ICS 11.080.01 SLOVENSKÁ TECHNICKÁ NORMA Marec 2020

STN	**Sterilizácia výrobkov zdravotnej starostlivosti nízkoteplotnou parou a formaldehydom Požiadavky na vývoj, validáciu a rutinnú kontrolu sterilizačného procesu zdravotníckych pomôcok (ISO 25424: 2018)**	**STN EN ISO 25424** 85 5016

Sterilization of health care products - Low temperature steam and formaldehyde - Requirements for development, validation and routine control of a sterilization process for medical devices (ISO 25424:2018)

Táto norma obsahuje anglickú verziu európskej normy.
This standard includes the English version of the European Standard.

Táto norma bola oznámená vo Vestníku ÚNMS SR č. 02/20

Obsahuje: EN ISO 25424:2019, ISO 25424:2018

Oznámením tejto normy sa ruší
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EUROPEAN STANDARD

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EN ISO 25424

November 2019

ICS 11.080.01

Supersedes EN ISO 25424:2011

English Version

Sterilization of health care products - Low temperature steam and formaldehyde - Requirements for development, validation and routine control of a sterilization process for medical devices (ISO 25424:2018)

Stérilisation des produits de santé - Formaldéhyde et vapeur à faible température - Exigences pour le développement, la validation et le contrôle de routine d'un procédé de stérilisation pour dispositifs médicaux (ISO 25424:2018)

Sterilisation von Produkten für die Gesundheitsfürsorge - Niedertemperatur-Dampf-Formaldehyd - Anforderungen an die Entwicklung, Validierung und Routineüberwachung von Sterilisationsverfahren für Medizinprodukte (ISO 25424:2018)

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 4 November 2019.

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This European Standard exists in three official versions (English, French, German). A version in any other language made by translation under the responsibility of a CEN member into its own language and notified to the CEN-CENELEC Management Centre has the same status as the official versions.

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EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR STANDARDIZATION
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European foreword

This document (EN ISO 25424:2019) has been prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 198 "Sterilization of health care products" in collaboration with Technical Committee CEN/TC 204 “Sterilization of medical devices” the secretariat of which is held by BSI.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by May 2020, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by May 2020.

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

This document supersedes EN ISO 25424:2011 with a revised European Foreword and European Annexes ZA, ZB and ZC, and additional European Annexes ZD and ZE.

This document has been prepared under a mandate given to CEN by the European Commission and the European Free Trade Association, and supports essential requirements of EU Directive(s).

For the relationship with EU Directive(s) see informative Annex ZA, ZB, ZC, ZD or ZE, which is an integral part of this document.

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For undated references, the edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) listed below applies. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. However, for any use of this standard within the meaning of Annex ZA, ZB, ZC, ZD or ZE the user should always check that any referenced document has not been superseded and that its relevant contents can still be considered the generally acknowledged state-of-art.

When an IEC or ISO standard is referred to in the ISO standard text, this should be understood as a normative reference to the corresponding EN standard, if available, and otherwise to the dated version of the ISO or IEC standard as listed below.

NOTE The way in which these referenced documents are cited in normative requirements determines the extent (in whole or in part) to which they apply.

Table – Correlation between normative references and dated EN and ISO standards

Normative references as listed in Clause 2 of the ISO standard	Equivalent dated standard	
	EN	ISO
ISO 11138-1:2017	EN ISO 11138-1:2017	ISO 11138-1:2017
ISO 11138-5:2017	EN ISO 11138-5:2017	ISO 11138-5:2017
ISO 11140-1:2014	EN ISO 11140-1:2014	ISO 11140-1:2014
ISO 11737-1	EN ISO 11737-1:2006	ISO 11737-1:2006
ISO 11737-2:2009	EN ISO 11737-2:2009	ISO 11737-2:2009

NOTE One standard normatively referred to by EN ISO 25424:2019 is undated. The referred standards also include normative references to other dated and undated standards. For undated normative references, it should always be assumed that the latest edition applies.

