Background

- ANSI/AAMI ST79 6.4:
  - “Contaminated items should be contained during their transport from the point of use to the decontamination area. ...Containers, devices, or carts must be marked with a biohazard label or other means of identifying contaminated contents.”
- IAHCSMM Central Service Technical Manual
  - “Contaminated supplies, equipment, and unsterile reusable medical devices are a hazard to patients undergoing surgical procedures or treatment because nosocomial infections can result.”

Containment

- Containers, devices, or carts should be labeled with a biohazard symbol or other identification.
- Some rigid container systems with intact valves or dry filters can be used for transport as long as the external surface has not been contaminated with blood or body fluids.
- Materials contaminated with blood or bodily fluids can serve as sources of infection to personnel unless properly contained. (ANSI/AAMI ST 79 6.4)
  - NOTE: If external contamination is present, the containment device should be enclosed within a plastic bag, bin, or closed case cart.

Preparation at Point of Use

- After use, items should be kept moist to prevent soil from drying on surfaces, and to facilitate decontamination.
- Apply an enzymatic spray or foam.
- Cover with a moistened towelette impregnated with an enzymatic solution.
- CAUTION: Do not use saline to moisten instruments, as it will degrade the surface of the devices.
- Avoid transporting items in liquid to prevent spills.

Secure Transportation

- Place in a transport container or tote, properly labeled as “BIOHAZARD” or “CONTAMINATED” for optimal security.
- There are tamper-evident seals with a biohazard insignia that may be affixed to sterilization containers for this purpose.

Secure Labeling of Containment Devices

- Some sealed containers can be locked with color-coded tamper-evident seals segregating clean or processed items, from those that have been used or biohazard.

Labeling of Clean/Used Items

- During transport, clean and sterile items should be segregated from contaminated items.
- Joint Commission recommends clearly identifying case carts with soiled items as contaminated transportation vehicles.
- NOTE: Case carts may be labeled with a biohazard tag or a disposition monitor to indicate if contents are clean or soiled.

Transport to Decontamination

- Transportation equipment should be designed to prevent damage to reusable items and prevent cross-contamination.
- Items should be transported to prevent items from dislodging or falling over during transport.
- Carts should be large enough to ensure the security and integrity of the items.