

## ERBE APC Connector Hose Processing Instructions

PLEASE READ AND FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY. THE APC HOSE MUST BE PROCESSED PRIOR TO ITS FIRST USE AND UPON EACH PATIENT USE.

### APC Hose Manual Cleaning Guideline

Use this Guideline to manually clean the hose before it is disinfected or sterilized.

1. **HOSE EXTERIOR**- Clean with water. Use of enzymatic detergents is acceptable. Rinse well.
2. **HOSE LUMEN**- Flush any gross contaminants from the lumen with water/detergent or disinfectant. The lumen holds roughly 10cc of fluid. Use a 60cc luer lock syringe in the hose connection that fits into the filter. Both the syringe and hose end are 'male' connectors. A 'female-to-female' adapter will be required for leak-proof flushing. Flush through until clear.  
Note: Most hospitals have adapters available. Common sources are stopcocks and intravenous fluid connectors. If you need to purchase adapters, call the Clinical Education and Support Manager at ERBE (800-778-3723) for information.
3. **RINSE**- Thoroughly rinse any detergents/disinfectants out of the lumen with sterile water.

### APC Hose Manual High-Level Disinfection

1. **MANUALLY CLEAN**- Clean the hose prior to soaking (See above Guideline).
2. **FILL THE LUMEN**- Inject, via a syringe, clean disinfectant in the interior lumen of the hose.
3. **SOAK THE HOSE**- Immerse the filled hose (i.e., the *entire device* should be submerged in the fluid and no caps are needed) into high-level disinfectant for the number of minutes required for your high-level disinfectant (Note: The use of 2% Gluteraldehyde has been validated.).
4. **REMOVE FROM SOAK SOLUTION**- Lift from soak and drain.
5. **RINSE**- Flush lumen with water using 60cc syringe and adapter. Rinse thoroughly.
6. **DRY THE HOSE**- Wipe down the exterior of the hose with a soft, lint-free cloth. Dry the internal lumen of the hose using forced air. Use additional air to further assist in drying, if needed. Towel-dry the ends of the hose. **DO NOT USE ALCOHOL IN THE HOSE**, as the interior components transport electrical current. Alcohol and its fumes are accelerants.
7. **TROUBLESHOOTING**- It may necessary to increase the number of purge and test fire cycles to 4 or more, if residual moisture is present in the hose. Repeat until ignition is achieved.
8. **STORAGE**- If the hose is not used immediately, hang and store it (like GI endoscopes and bronchoscopes) in a dry/contamination free environment such as a drying/storing cabinet. This prevents moisture collection in the lumen which fosters bacteria growth. Don't store the hose coiled up and/or connected to an APC unit.

### APC Hose Sterilization

1. **MANUALLY CLEAN**- Clean the hose prior to autoclaving (See above Guideline).
2. **PACKAGE IF APPLICABLE AND AUTOCLAVE**- Sterilize the hose by using one of following validated processes.
  - **With Hose Uncovered**, use a Gravity (Flash) Cycle of 10 up to 18 Minutes at 273° F
  - or
  - **With Hose Packaged (Double Wrapped or Seal Packed)**, use a Prevacuum (Steam under Pressure) Cycle of 4 Minutes at 270° F with a 20 Minute Drying Time
3. **REMOVE FROM AUTOCLAVE**- If the Flash Cycle was used, drain and dry the hose immediately. If the hose was packaged and underwent a Prevacuum Cycle, immediately remove the packaged hose from the autoclave and store it in a dry/contamination free environment prior to use.
4. **READY FOR USE UPON A FLASH CYCLE**- the hot hose tends to dry the lumen. Any residual moisture may be removed by use of regular suction on a sterile field, or by use of forced air for GI (non-sterile) use.
5. **STORAGE AFTER A FLASH CYCLE**- If the hose is not used immediately, hang and store it (like GI endoscopes and bronchoscopes) in a dry/contamination free environment such as a drying/storing cabinet. This prevents moisture collection in the lumen which fosters bacteria growth. Don't store the hose coiled up and/or connected to an APC unit.

### Automated Processing

The APC Hose may be processed (i.e., high-level disinfected) automatically using a Custom Ultrasonic System 83 Plus Washer. Contact ERBE USA for specific guidelines.

**If you have further questions, please call ERBE USA, Inc at 1-800-778-ERBE (3723)**