 7199:1996                            | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 7199:1996/(R)2002                                    | Identical                               |
| ISO 8637:2004                            | ANSI/AAMI RD16:2007  | Major technical variations              |
| ISO 8638:2004                            | ANSI/AAMI RD17:2007  | Major technical variations              |
| ISO 10993-1:2003                         | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 10993-1:2003   | Identical                               |
| ISO 10993-2:2006                         | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 10993-2:2006   | Identical                               |
| ISO 10993-3:2003                         | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 10993-3:2003   | Identical                               |
| ISO 10993-4:2002 and A1:2006             | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 10993-4:2002 and A1:2006                             | Identical                               |
| ISO 10993-5:1999                         | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 10993-5:1999   | Identical                               |
| ISO 10993-6:2007                         | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 10993-6:2007   | Identical                               |
| ISO 10993-7:1995                         | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 10993-7:1995/(R)2001                                 | Identical                               |
| ISO 10993-9:1999                         | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 10993-9:1999/(R)2005                                 | Identical                               |
| ISO 10993-10:2002 and Amendment 1:2006   | ANSI/AAMI BE78:2002<br>ANSI/AAMI BE78:2002/A1:2006                 | Minor technical variations<br>Identical |
| ISO 10993-11:2006                        | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 10993-11:2006  | Identical                               |
| ISO 10993-12:2007                        | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 10993-12:2007  | Identical                               |
| ISO 10993-13:1998                        | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 10993-13:1999/(R)2004                                | Identical                               |
| ISO 10993-14:2001                        | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 10993-14:2001/(R)2006                                | Identical                               |
| ISO 10993-15:2000                        | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 10993-15:2000/(R)2006                                | Identical                               |
| ISO 10993-16:1997                        | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 10993-16:1997/(R)2003                                | Identical                               |
| ISO 10993-17:2002                        | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 10993-17:2002  | Identical                               |
| ISO 10993-18:2005                        | ANSI/AAMI BE83:2006  | Major technical variations              |
| ISO/TS 10993-19:2006                     | ANSI/AAMI/ISO TIR10993-19:2006                                     | Identical                               |
| ISO/TS 10993-20:2006                     | ANSI/AAMI/ISO TIR10993-20:2006                                     | Identical                               |
| ISO 11135-1:2007                         | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 11135-1:2007   | Identical                               |
| ISO/TS 11135-2:2008                      | ANSI/AAMI/ISO TIR11135-2:2008                                      | Identical                               |



| International designation                       | U.S. designation                                     | Equivalency                |
|---|--|----------------------------|
| ISO 11137-1:2006                                | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 11137-1:2006                           | Identical                  |
| ISO 11137-2:2006 (2006-08-01 corrected version) | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 11137-2:2006                           | Identical                  |
| ISO 11137-3:2006                                | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 11137-3:2006                           | Identical                  |
| ISO 11138-1: 2006                               | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 11138-1:2006                           | Identical                  |
| ISO 11138-2: 2006                               | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 11138-2:2006                           | Identical                  |
| ISO 11138-3: 2006                               | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 11138-3:2006                           | Identical                  |
| ISO 11138-4: 2006                               | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 11138-4:2006                           | Identical                  |
| ISO 11138-5: 2006                               | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 11138-5:2006                           | Identical                  |
| ISO/TS 11139:2006                               | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 11139:2006                             | Identical                  |
| ISO 11140-1:2005                                | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 11140-1:2005                           | Identical                  |
| ISO 11140-3:2007                                | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 11140-3:2007                           | Identical                  |
| ISO 11140-4:2007                                | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 11140-4:2007                           | Identical                  |
| ISO 11140-5:2007                                | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 11140-5:2007                           | Identical                  |
| ISO 11607-1:2006                                | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 11607-1:2006                           | Identical                  |
| ISO 11607-2:2006                                | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 11607-2:2006                           | Identical                  |
| ISO 11737-1: 2006                               | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 11737-1:2006                           | Identical                  |
| ISO 11737-2:1998                                | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 11737-2:1998                           | Identical                  |
| ISO 11737-3:2004                                | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 11737-3:2004                           | Identical                  |
| ISO 13408-1:2008                                | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 13408-1:2008                           | Identical                  |
| ISO 13408-2:2003                                | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 13408-2:2003                           | Identical                  |
| ISO 13408-3:2006                                | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 13408-3:2006                           | Identical                  |
| ISO 13408-4:2005                                | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 13408-4:2005                           | Identical                  |
| ISO 13408-5:2006                                | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 13408-5:2006                           | Identical                  |
| ISO 13408-6:2006                                | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 13408-6:2006                           | Identical                  |
| ISO 13485:2003                                  | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 13485:2003                             | Identical                  |
| ISO 14155-1:2003                                | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 14155-1:2003                           | Identical                  |
| ISO 14155-2:2003                                | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 14155-2:2003                           | Identical                  |
| ISO 14160:1998                                  | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 14160:1998                             | Identical                  |
| ISO 14161:2000                                  | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 14161:2000                             | Identical                  |
| ISO 14937:2000                                  | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 14937:2000                             | Identical                  |
| ISO/TR 14969:2004                               | ANSI/AAMI/ISO TIR14969:2004                          | Identical                  |
| ISO 14971:2007                                  | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 14971:2007                             | Identical                  |
| ISO 15223-1:2007 and A1:2008                    | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 15223-1:2007 and A1:2008               | Identical                  |
| ISO 15225:2000 and A1:2004                      | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 15225:2000/(R)2006 and A1:2004/(R)2006 | Identical                  |
| ISO 15674:2001                                  | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 15674:2001                             | Identical                  |
| ISO 15675:2001                                  | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 15675:2001                             | Identical                  |
| ISO 15882:2003                                  | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 15882:2003                             | Identical                  |
| ISO/TR 16142:2006                               | ANSI/AAMI/ISO TIR16142:2005                          | Identical                  |
| ISO 17664:2004                                  | ANSI/AAMI ST81:2004                                  | Major technical variations |
| ISO 17665-1:2006                                | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 17665-1:2006                           | Identical                  |
| ISO 18472:2006                                  | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 18472:2006                             | Identical                  |
| ISO/TS 19218:2005                               | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 19218:2005                             | Identical                  |
| ISO 22442-1:2007                                | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 22442-1:2007                           | Identical                  |
| ISO 22442-2:2007                                | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 22442-2:2007                           | Identical                  |
| ISO 22442-3:2007                                | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 22442-3:2007                           | Identical                  |
| ISO 25539-1:2003 and A1:2005                    | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 25539-1:2003 and A1:2005               | Identical                  |
| ISO 25539-2:2008                                | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 25539-2:2008                           | Identical                  |
| ISO 81060-1:2007                                | ANSI/AAMI/ISO 81060-1:2007                           | Identical                  |

