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INTERNATIONAL

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endoNEWS

Best Practice: Processing of Endoscopes



Dears Readers,

In this issue, we examine risk analysis, particularly the aspects of material compatibility and process chemistry, for cleaning flexible endoscopes. The author, Thomas Brümmer, is well known to many of our readers through his extensive publications and specialist lectures. Drawing on decades of experience, he shares valuable insights and practical guidance in the article on pages 1 and 2.

On page 3, we take a look at this year's DEGEA Winter Cleaning Event. Our valued colleague Emma Pohl, a microbiologist at Dr. Weigert, conducted a live microscopic analysis. She showed how microbial indicator organisms are identified and what their detection means and offered an interesting glimpse into the interplay between practice and the laboratory.

Our updated corporate design includes a new logo that reflects our modern, international focus. It highlights our values and service orientation and strengthens our connection with customers, subsidiaries, and international business partners. You can read more about this on page 4.

We hope you enjoy reading our newsletter.
Best regards,

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DR. WEIGERT
SYSTEMATIC HYGIENE

www.drweigert.com

A Foundation for Risk Assessment

Based on Material Compatibility and Process Chemistry in Flexible Endoscope Cleaning and Disinfection



The current KRINKO/BfArM recommendation on reprocessing flexible endoscopes issued by the Robert Koch Institute (RKI) requires operators to conduct a risk assessment for various aspects of reprocessing for the first time. One of these requirements specifically addresses the materials used in and on endoscopes. This article provides background information and practical guidance for implementing these new requirements.

Manufacturers such as Chemische Fabrik Dr. Weigert are obliged to provide a binding Declaration of Conformity for each product. As an independent developer, manufacturer, and supplier of process chemicals for the reprocessing of modern flexible endoscopes, Dr. Weigert is well positioned to provide expert guidance on this topic.

Background Information and Explanatory Notes

The design and materials of an endoscope largely determine which reprocessing methods and process chemicals can be used. Modern endoscopes are constructed from various plastics, synthetic rubber, metals, alloys, and adhesive systems. Electronic components such as video chips, cables, and electronic control switches are also integrated into the device.

This mix of materials gives modern endoscopes their flexibility and versatility in clinical applications. However, it also creates certain limitations regarding temperature tolerance and chemical resistance.

Effect of Temperature During Reprocessing

Elevated temperatures, typically above 60°C, have an antimicrobial effect but, like aggressive chemicals such as acids or highly alkaline substances, are generally incompatible with many materials used in flexible endoscopes.

Operators should therefore consider both the reprocessing temperature and the process chemicals used, including their active substances, as part of the risk assessment. Information on these aspects should be available from the manufacturers of both the endoscope and the process chemicals.

Priority Should be Given to Information Provided by the Manufacturers of Process Chemicals

In practice, endoscope and process chemical manufacturers may provide conflicting information on the material compatibility of specific active substances used for cleaning and disinfection. Greater weight should therefore be given to information provided by the manufacturers of process chemicals.

There are several reasons for this:

- Compatibility with endoscopes currently on the market is a key consideration in the development of process chemicals
- Extensive testing is performed to verify compatibility with modern endoscope materials
- Manufacturers must consider user requirements for practical daily use
- Compliance with current legal and normative requirements for process chemicals is mandatory

Ongoing market surveillance provides further evidence of consistent compatibility and efficacy in routine use.

Whenever a formulation is modified to meet changing market expectations or regulatory requirements, material compatibility is reassessed. This enables the manufacturers of process chemicals to provide up-to-date compatibility information.

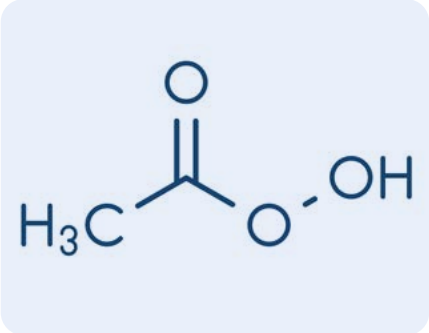
By contrast, endoscope manufacturers are generally unable to evaluate every cleaning and disinfection product available worldwide. This challenge is further complicated by the different reprocessing methods used for flexible endoscopes. These range from manual and semi-automated procedures to fully automated reprocessing in an endoscope washer-disinfector (EWD).

Although endoscope manufacturers often provide compatibility information for specific products or active substances, this information may offer only limited practical value because it is not always up to date or may refer to products that are no longer available.

The Role of Process Chemistry and its Components

Reprocessing chemicals contain active and auxiliary substances, all of which may influence material compatibility.

Let us consider peracetic acid (PAA) as an example.



Peracetic acid (structural formula)

Pure peracetic acid as an active substance is generally not compatible with the materials used in flexible endoscopes. However, through the addition of specific auxiliary substances, material compatibility can be achieved even when active oxidative agents (such as those found in peracetic acid formulations) are used.

This illustrates how combinations of active and auxiliary substances can ensure compatibility with sensitive endoscope materials. Only the process chemistry manufacturer has full knowledge of the formulation and the auxiliary substances that make the product suitable for its intended application.

Risk Assessment: Contents and Typical Questions

The topics described in this article form the basis of a risk assessment. The key documents that should be reviewed include:

- Instructions for use (IFU) from the relevant manufacturers
- Written approvals from the manufacturers of process chemicals
- Product data sheets
- Information on potential interactions between active substances

Potential interactions between individual active substances should always be considered in the risk assessment.

