



REVISED NATIONAL TB CONTROL PROGRAMME

Standard Operating Procedures for Maintenance & Servicing of Autoclave

CENTRAL TB DIVISION

MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE, GOI

1. **Introduction**

The Autoclave using saturated steam under pressure is the most effective means of sterilization of instruments, glass ware or media solution in the general diagnostic TB laboratory and for decontamination of biological material consisting of infectious waste.

2. **Purpose & scope**

The purpose of this document is to provide standard operating procedures for service and maintenance of autoclave.

This SOP describes the procedure for Servicing and maintenance of the Autoclave.

3. **Procedures for maintenance and servicing**

(i) Daily Maintenance

- (a) Make entries in the log books each time the autoclave is used.
- (b) Ensure that water, compressed air and vapour supply valves are open.
- (c) Check the pressure and temperature gauges
- (d) Clean the external surface of the autoclave.
- (e) Check for any leakage

(ii) Weekly Maintenance

- (a) Clean the sterilization chamber drainage filter.
- (b) Clean the external rust-proof surfaces with a mild detergent.
- (c) Verify that the operation of the doors is smooth.
- (d) Check adequate functioning using a biological indicator.

(iii) Annual maintenance

It should be done by AMC agency/ vendor. The agency will perform validation and calibration of equipment. Scheduled preventive maintenance visits are undertaken by the agency providing the AMC.

(iv) Servicing

- (a) Check and clean the Autoclave.
- (b) Check switches and connection units.
- (c) Check the gasket.
- (d) Degrease and re-grease the movable parts like the pressure changeover, hinges of the door etc.,
- (e) Check water level in the steam generator.
- (f) Check the performance and for leaks from the tubing.
- (g) Calibrate and validate temperature and pressure as per **NABL Standards**

4. **References:** User manual of Refrigerated Centrifuge