



endoNEWS

Best Practice: Processing of Endoscopes



Dear readers,

Webinars are an integral part of further training and education. In addition to saving time and money, webinars offer myriad ways for participants to interact. They can also be recorded, meaning you can watch them at a later date as many times as you want. On pp. 1 and 2, you can learn all about the webinars organised by Dr. Weigert and where you can find them.

Visceral Medicine 2023 was a tremendous success for us! On p. 2, you can read about the importance of our successful trade fair appearance – complete with our revamped stand – and the product innovations that we focused on.

Particularly worthy of mention here are Dr. Weigert's system solutions, which ensure precision dosing and are easy to use. The weigomatic® identSYSTEM, which offers automatic product recognition by means of RFID technology, also ensures the reliable dosing of process chemicals. Read more on p. 3.

On p. 4, you can learn more about preservatives in our chemistry series 'Basics of Our Raw Materials'. Preservatives increase the shelf life of cleaning agents – and you'll be amazed at just how many aspects have to be taken into account when it comes to labelling and usage.

Enjoy the newsletter!
Best regards

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Systematic Hygiene

Focus on endoscope processing

Webinars with Dr. Weigert

Dr. Weigert has for many years been offering webinars aimed at providing customers with comprehensive support for endoscope processing. Webinars are held twice a year in collaboration with the DEGEA as part of the 'DEGEA live' series, and Dr. Weigert also holds its own webinar in addition.

The webinars encompass a diverse range of topics, from expert examinations of guidelines through to the newest industry trends and the latest discussions and developments in the field of endoscope processing. In addition, the online events provide participants with a direct insight into practical applications and best practices.

One particular advantage here is that participants can always submit questions via an open chat feature while a webinar is in progress. This encourages participants to actively share information and experiences with everyone else – so with industry professionals and experts.

As you can see, Dr. Weigert webinars are not only a great way to refresh and deepen your practical knowledge, but also allow you to undergo continuous training and share expertise in the field of endoscope processing.

The following events (2020–2023) can be found in our webinar archive (in German language):

Webinar Archive

2023	Dr. Weigert	Biofilm, Drying, Storage and the 'Ten Commandments' of Endoscope Hygiene
2023	Dr. Weigert/DEGEA live	Work Surfaces in Endoscopy – How Do I Perform Disinfection Properly?
2022	Dr. Weigert/DEGEA live	Revision of the KRINKO/BfArM Recommendation – What Does This Mean for Our Endoscope Processing?
2022	Dr. Weigert/DEGEA live	Challenges and Potential Solutions in the Processing of Flexible Endoscopes
2022	Dr. Weigert	Working Safely with Process Chemicals
2021	Dr. Weigert	Getting Disinfection Right
2021	Dr. Weigert/DEGEA live	Help! I'm Struggling with Endoscope Processing!
2021	Dr. Weigert/DEGEA live	Water Quality in Endoscopy
2020	Dr. Weigert	Processing of Flexible Endoscopes: Organisation and Contingency Plan
2020	Dr. Weigert/DEGEA live	Safe Processing of Flexible Endoscopes

Where Can I Find the Dr. Weigert Webinars?

The webinars can be found on various platforms:

01 Corporate website

Dr. Weigert's website is the perfect place to find all the information you need about upcoming webinars. You can also register quickly and easily to take part in upcoming webinars. And our webinar archive contains recordings of all previous webinars in German language, available for you to access at your convenience.

Upcoming webinars:
<https://www.drweigert.com/de/aktuell/webinare>



Webinar archive:
<https://www.drweigert.com/de/aktuell/webinar-archiv>



02 YouTube

You can still use our YouTube channel to watch previous webinars as well as other useful videos and tutorials.

YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/drweigert>



03 Social Media

We are very active on our social media channels such as LinkedIn and Facebook and use these to share information about upcoming webinars.

