

New Zealand Sterile Services Association Annual General Meeting - 2006

Date: 23 November 2006

Time: 1540hours

Venue: Glenview International Hotel and Conference Centre, Hamilton

Members present at AGM: 22

1. Apologies:

Jennifer Trembath
Lynn Craven
Sue Walters

2. Matters arising from minutes of last meeting:

- None

3. Minutes from last meeting November 2005:

- Previously circulated to members

Moved: Judy Fairgray
Seconded: Lorraine Eldershaw
PASSED

4. Correspondence sent and received:

- Previously circulated to members

Moved: Cathy Rackley
Seconded: Lorraine Arrowsmith
PASSED

5. Presidents report:

- Previously circulated to members

Moved: Aileen Derby
Seconded: Bev Turner
PASSED

From the Managers Forum

The last managers forum for 2006 was held in Hamilton as part of the conference on the Wednesday. This meant that managers who had not been able to get along to meetings during the year but were coming to conference could factor it into their conference arrival. This worked for the groups favour with an attendance of 25.

The meeting focused on clarifying where work had progressed to;

- CJD guidelines – Judy will fine tune these guidelines and then they will be put forward to the MOH for confirmation prior to being placed on the NZSSA website as a reference document
- Loan Instrumentation Guidelines – Judy will fine tune and they will be forwarded to managers who attend the meetings for final comment and presentation to theatre teams. Judy will also discuss them with representatives of the companies that provide instrumentation
- Validation Guidelines – Aileen was given some useful feedback. If you have any further comments for Aileen please contact her.
- During 2005/2006 some hospitals took part in providing data to be pulled together for benchmarking purposes. Alison will fine tune this document and it will be circulated to forum attendees.

The rest of the meeting focused on general questions from the group which promoted excellent discussion.

Meetings for 2007 are still to have dates confirmed but are as follows;

March - Wellington
May - Christchurch
August - Wellington
November - Hawkes Bay (conference)

The Forum is open to all personnel involved in the decision making for sterilizing departments. The Forum is also providing important networking opportunities, is an open forum for discussion of issues at the management level and assist executive members to get feedback for projects being addressed through the National Association. If you would like further information contact Alison Stewart.

Thanks from Wellington

Thank you to Aileen and her team for an excellent conference. My staff and I enjoyed the content, venue and trades. We all really enjoyed the graduation / conference dinner venue, food and entertainment.

Here's wishing everyone a very good holiday season and hope all have a positive start to 2007.

Alison and the teams at SPC Wellington and Kenepuru

6. Secretary's report:

- Previously circulated to members

Moved: Cathy Rackley
Seconded: Marilyn Clark
PASSED

7. Treasurers report:

- Previously circulated to members

Moved: Daniel Phillips
Seconded: Alison Stewart
PASSED

8. Auditors report:

- Report to be published in Supplyline
- Overview from Treasurers notes from Auditors report
- Audit costs will decrease in future
- Membership subscriptions up on previous year but unreal due to membership from previous year blurred with course fees
- Website fee will stabilise in the coming year

Moved: Daniel Phillips
Seconded: Lorraine Eldershaw
PASSED

9. General business:

9.1 Coming conferences

2007	Napier	Lorraine Arrowsmith and Jackie Skudder
2008	Queenstown	Marilyn Clark
2009	Proposed option to be announced	
2010	Proposed option to be announced	

9.2 Course at higher level

- Discussions with Open Polytechnic about course options
- Advanced level maintaining and developing technical and complimentary skills

9.3 Presentation of thanks to Karen Fox who left Executive after 2 terms of office

Meeting closed at 1550hours

**Cathy Rackley
NZSSA Secretary**

**Aileen Derby
NZSSA President**

NZSSA President's Report 2006

It is with pleasure that I present my report for 2006. The Open Polytechnic administered the Sterilising Technology Course for the first time this year. At the start of the year there were over 130 students enrolled. By the last course there were still 120 students working through the various questions and competencies.

I would like to thank Lyn Mowles from The Open Polytechnic for guiding the assessors, including myself through the many papers that we have marked this year. It totals well over 850 papers amongst Bev Turner, Alison Stewart and myself which has taken a lot of time and green marking pens.