According to the CEN-CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organizations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

Endorsement notice

The text of ISO 25424:2018 has been approved by CEN as EN ISO 25424:2019 without any modification.

Annex ZA
(informative)

Relationship between this European Standard and the Essential Requirements of EU Directive 90/385/EEC on active implantable medical devices [OJ L 189] aimed to be covered

This European standard has been prepared under a Commission's standardisation request M/BC/CEN/89/9 to provide one voluntary means of conforming to essential requirements of Council Directive 90/385/EEC of 20 June 1990 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to active implantable medical devices [OJ L 189].

Once this standard is cited in the Official Journal of the European Union under that Directive, compliance with the normative clauses of this standard given in Table ZA.1 confers, within the limits of the scope of this standard, a presumption of conformity with the corresponding Essential Requirements of that Directive and associated EFTA regulations.

NOTE 1 Where a reference from a clause of this standard to the risk management process is made, the risk management process needs to be in compliance with 90/385/EEC, as amended by 2007/47/EC. This means that risks have to be reduced 'as far as possible', 'to a minimum', 'to the lowest possible level', 'minimized' or 'removed', according to the wording of the corresponding essential requirement.

NOTE 2 The manufacturer's policy for determining **acceptable risk** must be in compliance with essential requirements 1, 4, 5, 8, 9 and 10of the Directive.

NOTE 3 This Annex ZA is based on normative references according to the table of references in the European foreword, replacing the references in the core text.

NOTE 4 When an Essential Requirement does not appear in Table ZA.1, it means that it is not addressed by this European Standard.

Table ZA.1 — Correspondence between this European Standard and Annex I of Directive 90/385/EEC [OJ L 189]

Essential Requirements (ERs) of Directive 90/385/EEC	Clauses of this EN	Qualifying remarks/Notes
7	4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12	This standard provides requirements for the development, validation and routine control of a sterilization process using low temperature steam and formaldehyde for medical devices, including requirements that the sterilized medical device is safe and performs as intended after sterilization. This Essential Requirement is addressed only with regard to devices for which sterilization by low temperature steam and formaldehyde is appropriate. This relevant Essential Requirement is only partly addressed in this European Standard. Design and packaging for maintenance of sterility during transportation and storage are not covered. Aspects of manufacture other than those related to sterilization by low temperature steam and formaldehyde are not covered.

WARNING 1 — Presumption of conformity stays valid only as long as a reference to this European Standard is maintained in the list published in the Official Journal of the European Union. Users of this standard should consult frequently the latest list published in the Official Journal of the European Union.

WARNING 2 — Other Union legislation may be applicable to the products falling within the scope of this standard.

Annex ZB
(informative)

Relationship between this European Standard and the Essential Requirements of EU Directive 93/42/EEC on medical devices [OJ L 169] aimed to be covered

This European Standard has been prepared under a Commission's standardization request M/BC/CEN/89/9 to provide one voluntary means of conforming to essential requirements of Council Directive 93/42/EEC of 14 June 1993 concerning medical devices [OJ L 169].

Once this standard is cited in the Official Journal of the European Union under that Directive, compliance with the normative clauses of this standard given in Table ZB.1 confers, within the limits of the scope of this standard, a presumption of conformity with the corresponding Essential Requirements of that Directive and associated EFTA regulations.

NOTE 1 Where a reference from a clause of this standard to the risk management process is made, the risk management process needs to be in compliance with 93/42/EEC, as amended by 2007/47/EC. This means that risks have to be reduced 'as far as possible', 'to a minimum', 'to the lowest possible level', 'minimized' or 'removed', according to the wording of the corresponding essential requirement.

NOTE 2 The manufacturer's policy for determining **acceptable risk** must be in compliance with essential requirements 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11 and 12 of the Directive.

NOTE 3 This Annex ZB is based on normative references according to the table of references in the European foreword, replacing the references in the core text.

