



Practice Briefs

I have been cited for having linen stored inappropriately. What is the recommendation for storing linen?

Clean Textile Staging and Storage Areas

In the provider's facility, the textile staging and storage areas for cleaned, processed textiles must be in compliance with the following specifications: free of vermin; devoid of lint; without obvious moisture contamination. (ANSI/AAMI ST65:2013; Std. 9.6.1-2; ANSI/AAMI ST79:2010; Std. 8.9.2)

The ventilation of the storage area shall: Be designed to prevent accumulation of dust and lint; Be under positive air pressure relative to adjacent spaces, thereby preventing intrusion of contamination from soiled textile areas.

Policies and protocols shall reflect a facility-specific strategy for ensuring the hygienically clean quality of the stored, processed textiles and shall establish a schedule of visual inspection of the stored textiles and recording the observations.

Specifications for Clean Textiles Storage Shelves

Shelves shall be placed approximately 2 inches from the wall to safeguard package integrity. (ANSI/AAMI ST65:2013; Std. 9.6.1; ANSI/AAMI ST79:2010; Std. 8.9.2)

The bottom shelf must be of solid nonporous construction, free from visible soil and dirt, and at a minimum of 8 inches from the floor for accessible cleaning to prevent contamination. (ANSI/AAMI ST65:2013; Std. 9.6.1; ANSI/AAMI ST79:2010; Std. 8.9.2)

The top of any item on the top shelf must be a minimum of 18 inches below the ceiling to prevent impairment of ventilation, sprinklers, and lighting. (ANSI/AAMI ST65:2013; Std. 9.6.1; ANSI/AAMI ST79:2010; Std. 8.9.2)

Any porous material (e.g., cardboard, paper, etc.) must not be used as a shelf liner in the clean textiles storage area and to store clean textiles.

If linen is not in a cart or a closet dedicated to solely clean linen storage then the linen must be covered while on the shelves or in the cart. If the linen is stored in a dedicated closet then the doors must be closed whenever linen is not being accessed.

Taken from Accreditation Standards for Processing Reusable Textiles for Use In Healthcare Facilities, 2016 Edition. For further details, please refer to the original document.

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