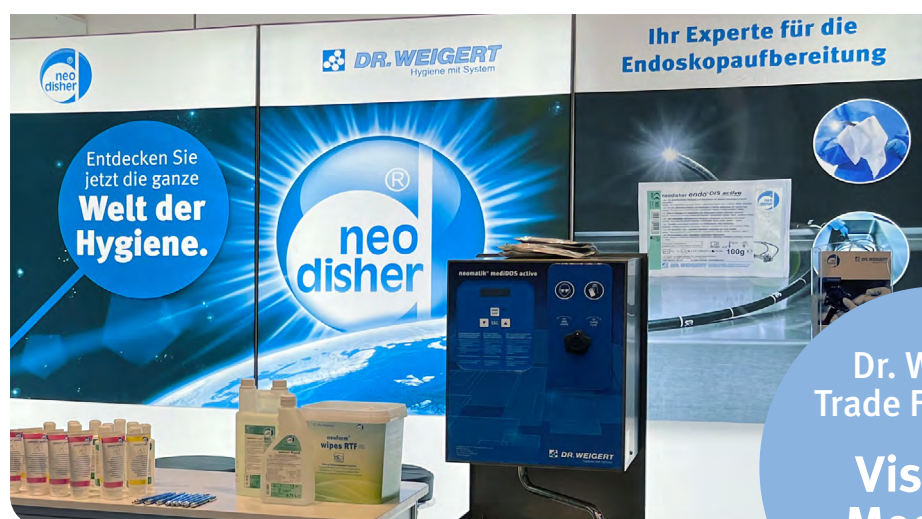
LinkedIn
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/chemische-fabrik-dr.-weigert-gmbh-&-co.-kg/posts/?feedView=all>



Tip: You can follow or subscribe to our company profiles at Social Media to stay up to date with current events.

Dr. Weigert at Visceral Medicine 2023

The Latest Developments in Gastroenterology



Dr. Weigert
Trade Fair Stand

**Visceral
Medicine
2023**

Visceral Medicine 2023 is one of the highest-profile events in the endoscopy sector in Germany and this year took place in Hamburg back in September. At the trade fair, Dr. Weigert showcased its latest developments and products in the field of medical disinfection and hygiene. This two-day industry fair proved to be the perfect place for endoscopy professionals and experts from hospitals and surgeries alike to discuss and gain insights into our innovative solutions.

Dr. Weigert attracted the attention of visitors thanks to its modern and intuitively designed trade fair stand. Numerous on-stand product presentations provided in-depth insights into the diversity of our cleaning and disinfection solutions for the processing of flexible endoscopes. Additional material such as flyers and brochures provided detailed information about the

properties and applications of our broad product portfolio.

A highlight of our trade fair appearances was the unveiling of our latest dosing device, neomatik® mediDOS active. This innovative tool impressed the industry visitors thanks to its high-precision automatic dosing capability and ease of use. The response from and interest among visitors were once again a vindication of the time and effort that we invest in the development of our products.

The trade fair not only offered a platform for product presentations but also provided opportunities for valuable networking. Our sales team, which comprises Guido Merk (Key Account Manager Endoscopy) and Marcel Jung (Product Manager Endoscopy), engaged in lively discussions with experts



in the field of endoscopy, including doctors, endoscopists and care personnel. Discussions like these help us to understand even better the needs and requirements of our customers. They are also a way of receiving direct and useful feedback about our products.

We would be delighted to welcome you to our stand at Visceral Medicine 2024 in Leipzig. For more information about our products and future commitments, please visit our website or get in touch with our team:

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weigomatic® identSYSTEM: Avoid Product Mix-Ups Thanks to RFID Identification of Process Chemicals

EN ISO 15883-4 is a standard according to which cleaning devices and endoscope washer-disinfectors must be designed and made. To avoid product mix-ups, it requires that containers and/or lines must be present in order to ensure that a connection to the right container of the process chemical is established. A mere labelling or colour coding is not sufficient. Product mix-ups are the result of errors in all sorts of different scenarios, e.g. incorrect deliveries, inadequate goods receipt inspections, incorrect warehouse withdrawals or the failure to check chemicals before use.