NOTE 4 When an Essential Requirement does not appear in Table ZB.1, it means that it is not addressed by this European Standard.

Table ZB.1 — Correspondence between this European Standard and Annex I of Directive 93/42/EEC [OJ L 169]

Essential Requirements (ERs) of Directive 93/42/EEC	Clauses of this EN	Qualifying remarks/Notes
8.3	4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12	This standard provides requirements for the development, validation and routine control of a sterilization process using low temperature steam and formaldehyde for medical devices, including requirements that the sterilized medical device is safe and performs as intended after sterilization. This Essential Requirement is addressed only with regard to devices for which sterilization by low temperature steam and formaldehyde is appropriate. This relevant Essential Requirement is only partly addressed in this European Standard. Design and packaging for maintenance of sterility during transportation and storage are not covered. Aspects of manufacture other than those related to sterilization by low temperature steam and formaldehyde are not covered.
8.4	4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12	This relevant Essential Requirement is only partly addressed in this European Standard. This Essential Requirement is addressed only with regard to devices for which sterilization by low temperature steam and formaldehyde is appropriate. Aspects of manufacture other than those related to sterilization by low temperature steam and formaldehyde are not covered.

WARNING 1 — Presumption of conformity stays valid only as long as a reference to this European Standard is maintained in the list published in the Official Journal of the European Union. Users of this standard should consult frequently the latest list published in the Official Journal of the European Union.

WARNING 2 — Other Union legislation may be applicable to the products falling within the scope of this standard.

Annex ZC
(informative)

Relationship between this European Standard and the Essential Requirements of EU Directive 98/79/EC on *in vitro* diagnostic medical devices [OJ L 331] aimed to be covered

This European standard has been prepared under a Commission's standardisation request, M/252, concerning the development of European standards relating to in vitro diagnostic medical devices, to provide one voluntary means of conforming to essential requirements of Directive 98/79/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 October 1998 on in vitro diagnostic medical devices [OJ L 331].

Once this standard is cited in the Official Journal of the European Union under that Directive, compliance with the normative clauses of this standard given in Table ZC.1 confers, within the limits of the scope of this standard, a presumption of conformity with the corresponding Essential Requirements of that Directive and associated EFTA regulations.

NOTE 1 Where a reference from a clause of this standard to the risk management process is made, the risk management process needs to be in compliance with 98/79/EC. This means that risks have to be reduced 'as far as possible', 'to a minimum', 'to the lowest possible level', 'minimized' or 'removed', according to the wording of the corresponding essential requirement.

NOTE 2 The manufacturer's policy for determining **acceptable risk** must be in compliance with essential requirements Part A: 1, 2 and 5; Part B: 1.2, 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7of the Directive.

NOTE 3 This Annex ZC is based on normative references according to the table of references in the European foreword, replacing the references in the core text.

NOTE 4 When an Essential Requirement does not appear in Table ZC.1, it means that it is not addressed by this European Standard.

Table ZC.1 — Correspondence between this European Standard and Annex I of Directive 98/79/EC [OJ L 331]

Essential Requirements (ERs) of Directive 98/79/EC	Clauses of this EN	Qualifying remarks/Notes
B.2.3	4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12	This standard provides requirements for the development, validation and routine control of a sterilization process using low temperature steam and formaldehyde for medical devices, including requirements that the sterilized medical device is safe and performs as intended after sterilization. This Essential Requirement is addressed only with regard to devices for which sterilization by low temperature steam and formaldehyde is appropriate. This relevant Essential Requirement is only partly addressed in this European Standard. Design and packaging for maintenance of sterility during transportation and storage are not covered. Aspects of manufacture other than those related to sterilization by low temperature steam and formaldehyde are not covered. Other special microbiological states are not covered.
B.2.4	4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12	This relevant Essential requirement is addressed only with regard to: - sterilization, not covering other special microbiological states - devices for which sterilization by low temperature steam and formaldehyde is appropriate

WARNING 1 — Presumption of conformity stays valid only as long as a reference to this European Standard is maintained in the list published in the Official Journal of the European Union. Users of this standard should consult frequently the latest list published in the Official Journal of the European Union.

