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## Autoclave Operation and Safety

### ARB/P-Wing Specific Instructions for Steris Gravity Displacement Autoclaves:

- Open chamber door and slide shelf halfway out of the autoclave chamber.
- Place autoclave pan(s) containing items to be sterilized on shelf and slide shelf back into chamber. **Do not place items directly on racks.**
- Close the autoclave door, making certain that radial-arm door interior hinge is flat. If this hinge is askew, though the door will feel locked, it will leak steam when the unit is started.
- Turn the door handle to the RIGHT to seal the chamber. 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.
- There are four sterilization programs available. These can be modified by:
  - Lifting door panel;
  - Pressing 'Change Values' to cycle to the correct program;
  - Using 'Cursor' left-right arrows to move to the setting to be changed;
  - Pressing the 'Value' up-down arrows to change the cycle, sterilization and drying times; and
  - Press 'Save Values' button, shut the compartment door and push 'Reset'.

### REMEMBER TO ALWAYS CONFIRM TEMPERATURE IS SET AT 250°F.

- Choose your cycle (Gravity or Liquid) and sterilization parameters (sterilization and drying times) by pressing the appropriate program number once. If all is to your liking, press the program number again to start the autoclave. Otherwise, you can modify program as indicated above.
- The monitor will provide a count-down to cycle end. A 1-minute buzzer will notify you of sterilization completion.
- Log Book must be filled out for each autoclave run.
- Please return promptly to retrieve your items. Check the temperature and pressure gauges to ascertain that it's safe to open chamber door.

- To open autoclave, stand on the hinge side of door and slowly turn the door handle to the LEFT. Steam will escape as the chamber is unsealed. Open the door slightly and allow all steam to escape before unloading your items.
- Always watch out for the hot metal parts of the autoclave; do not touch the shelf or chamber wall! Wear heat insulating (autoclave) gloves when unloading the unit and handling hot autoclaved items.