Such errors can have a very serious impact, including the disruption of operations, blocking of the dosing system, unwanted chemical reactions, damage to medical products, inadequate hygiene and even the endangerment of patients and personnel. Such incidents must be reported to the relevant authorities (e.g. BfArM).

Dr. Weigert has developed a range of system solutions designed to prevent such problems – including the weigomatic® identSYSTEM, which offers automatic product recognition by means of RFID technology (see Figure 1).



Figure 1: The weigomatic® system ALPHA XS dosing system is equipped with in-built RFID readers.



Figure 2: RFID tags allow the contactless recognition of chemicals. No manual scanning or data input is required.

The precise positioning of the RFID tag is crucial for ensuring that the right container is detected. The system does not use reusable RFID tags so that information such as delivery dates, date of opening and so on cannot be irretrievably deleted. The dosing system with transmitter and receiver is installed on-site and doses the process

chemicals only if the information stored on the RFID tag is correct (see Figure 2).

When flexible endoscopes are being processed, different methods are available for reading the transponder, including in-built RFID readers in dosing systems (e.g. weigomatic® system ALPHA XS / X Pro) or endoscope washer-disinfectors as well as central dosing systems with individually encoded drums. This ensures reliable dosing and prevents errors in the handling of process chemicals.

Author: Guido Merk

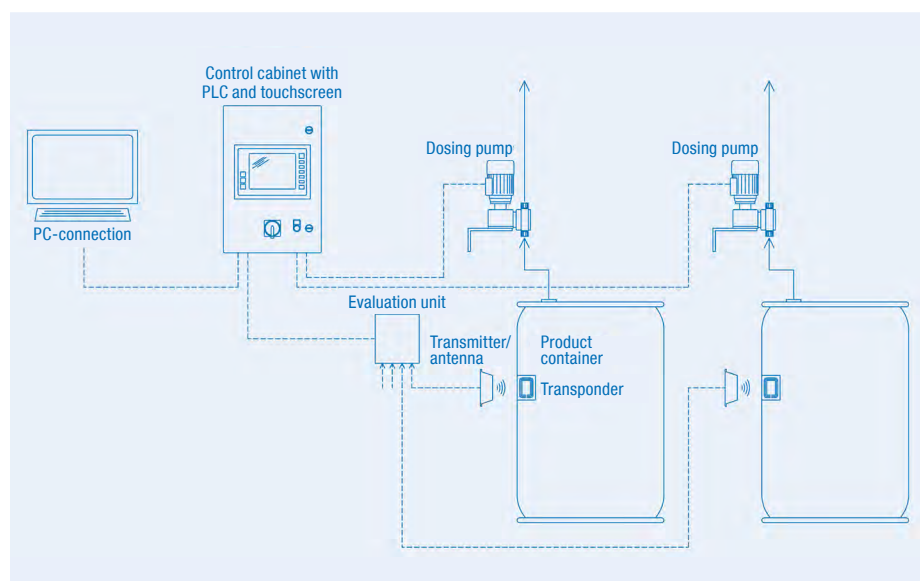


Figure 3: Technical installation of a central dosing system with automatic product recognition. The RFID tag on the product container (drum) transmits a signal to the receiver on the dosing unit. The dosing unit will start to dose the process chemical only if the information is correct and free of errors.