WARNING 2 — Other Union legislation may be applicable to the products falling within the scope of this standard.

Annex ZD
(informative)

Relationship between this European standard and the General Safety and Performance Requirements of Regulation (EU) 2017/745 aimed to be covered

This European standard has been prepared under a Commission's standardisation request to provide one voluntary means of conforming to the General Safety and Performance Requirements of Regulation (EU) 2017/745 of 5 April 2017 concerning medical devices [OJ L 117].

Once this standard is cited in the Official Journal of the European Union under that Regulation, compliance with the normative clauses of this standard given in Table ZD.1 confers, within the limits of the scope of this standard, a presumption of conformity with the corresponding General Safety and Performance Requirements of that Regulation, and associated EFTA regulations.

NOTE 1 Where a reference from a clause of this standard to the risk management process is made, the risk management process needs to be in compliance with Regulation (EU) 2017/745. This means that risks have to be 'reduced as far as possible', 'reduced to the lowest possible level', 'reduced as far as possible and appropriate', 'removed or reduced as far as possible', 'eliminated or reduced as far as possible', 'removed or minimized as far as possible', or 'minimized', according to the wording of the corresponding General Safety and Performance Requirement.

NOTE 2 The manufacturer's policy for determining acceptable risk must be in compliance with General Safety and Performance Requirements 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22 of the Regulation.

NOTE 3 This Annex ZD is based on normative references according to the table of references in the European Foreword, replacing the references in the core text.

NOTE 4 When a General Safety and Performance Requirement does not appear in Table ZD.1, it means that it is not addressed by this European Standard.

Table ZD.1 — Correspondence between this European standard and Annex I of Regulation (EU) 2017/745 [OJ L 117]

General Safety and Performance Requirements of Regulation (EU) 2017/745	Clause(s) / sub-clause(s) of this EN	Remarks / Notes
11.3	4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12	This standard provides requirements for the development, validation and routine control of a sterilization process using low temperature steam and formaldehyde for medical devices, including requirements that the medical device is safe and performs as intended after treatment. It could also be applied to the development, validation and routine control of a process for attainment of a specific microbial

		state other than sterility. This General Safety and Performance Requirement is addressed only with regard to devices for which treatment by low temperature steam and formaldehyde is appropriate. This relevant General Safety and Performance Requirement is only partly addressed in this European Standard. Design and packaging for maintenance of a specific microbial state during transportation and storage are not covered. Aspects of manufacture other than those related to attainment of a specific microbial state by low temperature steam and formaldehyde are not covered.
11.4 first sentence only	4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12	This standard provides requirements for the development, validation and routine control of a sterilization process using low temperature steam and formaldehyde for medical devices, including requirements that the sterilized medical device is safe and performs as intended after sterilization. This General Safety and Performance Requirement is addressed only with regard to devices for which sterilization by low temperature steam and formaldehyde is appropriate. This relevant General Safety and Performance Requirement is only partly addressed in this European Standard. Design and packaging for maintenance of sterility during transportation and storage are not covered. Aspects of manufacture other than those related to attainment of sterility by low temperature steam and formaldehyde are not covered. Evidence that the integrity of the packaging is maintained to the point of use is not covered.
11.5	4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12	This standard provides requirements for the development, validation and routine control of a sterilization process using low temperature steam and formaldehyde for

		medical devices, including requirements that the sterilized medical device is safe and performs as intended after sterilization. This General Safety and Performance Requirement is addressed only with regard to devices for which sterilization by low temperature steam and formaldehyde is appropriate. This relevant General Safety and Performance Requirement is only partly addressed in this European Standard. Packaging for maintenance of sterility are not covered. Aspects of manufacture other than those related to attainment of sterility by low temperature steam and formaldehyde are not covered.

