

Hygienically Clean Healthcare 2Q 2016 Updates:

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions

3.1.1 Hygienically Clean: Free of pathogens in sufficient numbers to cause human illness.¹

This may be the most quoted definition for hygienically clean, yet no one has scientifically or quantitatively defined what the term “sufficient numbers” means. **For the purpose of this certification program textiles are considered hygienically clean if they comply with the Minimum Microbiological Performance Specifications in Section 8.2.**

3.1.2 A “Must” statement is one for which compliance is required.

3.1.3 “Shall”, “Should”, and “May” statements represent a best practice, are recommended for implementation, but are not mandatory.

5.1.1 Plant Facilities

5.1.1.1 Functional separation of soiled and clean areas

The QA manual shall describe how the soiled and clean areas of the laundry are functionally separated. Functional separation can be obtained in several ways, including establishing a physical barrier between clean and soiled areas of the laundry, a negative air pressure system in the soiled linen area, or a positive air flow from clean through soiled areas². Whatever system is implemented, the laundry must be able to document and demonstrate to the inspector the functional separation is effective. Soiled textiles **must** never be transported or stored in the clean areas of the plant, and clean textiles must never be transported or stored in the soiled areas of the plant. Flow of textiles shall always be from soiled to clean.

5.1.2. Housekeeping

The QA manual shall describe in detail procedures for the following housekeeping functions.

1. 5.1.2.3. Cleaning of carts
 - a. 5.1.2.3.1 Transportation carts that are used to transport soil and then used to transport clean back to the customer
 - b. 5.1.2.3.2 Carts that are used internally within the plant to transport work in process to different production stations
 - c. 5.1.2.3.3.
 - i. Change this line from (Any other cart or container that is used in the production process) to the following: “Any other linen cart or linen container that is used to transport, store, or deliver clean linen/textiles (e.g., exchange carts).”
2. 5.1.3.4. Transportation
 - a. Add the following text as a separate bullet points to the bottom of the list:
 - All linen retrieved from a customer location that is delivered to the soiled processing area must be cleaned prior to delivery to the customer.
 - All clean and unused linen retrieved from a customer location that is transported in designated, approved, and covered containers that maintain proper functional separation, and is delivered to the clean processing area may be rotated and restocked prior to delivery to the customer.
 - A designated transition area with controls must be identified to remove potentially soiled cart covers prior to delivery to the clean processing area.

5.1.3.4 Transportation

The QA manual shall describe in detail procedures for the following functions.

- The process for servicing accounts must be designed and executed to prevent cross-contamination
- Trained service reps arrive for scheduled pick-up/delivery.
- Items should be transported in designated approved covered containers.
- Service trucks should be cleaned on a regular basis to minimize infection and contamination.
- Trucks should be swept out daily and decontaminated at least twice a month.
- Reusable cart covers must be cleaned after every use.
- Proper PPE and gloves must be worn at all times when handling soiled linen.
- All linen retrieved from a customer location and delivered to the soiled processing area must be cleaned prior to delivery to the customer.
- All clean and unused linen retrieved from a customer location that is transported in designated, approved, and covered containers that maintain proper functional separation, and is delivered to the clean

processing area may be rotated and restocked prior to delivery to the customer.

- A designated transition area with controls must be identified to remove potentially soiled cart covers prior to delivering exchange carts to the clean processing area.

3. 5.1.3.5. Delivery

- In the first sentence:
 - Change “should” to “must”
- In the fourth sentence:
 - Change the first “or” to “and”
- In the fifth sentence:
 - The term "properly cleaned" means either steam-cleaned or cleaned with an EPA approved cleansing agent/ disinfectant and water solution. (accurately mixed as directed by the manufacturers’ instructions)
- Add the following text to the bottom of this section:
 - “5.1.3.5.1. Use of exchange carts
 - Service representatives must follow BMPs associated with rotating and restocking customer linen levels to overcome the risk of accidental long-term storage of linen at customer sites

5.1.3.5 Delivery

The QA manual shall describe in detail procedures for the following functions.

- The functional separation concept **must** continue during transportation of clean textiles to the healthcare customer.
- Transport clean and soiled linen in containers that functionally separate them from other linens in the vehicle.
- Reusable bags, containers, **and** carts used to transport soiled linen must be properly cleaned before they are used to transport clean or soiled linen in order to maintain functional separation.
- The term "properly cleaned" means either steam-cleaned or cleaned with an EPA approved cleansing agent/ disinfectant and water solution. (accurately mixed as directed by the manufacturers’ instructions).
- **Hand sanitizer must be available for use in all delivery trucks. Employees must be trained on proper hand hygiene, and proper hand hygiene BMP’s must be followed.** Spill Kits should also be available for use when necessary.
- Laundries should package, transport, and store clean textiles and fabrics by methods that will ensure their cleanliness and protect them from dust and soil during interfacility loading, transport, and unloading. (CDC/HICPAC).

5.1.3.5.1. Use of Exchange Carts

- Service representatives must follow BMPs associated with rotating and restocking customer linen levels to overcome the risk of accidental long-term storage of linen at customer sites.

Miscellaneous Recommendations

1. 5.1.1.4 Pest Control Program

- a. Add “have” between “should” and “documentation”.

Each laundry-processing plant should have documentation of a current integrated pest management.....