AS 5369:2023

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Reprocessing of reusable medical devices and other devices in health and non-health related facilities

AS 5369:2023

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The following are represented on Committee HE-023:

Aesthetics Practitioners Advisory Network
Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control
Australasian Society for Ultrasound in Medicine (ASUM)
Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Australian College of Perioperative Nurses
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Reprocessing of reusable medical devices and other devices in health and non-health related facilities

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Preface

This Standard was prepared by the Australian members of the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee HE-023, Processing of Medical and Surgical Instruments, to supersede AS/NZS 4187:2014 *Reprocessing of reusable medical devices in health service organizations*, and AS/NZS 4815:2006 *Office-based health care facilities—Reprocessing of reusable medical and surgical instruments and equipment, and maintenance of the associated environment*.

The objective of this document is to provide uniform minimum requirements for the cleaning, disinfection and sterilization of reusable medical devices (RMDs) and other devices so that they are safe for use and pose no risk of transmission of infectious agents.

Where reference is made to a Standard by its number only, the reference applies to the current edition of the document. Where reference is made to a Standard by number, year and where relevant an amendment number, the reference applies to that specific document.

Prevention of health care associated infection in patients undergoing dental, allied health, medical or surgical procedures is an essential component of patient safety in the delivery of high quality health care. It avoids unnecessary pain and suffering and lessens health care costs. Effective and safe reprocessing of RMDs/other devices in health service organizations (HSOs) is a critical aspect in the prevention of health care associated infection.

The prevention of infection also applies to reprocessing of RMDs/other devices undertaken in non-health related facilities where skin piercing, tattooing and other procedures where the skin is breached occur, or when mucous membranes are contacted.

The structure, content and terminology of this edition of the document is as follows:

(a) The structure and clause headings of this document mirror that of the International Organization for Standardization, Technical Committee 198 (ISO/TC 198), Sterilization of health care products, suite of Standards.

(b) This document is intended to be read in conjunction with relevant National and International Standards and guideline documents (see Clause 1.3).

(c) This document does not include all the technical requirements already identified in National or International Standards but instead refers to those documents where such requirements can be found. For example, this document refers directly to ISO 17665 (series) for the requirements concerning moist heat sterilization processes.

(d) This document is not a procedural document. It therefore does not provide details of risk assessment and workplace procedures for all facilities and settings.

The terms “normative” and “informative” have been used in this document to define the application of the Appendix to which they apply. A “normative” Appendix is an integral part of a document, whereas an “informative” Appendix is only for information and guidance.

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