WARNING 1: Presumption of conformity stays valid only as long as a reference to this European standard is maintained in the list published in the Official Journal of the European Union. Users of this standard should consult frequently the latest list published in the Official Journal of the European Union.

WARNING 2: Other Union legislation may be applicable to the product(s) falling within the scope of this standard.

Annex ZE
(informative)

Relationship between this European standard and the General Safety and Performance Requirements of Regulation (EU) 2017/746 aimed to be covered

This European standard has been prepared under a Commission's standardisation request to provide one voluntary means of conforming to the General Safety and Performance Requirements of Regulation (EU) 2017/746 of 5 April 2017 concerning in vitro diagnostic medical devices [OJ L 117].

Once this standard is cited in the Official Journal of the European Union under that Regulation, compliance with the normative clauses of this standard given in Table ZE.1 confers, within the limits of the scope of this standard, a presumption of conformity with the corresponding General Safety and Performance Requirements of that Regulation, and associated EFTA regulations.

NOTE 1 Where a reference from a clause of this standard to the risk management process is made, the risk management process needs to be in compliance with Regulation (EU) 2017/746. This means that risks have to be 'reduced as far as possible', 'reduced to a level as low as reasonably practicable', 'reduced to the lowest possible level', 'reduced as far as possible and appropriate', 'removed or reduced as far as possible', 'eliminated or reduced as far as possible', 'prevented' or 'minimized', according to the wording of the corresponding General Safety and Performance Requirement.

NOTE 2 The manufacturer's policy for determining acceptable risk must be in compliance with General Safety and Performance Requirements 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 of the Regulation.

NOTE 3 This Annex ZE is based on normative references according to the table of references in the European Foreword, replacing the references in the core text.

NOTE 4 When a General Safety and Performance Requirement does not appear in Table ZE.1, it means that it is not addressed by this European Standard.

Table ZE.1 – Correspondence between this European standard and Annex I of Regulation (EU) 2017/746 [OJ L 117]

General Safety and Performance Requirements of Regulation (EU) 2017/746	Clause(s) / sub-clause(s) of this EN	Remarks / Notes
11.2	4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12	This standard provides requirements for the development, validation and routine control of a sterilization process using low temperature steam and formaldehyde for medical devices, including requirements that the medical device is safe and performs as intended after treatment. It could also be applied to the development, validation and routine control of a process for attainment of a specific microbial

		state other than sterility. This General Safety and Performance Requirement is addressed only with regard to devices for which treatment by low temperature steam and formaldehyde is appropriate. This relevant General Safety and Performance Requirement is only partly addressed in this European Standard. Design and packaging for maintenance of a sterility or another specific microbial state during transportation and storage are not covered. Aspects of manufacture other than those related to attainment of sterility or another specific microbial state by low temperature steam and formaldehyde are not covered.
11.3	4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12	This standard provides requirements for the development, validation and routine control of a sterilization process using low temperature steam and formaldehyde for medical devices, including requirements that the sterilized medical device is safe and performs as intended after sterilization. This General Safety and Performance Requirement is addressed only with regard to devices for which sterilization by low temperature steam and formaldehyde is appropriate. This relevant General Safety and Performance Requirement is only partly addressed in this European Standard. Packaging for maintenance of sterility are not covered. Aspects of manufacture other than those related to attainment of sterility by low temperature steam and formaldehyde are not covered.

WARNING 1: Presumption of conformity stays valid only as long as a reference to this European standard is maintained in the list published in the Official Journal of the European Union. Users of this standard should consult frequently the latest list published in the Official Journal of the European Union.

WARNING 2: Other Union legislation may be applicable to the product(s) falling within the scope of this standard.