The NZSSA Executive Members have worked on the following projects during 2006:

- Administration of the Association's finances
- Sourcing of material for inclusion into 'Supplyline'
- Executive Members Nomination process, this is the first three year term
- Sourcing of material for the Association's website
- Australian / New Zealand Standards committee meetings
- Administration of the Association's Library
- Assessment of the 2006 Sterilising Technology Course through The Open Polytechnic
- Revision of course material for the Sterilising Technology Course
- Continuing to source information on the registration of Sterilising Personnel under the Health Practitioners Competency Assurance Act
- The set up of the registration process through the NZSSA, prior to gaining registration under the HPCA Act
- Collation of the NZSSA historical data and information

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Executive Members for all their support and efforts throughout the year. I would especially like to thank Karen Fox who is standing down as an Executive Member after the 2006 Conference. Karen has administered the Library over the last few years and was one of the Conference Organisers in Dunedin last year. I would like to welcome Martin Bird from Dunedin who successfully gained nomination this year as an Executive Member.

The Manager's Forum meetings have continued this year with many lively discussions and work being done on various guidelines. These we will continue working on as a team to a successful end in the very near future.

This year's conference is being held in Hamilton. The last conference to be held here in Hamilton was in 1995, eleven years ago. Whilst organising a conference is certainly challenging and a lot of work, it is also a worthwhile experience. I would certainly recommend organising an NZSSA Conference to anyone who likes a challenge.

I wish you all the best for the coming year.

Thankyou
Aileen Derby
NZSSA President

NZSSA Secretary's Report 2006

The year has flown by so quickly, with minimal correspondence received and sent. Access to email has facilitated communication between Executive members and Association members, enabling quick response to inquiries and the sharing of information.

The election of Executive members for the 2006 – 2009 term of office did not require a postal election, as the numbers of nominations received were equal to the required positions. We have one Executive member leaving the committee and a new member joining. Karen Fox from the Dunedin Dental School will finish her term of office and I know you will join me in thanking Karen for her contribution and dedication to the Executive during her terms of office. We also welcome Martin Bird from TSSU, Dunedin Hospital as our new Executive member for the South Island Chapter and we look forward to him joining the committee.

To meet requirements to maintain the NZSSA non profit status, we were advised by the Inland Revenue Department to add several clauses into our Constitution and Rules. These changes had been communicated to members via Supplyline and were passed at the 2005 Annual General Meeting. The changes are now registered with the Companies Office and insert pages containing the changes will be available to members on the Executive stand at the 2006 Conference.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Executive Members for their continued support and assistance throughout the year. With special thanks to Aileen and Daniel.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the NZSSA Conference being held at Hamilton in November.

Cathy Rackley
NZSSA Secretary

Alkaline V Neutral Detergents – A Discussion

Detergent, the selection and use of it can be complex as we are challenged with what is advised in the standards and matching these to manufacturer's instructions for cleaning products to achieve the appropriate quality of clean.

As sets become more user friendly for the theatre team they are creating issues in the sterile services department. Manufacturers through their endeavour to bring instrumentation together in one set needed to address weight issues. This has resulted in use of plastic and aluminium trays. To make parts that inter relate easier to recognize for the theatre team they are being colour coded through anodizing. This work by manufacturers is an improvement for the theatre team as they are dealing with more one off sets that they are not familiar with, continuous rotation of staff through specialties, and increasing complexity of instrumentation and surgical technique. More sets are also including implants which are now often titanium as they are low profile, strong and the human body is more receptive to them.

So why does all this user friendliness cause a problem for Sterile Services? The problems start with the cleaning process. Aluminium trays and anodized instruments should be cleaned with a neutral detergent.

Dissimilar metals should not be processed together, particularly if using an acid or alkaline detergent – So do we separate these items?

Is it practical to separate the items?

How do you select the detergent you use?

Manufacturer's instructions are now more frequently indicating the type of detergent (neutral, alkaline etc) to be used for cleaning their products.

