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Packaging for terminally sterilized medical devices —

Part 1: Requirements for materials, sterile barrier systems and packaging systems

Emballages des dispositifs médicaux stérilisés au stade terminal —

*Partie 1: Exigences relatives aux matériaux, aux systèmes de barrière
stérile et aux systèmes d'emballage*



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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.

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 11607-1 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 198, *Sterilization of health care products*.

ISO 11607-1 and ISO 11607-2 cancel and replace ISO 11607:2003, which has been technically revised.

ISO 11607 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Packaging for terminally sterilized medical devices*:

- *Part 1: Requirements for materials, sterile barrier systems and packaging systems*
- *Part 2: Validation requirements for forming, sealing and assembly processes*

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Introduction

The process of designing and developing a packaging system for terminally sterilized medical devices is a complicated and critical endeavour. The device components and the packaging system should be combined to create a product that performs efficiently, safely, and effectively in the hands of the user.

This part of ISO 11607 specifies the basic attributes required of materials and pre-formed systems intended for use in packaging systems for terminally sterilized medical devices, while considering the wide range of potential materials, medical devices, packaging system designs, and sterilization methods. ISO 11607-2 describes the validation requirements for forming, sealing and assembly processes. This part of ISO 11607 is harmonized with EN 868-1 and specifies general requirements for all packaging materials whereas EN 868 Parts 2 to 10 specify particular requirements for a range of commonly used materials. Both parts of ISO 11607 were designed to meet the Essential Requirements of the European Medical Device Directives.

European standards that provide requirements for particular materials and preformed sterile barrier systems are available and known as the EN 868 series. This part of ISO 11607 has been developed as a means to show compliance with the relevant Essential Requirements of the European Directives concerning medical devices. Compliance with EN 868 Parts 2 to 10 can be used to demonstrate compliance with one or more of the requirements of this part of ISO 11607.

The goal of a terminally sterilized medical device packaging system is to allow sterilization, provide physical protection, maintain sterility up to the point of use and allow aseptic presentation. The specific nature of the medical device, the intended sterilization method(s), the intended use, expiry date, transport and storage all influence the packaging system design and choice of materials.

One significant barrier to harmonization was terminology. The terms “package”, “final package”, “final pack”, “primary pack”, and “primary package” all have different connotations around the globe, and choosing one of these terms to be the harmonized basis for this part of ISO 11607 was considered a barrier to successful completion of this document. As a result, the term “sterile barrier system” was introduced to describe the minimum packaging required to perform the unique functions required of medical packaging: to allow sterilization, to provide an acceptable microbial barrier, and to allow for aseptic presentation. “Protective packaging” protects the sterile barrier system, and together they form the packaging system. “Preformed sterile barrier systems” would include any partially assembled sterile barrier systems such as pouches, header bags or hospital packaging reels. An overview of sterile barrier systems can be found in Annex A.

The sterile barrier system is essential to ensure the safety of terminally sterilized medical devices. Regulatory authorities recognize the critical nature of sterile barrier systems by considering them as an accessory or a component of a medical device. Preformed sterile barrier systems sold to healthcare facilities for use in internal sterilization are considered as medical devices in many parts of the world.