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

ISO 25424

Second edition
2018-10

Sterilization of health care products — Low temperature steam and formaldehyde — Requirements for development, validation and routine control of a sterilization process for medical devices

Stérilisation des produits de santé — Formaldéhyde et vapeur à faible température — Exigences pour le développement, la validation et le contrôle de routine d'un procédé de stérilisation pour dispositifs médicaux

Reference number
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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.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation on the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 198, *Sterilization of health care products*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 25424:2009), which has been technically revised. The main changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

— alignment with EN 14180:2014;

— alignment with ISO 14937:2009;

— alignment of definitions with ISO 11139:2018;

— addition of relevant literature.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user’s national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Introduction

A sterile medical device is one that is free of viable microorganisms. International Standards that specify requirements for validation and routine control of sterilization processes require, when it is necessary to supply a sterile medical device, that adventitious microbiological contamination of a medical device prior to sterilization be minimized. Even so, medical devices produced under standard manufacturing conditions in accordance with the requirements for quality management systems (see, for example, ISO 13485) could, prior to sterilization, have microorganisms on them, albeit in low numbers. Such medical devices are non-sterile. The purpose of sterilization is to inactivate the microbiological contaminants and thereby transform the nonsterile medical devices into sterile ones.

The kinetics of inactivation of a pure culture of microorganisms by physical and/or chemical agents used to sterilize medical devices generally can best be described by an exponential relationship between the number of microorganisms surviving and the extent of treatment with the sterilizing agent; inevitably this means that there is always a finite probability that a microorganism survives regardless of the extent of treatment applied. For a given treatment, the probability of survival is determined by the number and resistance of microorganisms and by the environment in which the organisms exist during treatment. It follows that the sterility of any one medical device in a population subjected to sterilization processing cannot be guaranteed and the sterility of a processed population is defined in terms of the probability of there being a viable microorganism present on a medical device.

This document describes requirements that, if met, will provide a sterilization process with appropriate microbicidal activity intended to sterilize medical devices. Furthermore, conformity with the requirements ensures that the sterilization process is both reliable and reproducible so that predictions can be made, with reasonable confidence, that there is a low level of probability of there being a viable microorganism present on a medical device after sterilization. Specification of this probability is a matter for regulatory authorities and can vary from country to country (see, for example, EN 556-1 and ANSI/AAMI ST67).

Generic requirements of the quality management system for design and development, production, installation and servicing are given in ISO 9001 and particular requirements for quality management systems for medical device production are given in ISO 13485. The standards for quality management systems recognise that, for certain processes used in manufacturing, the effectiveness of the process cannot be fully verified by subsequent inspection and testing of the product. Sterilization is an example of such a process. For this reason, sterilization processes are validated for use, the performance of the sterilization process is monitored routinely and the equipment is maintained.

Exposure to a properly validated, accurately controlled sterilization process is not the only factor associated with the provision of reliable assurance that a processed medical device is sterile and, in this regard, suitable for its intended use. Attention is also given to a number of factors including:

a) the microbiological status of incoming raw materials and/or components;

b) the validation and routine control of any cleaning and disinfection procedures used on the medical device;

c) the control of the environment in which the medical device is manufactured, assembled and packaged;

d) the control of equipment and processes;

e) the control of personnel and their hygiene;

f) the manner and materials in which the medical device is packaged;

g) the conditions under which the medical device is stored.

The type of contamination on a medical device to be sterilized varies, and this influences the effectiveness of a sterilization process. Medical devices that have been used in a health care setting and that are being presented for resterilization in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions

(see ISO 17664) should be regarded as special cases. There is the potential for such medical devices to possess a wide range of contaminating microorganisms and residual inorganic and/or organic contamination in spite of the application of a cleaning process. Hence, particular attention has to be given to the validation and control of the cleaning and disinfection processes used during reprocessing.

The requirements are the normative parts of this document with which conformity is claimed. The guidance given in Annex C is not normative and is not provided as a checklist for auditors. The guidance provides explanations and methods that are regarded as being a suitable means for conforming with the requirements. Methods other than those given in the guidance can be used if they are effective in achieving conformity with the requirements of this document.

