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routine testing of benchtop autoclaves

When purchasing an autoclave whether vacuum or non-vacuum, it is important to ensure that your autoclave is commissioned in accordance with HTM2010, EN554 or DB9804. Ask your supplier for details.

Once your autoclave is put into service it important to carry out regular testing to demonstrate that the autoclave continues to perform as required.

The following lists show typical recommended routine test that should be carried out.

weekly

	Description	DB9804 reference
1	Air Leakage Test Automatic (vacuum autoclaves only)	A.3.1
2	Automatic Air Detector Function Test (vacuum autoclaves only)	Method Specified By Manufacturer
3	Automatic Control Test	A.2
4	Steam Penetration Test (vacuum autoclaves only) - may be carried out at the same time as above test.	A.1

quarterly

	Description	DB9804 reference
1	Air Leakage Test Automatic (vacuum autoclaves only)	A.3.1
2	Air Leakage Test Manual – Temperature/Pressure Sensors Connected (vacuum autoclaves only)	A.3.2
3	Automatic Control Test	A.2
4	Verification of Calibration of Sterilizer Instruments - may be carried out at the same time as above test	HTM2010: 3 - 6,32 and 12.2
5	Thermometric Test for Small Load - may be carried out at the same time as above test	A.5.1
6	Air Leakage Test Automatic – Sensors Removed (vacuum autoclaves only)	A.3.1
7	Manual Air Detector Function Test (vacuum autoclaves only)	HTM2010 3 – 11.601
8	Automatic Air Detector Function Test (vacuum autoclaves only)	Method Specified by Manufacturer
9	Steam Penetration Test (vacuum autoclaves only) - may be carried out at the same time as above test.	A.1

infection control fact sheet



yearly

	Description	DB9804 reference
1	Air Leakage Test Automatic (vacuum autoclaves only)	A.3.1
2	Air Leakage Test Manual - Temperature/Pressure Sensors Connected (vacuum autoclaves only)	A.3.2
3	Automatic Control Test	A.2
4	Verification of Calibration of Sterilizer Instruments - may be carried out at the same time as above test	HTM2010: 3 - 6,32 and 12.2
5	Chamber Wall Temperature Test - Only required when chamber wall is heated i.e. for Drying	A.4
6	Steam Generator Overheat Cut-out Test	HTM2010: 3 15.3
7	Air Detector System Performance Test For Small Load (vacuum autoclaves only)	Method Specified by manufacturer
8	Air Detector System Performance Test For Large Load (vacuum autoclaves only)	Method Specified by manufacturer
9	Thermometric test for Full Load	A.5.2
10	Porous Load Dryness Test- may be carried out at the same time as above test (vacuum autoclaves only)	A.6.1
11	Thermometric test for Small Load	A.5.1
12	Thermometric test for Solid Load- may be carried out at the same time as above test	A.5.3
13	Solid Load Dryness Test	A.6.2
14	Tests for Performance Re-qualification as Required By User	HTM2010: 3 - 8.64
15	Air Leakage Test Automatic – Sensors Removed (vacuum autoclaves only)	A.3.1
16	Automatic Air Detector Function Test (vacuum autoclaves only)	Method Specified by manufacturer
17	Steam Penetration Test (vacuum autoclaves only) - may be carried out at the same time as above test.	A.1

Tests are tailored to the type of autoclave under review. Not all tests are relevant to N or S type autoclaves. For a detailed explanation of the tests and how they are carried out, refer to DB9804, EN554, HTM2010, your qualified test person or your Authorised Person (Sterilizers).

All testing must be carried out by a qualified test person, always ask to see the Test Persons qualifications for carrying out these tests.