## Committee Representation

### Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation

#### Industrial Ethylene Oxide Sterilization Working Group

This Technical Information Report (TIR) was developed by the AAMI Industrial Ethylene Oxide Sterilization Working Group under the auspices of the AAMI Sterilization Standards Committee. Working Group approval of the TIR does not necessarily imply that all committee members voted for its approval.

At the time this document was published, the **AAMI Industrial Ethylene Oxide Sterilization Working Group** had the following members:

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NOTE—Participation by federal agency representatives in the development of this document does not constitute endorsement by the federal government or any of its agencies.

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## Background of Adoption of ISO/TS 11135-2:2008

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies. The United States is one of the ISO members that took an active role in the development of this standard.

The first edition of ISO 11135 was developed by ISO Technical Committee 198 to fill a need for an international standard for ethylene oxide sterilization of health care products. The standard was published in 1994 and was followed by several technical information reports developed in AAMI to provide guidance on ISO 11135. Resulting from a systematic review of ISO 11135:1994 (adopted in the U.S. as ANSI/AAMI/ISO 11135:1994), ISO/TC 198 decided to revise the document by splitting it into two parts under the general title *Sterilization of health care products—Ethylene oxide*. The two parts are:

- Part 1: Requirements for development, validation and routine control of a sterilization process for medical devices; and
- Part 2: Guidance on the application of ISO 11135-1

Concurrent with the development of the U.S. position on the ISO 11135 series, the AAMI Industrial Ethylene Oxide Sterilization Working Group (AAMI ST/WG 01) decided to adopt the two parts verbatim.

The requirements for validation and routine control are contained in the normative section of Part 1, with limited guidance in Annex C while Part 2 is a technical specification that provides the majority of the guidance related to compliance with the requirements in Part 1. The guidance in this Part 2 to the normative Annexes of Part 1 also includes examples of the calculations for the unlimited Holcomb Spearman-Kärber and Stumbo Murphy Cochran methods.

Readers should note that this adoption includes a correction to the original publication by ISO of 11135-2. In the worked example under Equation A.15, third line from the bottom of page 38 of this document, the square root of  $0.74 \times 0.052$  has been corrected to read the square root of  $0.74 \times 0.0052$ . As of the date of the AAMI publication, ISO had not yet issued the correction although the ISO working group had agreed on the language in the AAMI adoption and made a request to ISO to issue same as a technical corrigendum.

U.S. participation in ISO/TC 198 is organized through the U.S. Technical Advisory Group for ISO/TC 198, administered by the Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation (AAMI). The United States made a considerable contribution to this technical specification.

This TIR contains guidelines that are not intended to be absolute or to be applicable in all circumstances. Judgment should be used in applying the information in this TIR.

As used within the context of this document, “shall” indicates requirements that are to be followed strictly in order to conform to the TIR; “should” indicates that among several possibilities, one is recommended as particularly suitable, without mentioning or excluding others, that a certain course of action is preferred but not necessarily required, or that (in the negative form) a certain possibility or course of action is undesirable but not prohibited; “may” indicates that a course of action is permissible within the limits of the technical information report; “can” is used as a statement of possibility and capability; “must” is used only for those situations that cannot be otherwise, as in the example “Monday must follow Sunday.”