The development, validation and routine control of a sterilization process comprise a number of discrete but interrelated activities, for example, calibration, maintenance, product definition, process definition, installation qualification, operational qualification and performance qualification. While the activities required by this document have been grouped together and are presented in a particular order, this document does not require that the activities be performed in the order that they are presented. The activities required are not necessarily sequential, as the programme of development and validation can be iterative. The responsibility for carrying out the activities required by this document will vary from case to case. This document requires that the responsibilities of the various parties be defined (see 4.3) but does not specify to whom the responsibilities are allocated. Annex C provides guidance on allocation of responsibility.

Activities required by this document could also give rise to an environmental burden that can be considered and minimized, e.g. by utilizing flexibility in planning. Environmental aspects are addressed in Annex D of this document.

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD **ISO 25424:2018(E)**

Sterilization of health care products — Low temperature steam and formaldehyde — Requirements for development, validation and routine control of a sterilization process for medical devices

1 Scope

1.1 Inclusions

1.1.1 This document specifies requirements for the development, validation and routine control of a low temperature steam and formaldehyde (LTSF) sterilization process for medical devices using a mixture of low temperature steam and formaldehyde as sterilizing agent and which operates below ambient pressure.

NOTE Although the scope of this document is limited to medical devices, it specifies requirements and provides guidance that can be applicable to other products and equipment.

1.1.2 This document is intended to be applied by process developers, manufacturers of sterilization equipment, manufacturers of medical devices to be sterilized and the organizations with responsibility for sterilizing medical devices (see ISO 14937:2009, Table E.1).

1.2 Exclusions

1.2.1 This document does not specify requirements for the development, validation and routine control of a process for inactivating the causative agents of spongiform encephalopathies such as scrapie, bovine spongiform encephalopathy and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. Specific recommendations have been produced in particular countries for the processing of materials potentially contaminated with these agents.

NOTE See ISO 22442-1, ISO 22442-2 and ISO 22442-3.

1.2.2 This document does not specify requirements for designating a medical device as “STERILE”. Such requirements are given in EN 556-1.

1.2.3 This document does not specify a quality management system for the control of all stages of production of medical devices.

NOTE It is not a requirement of this document to have a complete quality management system during manufacture or reprocessing, but those elements of such a system that are required are normatively referenced at appropriate places in the text. Attention is drawn to the standards for quality management systems (see ISO 13485) that control all stages of production or reprocessing of medical devices including the sterilization process. Further guidance is given in E.4 of ISO 14937:2009.

1.2.4 This document does not specify requirements for occupational safety associated with the design and operation of LTSF sterilization facilities.

NOTE 1 Safety requirements for sterilizers are specified in IEC 61010-2-040.

NOTE 2 Attention is also drawn to the existence in some countries of regulations stipulating safety requirements.

1.2.5 This document does not cover analytical methods for determining levels or residues of formaldehyde and/or its reaction products.

NOTE 1 Attention is drawn to EN 14180.

NOTE 2 Attention is drawn to the possible existence in some countries of statutory regulations specifying limits for the level of formaldehyde residues on medical devices and products.

1.2.6 This document does not cover preparatory measures that might be necessary before sterilization such as cleaning, disinfection and packing.

NOTE For reprocessable medical devices, the manufacturer(s) of these devices can supply information on the preparatory measures (see ISO 17664).

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements 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 11138-1, *Sterilization of health care products — Biological indicators — Part 1: General requirements*

ISO 11138-5:2017, *Sterilization of health care products — Biological indicators — Part 5: Biological indicators for low-temperature steam and formaldehyde sterilization processes*

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

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

ISO 11737-2, *Sterilization of medical devices — Microbiological methods — Part 2: Tests of sterility performed in the definition, validation and maintenance of a sterilization process*

