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What needs to be documented for daily equipment verification testing?

A: The job isn't complete until the paperwork is completed! Documentation should include the date, specific equipment, test results and name of the person documenting the results.

Verifying cleaning equipment performance is part of the quality assurance program. Equipment verification testing documentation should include the instructions for use (IFU) and detergent IFU to demonstrate that the critical parameters for mechanical cleaning are synchronized; this information must be available for confirmation and reference. Daily cleaning verification records are usually part of the IFU from the manufacturer of the cleaning verification test. *Note: Different types of cleaning verification tests are available, and the methods of testing vary, as do the interpretation of the results.*

How long should we keep sterilization records?

A: Sterilization record retention varies throughout the country; each healthcare facility is responsible for determining its record-retention policy based on state and local regulations and legal considerations. Typically, this is based upon the individual situation and each state's statute of limitation. To help determine your healthcare facilities' record retention time, it is best to check with your compliance officer. Sterilization records should be retained in accordance with the policy and procedure established by the individual healthcare facility. Sterilizer manufacturers generally recommend preventive maintenance and repair records be maintained for the life of the equipment.

NATALIE LIND, CRCST, CHL, FCS, is the Education Director for IAHCSMM. She has over 30 years experience in the Central Service profession, having served as a technician, department manager, professional educator, consultant and author. Lind has presented CS programs both nationally and internationally, and has authored more than 200 CS-related articles.