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NOTE—Beginning with the ISO foreword on page xiii, this ANSI Technical Report/AAMI Technical Information Report is identical to the corrected copy of ISO/TS 11135-2:2008.

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## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

In other circumstances, particularly when there is an urgent market requirement for such documents, a technical committee may decide to publish other types of document.

- an ISO Publicly Available Specification (ISO/PAS) represents an agreement between technical experts in an ISO working group and is accepted for publication if it is approved by more than 50 % of the members of the parent committee casting a vote;
- an ISO Technical Specification (ISO/TS) represents an agreement between the members of a technical committee and is accepted for publication if it is approved by 2/3 of the members of the committee casting a vote.

An ISO/PAS or ISO/TS is reviewed after three years in order to decide whether it will be confirmed for a further three years, revised to become an International Standard, or withdrawn. If the ISO/PAS or ISO/TS is confirmed, it is reviewed again after a further three years, at which time it must either be transformed into an International Standard or be withdrawn.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO/TS 11135-2 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 198, *Sterilization of health care products*.

ISO/TS 11135-2, together with ISO 11135-1, cancels and replaces ISO 11135:1994 and ISO 11135/Cor.1:1994, which have been technically revised.

ISO/TS 11135 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Sterilization of health care products*  
— *Ethylene oxide*:

- *Part 1: Requirements for development, validation and routine control of a sterilization process for medical devices*
- *Part 2: Guidance on the application of ISO 11135-1*

## Introduction

This Technical Specification describes some of the methods that may be employed to achieve the requirements contained in ISO 11135-1. This document is not intended as a checklist for assessing compliance with ISO 11135-1, rather it is intended to promote a uniform understanding and implementation of ISO 11135-1 by providing explanations and possible methods for achieving compliance with specified requirements. It highlights important aspects and provides examples.

This Technical Specification addresses ethylene oxide (EO) sterilization in both the industrial and health care facility settings, and it acknowledges the similarities and differences between the two applications.

Among the similarities are the common need for quality systems, staff training, and proper safety measures. The major differences relate to the unique physical and organizational conditions in health care facilities, and to the initial condition of re-usable devices being presented for sterilization.

Health care facilities differ from medical device manufacturers in the physical design of processing areas, in the equipment used, and in the availability of personnel with adequate levels of training and experience. The primary function of the health care facility is to provide patient care; medical device reprocessing is just one of a myriad of activities that are performed to support that function.

In terms of the initial condition of medical devices, medical device manufacturers generally sterilize large numbers of similar devices that have been produced from virgin material. Health care facilities, on the other hand, must handle and process both new medical devices and re-usable medical devices of different descriptions and with varying levels of bioburden. They are therefore faced with the additional challenges of cleaning, evaluating, preparing and packaging a medical device prior to sterilization. In this document, alternative approaches and guidance specific to health care facilities are identified as such.

In general, moist heat sterilization (also known as steam sterilization) is the method of choice for medical devices and supplies that are sterilized in health care facilities. However, EO gas and its mixtures are effective sterilants that are primarily used for heat- and moisture-sensitive medical devices that cannot be steam sterilized.

For ease of reference, the numbering in this technical specification corresponds to that in ISO 11135-1.



# Sterilization of health care products — Ethylene oxide —

## Part 2: Guidance on the application of ANSI/AAMI/ISO 11135-1

### 1 Scope

This Technical Specification provides guidance for the requirements in ISO 11135-1:2007. It does not repeat the requirements and is not intended to be used in isolation.

The exclusions in ISO 11135-1 apply also to this Technical Specification.

For ease of reference, the clause numbering in this Technical Specification corresponds to that in ISO 11135-1:2007. Further guidance for the requirements given in ISO 11135-1 is also included in Annex C of ISO 11135-1:2007 and should be used in conjunction with this Technical Specification.

This guidance document is intended for people who have a basic knowledge of the principles of EO sterilization but may need help in determining how to best meet the requirements contained in ISO 11135-1. This document is not intended for people lacking a basic knowledge of the principles of EO sterilization.

### 2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 11135-1:2007, *Sterilization of health care products — Ethylene oxide — Part 1: Requirements for development, validation and routine control of a sterilization process for medical devices*

ISO 11138-2:2006, *Sterilization of health care products — Biological indicators — Part 2: Biological indicators for ethylene oxide sterilization processes*

ISO 11140-1:2005, *Sterilization of health care products — Chemical indicators — Part 1: General requirements*

ISO 11737-1, *Sterilization of medical devices — Microbiological methods — Part 1: Determination of a population of microorganisms on products*

ISO 13485:2003, *Medical devices — Quality management systems — Requirements for regulatory purposes*

ISO 17664, *Sterilization of medical devices — Information to be provided by the manufacturer for the processing of resterilizable medical devices*