Key Questions for a Risk Assessment

- Do the IFU of the endoscope manufacturer contain specific guidance for manual reprocessing and suitable cleaning and disinfecting chemicals, including manufacturer and product names?
- Is chemo-thermal reprocessing at temperatures up to 60°C approved for use in an EWD?
- Are detergents with pH values ranging from 5 to mildly alkaline approved?
- Are aldehyde-based and peracetic acid-based active substance groups approved for both manual and automated reprocessing?
- Does the endoscope contain components that may trigger allergic reactions in patients?
- If the endoscope contains natural or synthetic latex, is it approved for use in patients with latex allergies?
- Do any components such as the distal tip, ultra-thin insertion tubes, water protection caps, or other sensitive assemblies require special handling or protection according to the manufacturer?

The list provides examples and is not exhaustive. Each endoscopy department should develop its own comprehensive list of relevant questions and evaluate them using a structured risk assessment process.

The editors of endoNEWS and I hope this article provides useful support in your daily practice.

If you have any questions, please contact us at info@dr.weigert.de.

Author: Thomas Brümmer,
Consultant for Medical Endoscopy Marketing

DEGEA Winter Cleaning Event

Where Reprocessing Expertise Meets Microbiology



Emma Pohl,
Microbiologist at Dr. Weigert

At the end of 2025, the DEGEA Winter Cleaning Event once again provided an in-depth look at endoscope reprocessing. In a practical live webinar, the DEGEA team demonstrated each step in the professional reprocessing of flexible endoscopes, covering manual cleaning, microbiological sampling, and laboratory analysis.

For readers of the Dr. Weigert Newsletter, this event was particularly noteworthy because Emma Pohl, microbiologist at Dr. Weigert, conducted a live microscopic examination of the indicator organisms *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. Her contribution added scientific depth to the webinar and highlighted the critical role of microbiological expertise in quality assurance during endoscope reprocessing.

Webinar Highlights:

Manual Cleaning – The Foundation of Safe Reprocessing

The webinar clearly demonstrated how crucial systematic manual pre-cleaning is for successful reprocessing. It provides the basis for reproducible results and ensures the safety and reliability of reprocessed instruments.

Microbiological Sampling Using the "Flush–Brush–Flush" Method

This well-established procedure was explained in a clear and practical manner. Correct execution is essential for obtaining valid samples and identifying potential hygiene-related weaknesses within the reprocessing workflow.

Microbiological Analysis – Conducted by Emma Pohl (Dr. Weigert)

One of the highlights of the webinar was the live microscopic analysis of the collected samples. Pohl also explained in detail how microbial indicator organisms are identified using culture-based techniques and what their detection means.

This offered participants valuable insight into the interaction between clinical practice and laboratory diagnostics.

This segment highlighted the important contribution of microbiological expertise and the close connection between high-quality chemistry, scientific knowledge, and safe reprocessing procedures.

Author: Marcel Jung,
Product Manager Endoscopy

Watch the Video here:

www.endoscopy-campus.com/live-events/degea-live-der-grosse-degea-winterputz-manuelle-reinigung-mikrobielle-beprobung-und-auswertung-live/

Dr. Weigert Unveils New Logo

A Fresh Brand Identity for a Global Company

Dr. Weigert has been an established and successful brand for more than 100 years. Through our extensive portfolio of products and services, we have built a strong reputation in Germany and abroad. We have updated our corporate design to strengthen our international presence and differentiate ourselves from the competition.

Dr. Weigert does not follow short-lived trends. As in product development, our goal is to set our own standards. With the new Dr. Weigert corporate design, we aim to achieve a consistently unified brand presence across all markets and regions.

Focus of the Redesign: The Dr. Weigert Logo

The New Dr. Weigert Corporate Logo

The new logo gives the existing corporate design a more modern and engaging visual identity. The new logo represents our modern outlook, international orientation, and strong commitment to service.

The redesigned logo has been developed to make the Dr. Weigert brand more visible and engaging in the healthcare and industrial sectors. It is intended to communicate the company's values more effectively and to strengthen the connection with customers, subsidiaries, and international distribution partners through a globally consistent brand message.

What's New?

- **Strong corporate blue for maximum visibility and brand presence**
- **Focus on the emblem:** the stylised "W" symbol represents a chemical molecule and reflects the three core areas of expertise of Dr. Weigert: products, service, and dosing technology
- **Enhanced wordmark** for greater visibility and recognition
- **Globally consistent brand communication** with improved readability

With its new logo, Dr. Weigert is making a clear statement in favor of a contemporary brand appearance while reinforcing its international orientation.

Author: German Beck,
Head of Marketing



New Corporate Design Stylebook

Dates

November 2026–September 2027

WFHSS Congress
Belgrade · 21–24 October 2026

endo update
Augsburg · 26–28 November 2026

29. International Endoscopy Symposium
Düsseldorf · 28–30 January 2027

DGE-BV
Augburg · 17–19 February 2027

ESGE Days
Lisbon · 29 April–01 May 2027

Endoskopie live
Berlin · 30 April–01 May 2027

Visceral Medicine
Hamburg · 13–18 September 2027

Contact Dr. Weigert:

Please contact us with any questions or suggestions for topics you would like to read about. We will gladly take your ideas into consideration. Please write to : **marcel.jung@drweigert.de** or visit **www.drweigert.de**

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