



Sterilization Packaging Shortage

IAHCSMM is aware of reports of sterilization wrap shortages throughout the U.S. Those shortages may require facilities to consider alternative packaging. If your facility is considering implementing alternative packaging, be certain to ensure that:

1. The product is cleared by the FDA for use as sterilization packaging.
2. Your facility follows standards and guidelines when using the product.
3. Your facility follows the instructions for use of the packaging, sterilizer, and devices to be sterilized.
4. Appropriate testing is completed before use.
5. All users (Sterile Processing) and end users (Operating Room and other procedural areas) are educated on proper use of the products.

Specific Resources Include:

ANSI/AAMI ST65, *Processing of Reusable Surgical Textiles for Use in Health Care Facilities*. Learn more about ST65:2008 (R2018) [HERE](#).

ANSI/AAMI ST79, *Comprehensive Guide to Steam Sterilization and Sterility Assurance in Health Care Facilities*

- Section 9 (p. 50), *Packaging*
- Section 10 (p 61), *Sterilization*
- Annex H (p.142), *Development of a pre-purchase evaluation protocol for rigid container systems*

Learn more about ST79:2017 & 2020 Amendments [HERE](#).

Publications at AORN

AORN Guidelines for Perioperative Practice (2021), Packaging Systems (pp. 571-590)
AORN Guidelines for Perioperative Practice (2021), Sterilization, Steam Sterilization 5.5 (pp. 994-995). Access AORN publications [HERE](#).

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