Chemistry Series: Basics of Our Raw Materials

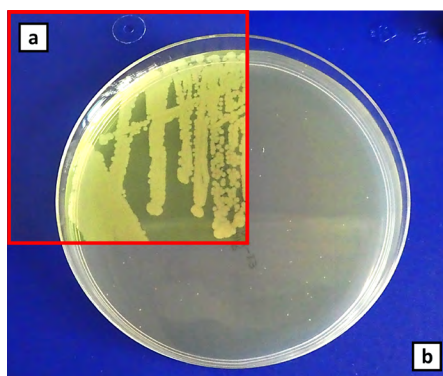
Part 4: Preservatives

Preservatives constitute a small but important element in the formulas for detergents and cleaning agents. Preservatives are designed to ensure that detergents and cleaning agents remain stable over the advertised usability period and do not become contaminated by foreign organisms such as bacteria or fungi. Contamination can occur if micro-organisms are introduced into the concentrate before use (e.g. due to poor operational hygiene, frequent opening of the container and/or special dosing systems) and then start to multiply.

A product must be preserved if the pH value of the formula is between 3 and 10, the cleaner is primarily water based and does not contain any explicitly biocidal substances (e. g. ethanol). Most formulas on the market for professional detergents and cleaning agents are strongly alkaline or acidic, which is why only around 15% of all Dr. Weigert formulas need preservatives to minimize the risk of pathogens. When a formula is developed, a specified performance in terms of cleaning, care, material protection, classification or disinfection must be fulfilled. So while preservatives serve only to ensure that products are made to last, they often involve a lot of work for those in charge of developing formulas:

- The preservative must be compatible with the formula and not affect the galenic stability. Cloudiness, separation, cold behaviour, discolourations, odours or other properties that change the nature of the product must be prevented.
- The preservative must be stable in the environment of the other ingredients and maintain its effect throughout the usability period. In a preservative stress test based on DIN EN ISO 11930, the formula – to which a preservative has been added and that is now in storage – is regularly injected over the course of several weeks with a defined bacterial and fungal cocktail and the extent to which growth is inhibited is monitored. At Dr. Weigert, we can perform these tests in our Microbiology and Hygiene department. Storage and the test itself can last several months until the effectiveness of the formula preservative can be properly established.

- Preservatives are subject to the Biocidal Products Regulation (EU 528/2012), which requires manufacturers to submit extensive documentation to the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA). The high regulatory burden in conjunction with low total consumption volumes led to a dramatic fall in the number of preservatives available in the EU and put a stop to innovation in this substance category. The high costs in relation to yield mean that production and development are barely profitable now.



a) Microbial development without preservative b) No microbial development with preservative

- Particular attention must be paid to the application conditions of the product based on the formula. A product in a small container with high throughput and closed withdrawal via a dosing lance imposes much less stringent requirements regarding the microbiological stability of the formula than a storage vessel that is located on a warm washer-disinfector and never runs empty. The preservative must be chosen with particular care here.
- Internal requirements further restrict the choice of suitable preservatives. For example, Dr. Weigert has decided to eliminate all substances classified as carcinogenic, mutagenic or toxic for reproduction (CMR substances), meaning that formaldehyde-releasing substances – which for years formed the basis of in-container preservatives – are no longer used.
- Preservatives are designed to kill or prevent the growth of unwanted foreign organisms. These substances are therefore in many cases categorised as inherently hazardous. Since the classification of

hazardous substances has become more stringent over recent years and limits have been continuously reduced by the ECHA, preserved formulas are increasingly being labelled more critically. This conflicts with the common desire for such products to be exempted from labelling requirements. Since, in cases of doubt, the microbiological stability of a formulation and, in turn, its benefit to users must be valued more highly, preserved products often cannot be formulated without hazardous substance labelling.

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Head of Research & Development

Interested in learning more about preservatives? Read the full article here (German only):

<https://www.drweigert.com/de/aktuell/wissensdatenbank/konservierungsstoffe-grundlagen-unserer-rohstoffe>



Dates

November 2023 – April 2024
(as at: 22 November 2023)

- **endo-update 2023**
30 November – 2 December, Augsburg
- **26th International Endoscopy Symposium**
1–3 February 2024, Düsseldorf
- **DGE-BV meets ENDOSKOPIE-LIVE 2.0**
3–5 April 2024, Berlin

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