The standard, AS/NZS4187, is New Zealand's guiding document for establishing processes, including identifying types of detergent and the scope of use.

The information contained in AS/NZS4187 is broken into 3 parts;-

- Section 2.8 gives clear direction on the packaging, labeling, supplier support and desirable aspects of a detergent depending on what method of cleaning is used. It also provides an indication of the type of detergent (alkaline, neutral, acid) and why. This indication is only brief.
- Appendix A gives more detail on how the different detergents work and when to use the different types.
- Appendix D is an informative table that describes the method of cleaning and recommended type of detergent to be used.

All this information is necessary to select a detergent appropriate to the cleaning process and what is being cleaned, but we come back to the situation that is becoming more the norm of mixed metals and plastics in one set each with its own detergent need.

Again I come back to:

Do we separate each of these items and use separate processes and detergents?

Is this practical?

If not what do we do?

If we do not separate items of dissimilar metal then a logical direction would be to go to a neutral detergent for all cycles. Is this possible? Section 2.8 of AS/NZS4187 states that neutral detergents

may not prove as effective as alkaline detergents in 'dirtier' situations as they do not have the alkaline builders.

To investigate whether it would be possible to use solely neutral detergent in the mechanical washing process I proceeded with some tests. At present we use an alkaline detergent in both our batch and indexing washers. For the test I used the data already captured through weekly protein residue testing (Unilite Direct ATP Testing System is based on detection of ATP by bioluminescence) for the batch washer while using alkaline detergent. The alkaline detergent was then disconnected and the lines were flushed and the neutral detergent connected. During the course of using the neutral detergent we carried out protein residue testing in our normal fashion, except for increased frequency to capture the data. The data collected compared favourably to the results when using the alkaline detergent (see table below).

Alkaline Detergent	Neutral Detergent
Period 07.09.06 – 19.09.06	Period 26.09.06 – 09.10.06
16	19
19	30
21	21
18	16
19	15
17	16

Readings for both are within the accepted range for our facility of <40 RLU.

The protein residues are within our required range, the visual cleanliness was good and the instrumentation did not show any signs of chemical build up or discolouration. Nor did the washer develop build up in the chamber or on the carts or spray arms which is a potential problem when not using an alkaline detergent.

What more would need to be done to make the complete change:-

- Ensure the washer can be set up appropriately to run a neutral detergent. Some washers are set up so the detergent is dosed on the PH registered in the tank (indexing washers).
- Wider more long term testing to monitor protein residues, condition of instruments and interior of washers
- More information on how neutral detergents clean to ensure the really 'dirty' instruments are being cleaned appropriately and are not developing biofilm layers.
- Find appropriate test methods to verify correct chemical dose is occurring. PH testing works for alkaline detergents but not for neutral detergents.
- Verify the neutral detergent will be effective with the water used in the washers. Water quality can affect the cleaning process and detergents used.

Conclusion

This brief study has demonstrated to me that the use of neutral detergent as the primary detergent in the mechanical cleaning process is worth further investigation.

Our test of neutral detergent has demonstrated that we can meet the manufacturers cleaning requirements indicated when cleaning the newer anodized aluminium alloy instruments and mixed metal sets.

The neutral detergent we trialed cleaned as well as the alkaline detergent we use routinely in the department.

Each department has to consider its needs and work towards what works best for the department.

The use of 2 types of detergent in a department has the risk of the incorrect detergent being connected to the machine, ie neutral connected instead of alkaline and vice versa. Perhaps clearer colour coded detergent labels and caps could aid in reducing this risk.

The use of complex anodized alloy instrument sets will increase, it is up to us to work with the manufacturers to solve the dilemma of washing so as not to damage the instruments and still provide the best possible outcomes for our theatre customers.

Alison Stewart
Wellington Hospital

NZSSA 32nd Conference Evaluation

Please take the time to complete this evaluation and return it to the registration desk or mail back to Aileen Derby, Service Leader SSU, Waikato DHB, Private Bag 3200, HAMILTON. Your comments will be utilised to plan future NZSSA conferences.

What were the three things you liked most about this conference?

