Overview

- **Situation in Europe**
  - RABC
  - Standards OP-Textiles
- **Measurements in the laundry**
- **Summary**
Hygiene Regulations in Europe vary strongly

- Different requirements in Europe:
  - Thermal disinfection (GB: 71°C, 3 min)
  - Netherlands: time/temperature calculation according to TNO regulations
  - Scandinavia: time/temperature calculation
  - Germany: only approved processes to be used
    - tested according to RKI (Robert-Koch-Institut) or DGHM (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Hygiene und Mikrobiologie)
RABC in Laundries

RABC:
- Risk
- Analysis
- Biocontamination
- Control:

- A new Standard for Hygiene in Laundries
  - EN 14065
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Hygiene Management - RABC

RABC in Laundries

Purpose:
• To avoid microbial contamination of persons and products by laundry operation
• To provide defined microbial quality of laundered goods
• Pharmaceuticals
• Healthcare services
• Medical products
• Food industry
• Cosmetics
RABC in Laundries

- RABC is a Quality Management System
- It complies with other QM and HACCP systems
- Provides a system to avoid microbial problems by various measures
How to set up an RABC system?

Measures:

• 1 - List all risks of microbial contamination
• 2 - Set up control points (CP’s) to check potential risks
• 3 - Limits and tolerances
• 4 - Surveillance: test and observe the CP’s
• 5 - Corrective actions if limits are exceeded
• 6 - System to check whether RABC is effective
• 7 - Documentation
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Laundry Flow Diagram for Hospital textiles

Potential control points
Responsibilities

- Technical requirements for buildings, lavatories, water supply and drains, air conditioning, machinery
- Hygiene requirements for the staff
- Hygiene requirements for textiles: specifications (see also minimum requirements for work wear), purchasing, testing, etc.
- Hygiene Plans
- Training of staff
- Check hygienic measures
- Follow laws and regulations
The RABC system does not:

• Provide minimum standards for anything
• Provide microbial limits for textiles, water etc.
• Standardized procedures for washing, testing etc.

But

• provides the chance for tailor made solutions
• leaves room for individual customer oriented solutions
• gives the opportunity to work on internal standards and values
European norm for OP textiles: EN 13795

3 parts:

1. General requirements - ready

2. Testing methods - still in discussion

3. Limit values - to be agreed
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2 Examples

Hygiene security

Increasing number of resistant germs

MRSA Multi resistant Staphylococcus aureus

Travels without borders

Epidemic of foot and mouth disease
Laundry Hygiene

- European standards coming up
- Validated processes in the laundry
- Safety of Personnel and patient
Hygiene in laundries for hospital textiles

**Goal**

1. Disinfection of infected and potentially infected textiles
   (hospitals, old people’s homes)

2. Protection of clients and personnel
Measures

1. Textile disinfection
2. Organisation
3. Personnel hygiene
4. Environmental hygiene
Hygiene cycle of hospital laundry

Collection of the soiled textiles
Transportation of soiled laundry
Laundry disinfection
Soiled side of the laundry
Clean side of the laundry
Transportation of clean laundry
Textile disinfection in the wash process

- Oxybrite perfekt
- Triplex energy
- 80°C
- Regular testing with indicator
Chemo-thermal textile disinfection
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Landry for hospital textiles

Organisation

keeping clean textile clean and hygienic

- Wall separation between clean and soiled side

- Use different plastic containers on clean and soiled side (colour coding)

- Trolleys: Spray disinfectant before using for clean textiles
Organisation

- sweep floors daily on clean and soiled side

- wipe floors once a week on clean and soiled side
Organisation and Personnel

Hand hygiene for protecting personnel and avoiding recontamination

- hand disinfection
  - before start of work
  - when leaving the rest room
  - if required
  - use gloves when handling dirty textiles
- should be possible at every working place
Organisation

- cover clean damp textiles before finishing
Environment (see hygiene plans)

- spray disinfection of trucks
- wipe and clean rest rooms daily
Environment (see hygiene plans)

- spray disinfection of tables and belts on clean side
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Organisation and Personnel

- White workwear for clean side‘s personnel
- Blue workwear for soiled side‘s personnel

Improves the hygiene and the optical image of the laundry
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Example of a check list

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Personnel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Are there hygiene plans on the clean side of the laundry?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are there hygiene plans on the unclean side of the laundry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are the hygiene plans taken for granted?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is smoking and eating forbidden on both sides of the laundry?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is there a regular training for the laundry staff?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is there a responsible person for hygiene measures in the laundry?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the personnel trained in the use of the products (eg hand</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please mark the correct answer
0: not true
1: sometimes true
2: often true
3: always true

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Personnel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
**Hygiene plans**

**Individual measurement**

- Including all crucial points
- Clear responsibility
Hygiene training

Awareness for hygiene needs

- Safety
- Responsibility of the staff
- Basic knowledge
  - Hygiene
  - Products
  - Application
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Programs

Hygiene programs
(products, equipment & machines)

- All surfaces (machines, trucks, trolleys, walls & windows)
  - All floors (production, bathroom, offices)
  - Hands
  - etc.

• Survey and overview
  - Application
  - Amount
  - Costs
Control

- RODAC plates
- Water

Control of hygiene status in the laundry

- Press water
- Fresh water
- Surfaces
Summary

take care of all hygiene needs in the laundry!

- Check list - Status quo of the hygiene situation
- Hygiene plans
- Training of laundry staff
- Programs (products, equipment & machines)
- Control