

CONVERTING ISOLATION GOWNS TO AAMI LEVEL II COMPLIANCE

By: Jason Hartsell



Scenario in 2024

- Millions of reusable isolation gowns were manufactured by anyone and everyone during COVID
- Many hospitals acquired reusable isolation gowns during COVID to fill the gap created with disposable isolation gown shortages
- Most laundries reluctantly took on the laundering of isolation gowns without a robust system in place to ensure the efficacy of the reusable gowns they were laundering
- A good number of hospitals are back to using primarily disposable isolation gowns

The Way Forward

- Get samples of a quality reusable isolation gown in the hands of the end user to change their opinion on the poor quality reusable gowns they were forced to use during COVID
- Show them facts and figures on comfort, efficacy, and ARTA's life cycle assessment
- Put together a robust system to ensure that your gowns work as intended

What is AAMI Level II

- Provide a reliable barrier against low to moderate levels of fluids and contaminants
- They are used when there is only a slight risk of fluid exposure
- AAMI PB70 Guidelines for Barrier Fabrics
 - Impact penetration (AATCC 42) Spray impact $\leq 1.0\text{g}$
 - Hydrostatic Pressure $\geq 20\text{cm}$

Establishing AAMI Level II Compliance

- New Inventory?
 - Easy
- Existing Inventory?
 - Harder

New Inventory

- Identify how you will keep track of the cycles
 - QC Grid
 - RFID/Barcode
- Identify Testing Frequency
- Remove inventory when maximum cycles has been achieved

Existing Inventory

- What are you going to do with your existing inventory?
 - Can you identify a criteria on the number of existing cycles based on the performance of the gown and its appearance?
 - Do you want to record all the gowns at a certain point in it's life?
 - Work with your customer base on how to establish
- Identify how you will record the cycles
 - QC Grid
 - RFID Barcode
- Move your existing inventory by PIECE to the assigned number of cycles
- Begin testing
- Continue to assign until inventory is all assigned
- Remove inventory when maximum cycles has been achieved

Cost Analysis

Number of gowns to serve weekly

Inventory Needed (2x Weekly)

Existing Inventory

New Gowns to Purchase

50,000
100,000
25,000
75,000

	QC Grid	RFID	
Startup Equipment	\$ 25	\$ 40,000	RFID Hardware
Tags		\$ 15,000	RFID for Existing
Time to Assign	208	208	
Labor Cost	3,125	3,125	
	\$ 3,358	\$ 58,333	
New Inventory per Gown	\$ 8.00	\$ 8.60	
Total New Inventory	600,000	645,000	
Total	\$ 603,358	\$ 703,333	