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## Autoclave Operation and Safety

### Consolidated Gravity Displacement Autoclave Specific Instructions:

- Check the **red** ON/OFF switch and make certain it is in OFF position.
- Open chamber door and place autoclave pan(s) containing items to be sterilized in the chamber. **Do not place items directly on racks.**
- Close the autoclave door and turn the door handle to the RIGHT to seal the chamber. *If you forgot to check the ON/OFF switch and unit was left ON by previous user, steam will pour out as you tighten the handle. Immediately turn off steam to the unit by pressing the **red** ON/OFF button.*
- Continue to turn the door handle until it will no longer rotate. This is a PASSIVE seal unit – failure to tighten door will allow steam to leak during charge step.
- Set STERILIZE and DRY times by turning thumbwheels to the desired number of minutes in the right-hand side Controller housing. LEDs indicate when unit is sterilizing and exhausting/drying.
- The Cycle Selector Switch allows you to select one of 3 cycles: Fast, Fluid & Dry.
  - FAST is for instruments or other items that don't need drying and are not liquids.
  - FLUID cycle is for sterilizing liquids or media. If you are inactivating agar plates, use the FLUID cycle.
  - DRY is for packs, instruments, tips, or any item which requires drying.  
[Note: If FAST or FLUID cycle is selected, the controller will ignore any Dry time setting.]
- After choosing cycle, depress the **red** ON/OFF switch to start the cycle. Once sterilization temperature and pressure are reached, the sterilize light will come on and stay on for the duration of sterilization. Exhaust light will come on and stay on during Exhaust/Drying steps.
- Log Book must be filled out for each autoclave run.
- At the end of the cycle, the buzzer will sound. Make certain chamber pressure is at zero PSI and turn off the **red** ON/OFF switch. Slowly open the door while standing at the hinge side of the door.
- Always watch out for the hot metal parts of the autoclave; do not touch the shelf or chamber wall! Wear heat-protective (autoclave) gloves when unloading the unit and handling hot autoclaved items.