What were the three things you liked least about this conference?

How did you hear about this conference?

Do you have any comments about the venue for the conference?

Do you have any comments about the trade displays?

What comments do you have about the poster displays?

What comments do you have about the workshops on Day 2?

What comments do you have about the Graduation Dinner?

What suggestions do you have for future NZSSA conferences?

What future topics / speakers would you like to see at future NZSSA conferences?

**Thank you for taking the time to complete this evaluation form.
Your comments are appreciated.**

Evaluation form comments will be collated and shared with the NZSSA Executive Committee and the conference organising committee for the 33rd NZSSA conference.

RECOMMENDED WEBSITES

Jackie Skudder

ARTICLE/SUBJECT	AUTHOR/ COMPANY	WEBSITE
Endoscope Cleaning		http://www.health.qld.gov.au/Endoscope Reprocessing
Care of Endoscopic Instrumentation	HICPAC/SHEA Guidelines Debate Eileen Young RN	www.infectioncontrolday.com/articles/121feat1.html
Hand Hygiene		http://www.infectioncontrolday.com/articles/561feat1.html
A Gentle Introduction to Water and its Structure		http://www.chem1.com/acad/sci/about water.html
Water, Properties and Behaviour		http://www.visionlearning.com/library/module_viewer.php

Standards Talk

Standards NZ is where you can purchase hard copy and soft copy versions of the standards, NZ and international. To purchase a standard you can go to the web site direct; www.standards.co.nz

For those interested in keeping up with what is happening with standards the updates can be viewed on-line or downloaded as a pdf. *Standards Update* is published monthly on the Standards NZ website and gives information about new and up-coming releases. It can also be used to obtain draft standards to review and provide comment. The web address is; <http://www.standards.co.nz:81/news-and-seminars/standards+update/>

British Standards updated:

The following new standards are available through Standards NZ;

BS EN ISO 11137-1:2006 Sterilization of health care products. Radiation. Requirements for development, validation and routine control of a sterilization process for medical devices

Supersedes BS EN 552:1994 which remains current

BS EN ISO 11138:— Sterilization of health care products. Biological indicators

BS EN ISO 11138-1:2006 General requirements

Supersedes BS EN 866-1:1997

BS EN ISO 11138-2:2006 Biological indicators for ethylene oxide sterilization processes

Supersedes Part 2:1998 & Part 8:2000 of BS EN 866

BS EN ISO 11138-3:2006 Biological indicators for moist heat sterilization processes

Supersedes Part 3:1997 & Part 7:2000 of BS EN 866

BS EN ISO 11138-4:2006 Biological indicators for dry heat sterilization processes

Supersedes BS EN 866-6:2000

BS EN ISO 11138-5:2006 Biological indicators for low-temperature steam and formaldehyde sterilization processes

Supersedes BS EN 866-5:2000

Information about impact of changes, if any, through the update and converting of the above British Standards 866 to BS EN ISO 11138 relating to biological indicators should be available through your supplier of the indicators you use.

ISO Publications updated:

This standard is now available

ISO 17665-1:2006 Sterilization of health care products. Moist heat. Requirements for the development, validation and routine control of a sterilization process for medical devices.

The NZSSA will be purchasing a copy of this standard to be held as part of the library



NEW ZEALAND STERILE SERVICES ASSOCIATION

APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

NZSSA Number: _____

Date of Joining NZSSA: _____

Sterilisation Technology Certificate Year: _____

Currently employed at: _____

Length of Employment in Sterile Services: _____

Employment in Other Sterilising Facilities:

From: _____ To: _____

From: _____ To: _____

From: _____ To: _____

Please complete this checklist before sending for verification.

- Application form completed including NZSSA number
- Record of Continuing Education form completed
- All original Proof of Attendance certificates enclosed in chronological order matching the CE form.
- Practice hours have been verified and signed off by Manager of your area or delegated person.

Please send all information to:

After the documents have been verified they will be returned to you with a Certificate of Registration.

For NZSSA Use only

Application

Approved

Not Approved

Reason For Non Approval:

Signed

Date: