



Environment Sanitization and Disinfection witch Certifications?

Cleaning means mechanically removing the visible foreign material (dust, dirt etc.) from objects and surfaces with the use of water with or without the use of a detergent. The water has the function of diluting, the detergent to make the dirt soluble and therefore allow its removal.

Disinfecting means eliminating or reducing to safety levels pathogenic microorganisms (capable of inducing a disease) present on materials.

If the *operation is performed by hand*, without machines, products registered with the Ministry of Health can be used as Medical Surgical Devices. The registration number must appear on the label.

If the operation is performed using machinery, we must ask ourselves what to disinfect.

If you need to disinfect a sanitary environment:

- the machine produces ozone or steam and must be CE marked with a notified body
 - the machine uses a product and must be CE marked without a body, the product they put into the machine must be CE marked with a notified body.
- in both cases the machine and liquid manufacturer must be registered with the ministry of health as medical device manufacturers. The machines and the liquid must also be registered as devices.

If you need to disinfect a NON-sanitary environment:

- the machine produces ozone or steam and must be CE marked
- the machine uses a product and must be CE marked without a body, the product they put into the machine must be CE marked with a notified body.

There is a problem with machines that produce ozone without a body, we do not know if the gas produced obtains the result or not. Nobody controls it.

Here is the website of the trade association of Ozone machine manufacturers

<https://www.euota.org>

Having said that I know what I can ask:

I have to ask the company, which aims to sanitize the environment, to tell me what it uses to do it.

Then I will ask for the label of the used products, the photo of the CE marking of the used

machines and the registration numbers at the Ministry of Health. If they don't have it or don't know what you're talking about, switch suppliers.

Environment Sanitization and Disinfection:witch Certifications?

The *labels of the products certified as medical surgical equipment report the registration number* to the ministry. Without that number, don't accept them. Ask for a copy of the label attached to the declaration of sanitation.

I remember that if they use a machine that produces ozone certified with the machinery directive there is no way of knowing if the ozone produced complies with that mentioned in the circular of the Ministry of Health. It is not forbidden to use them, only there is no way to check if they work. Some use swabs to measure the difference between before treatment and after treatment.

When you sanitize and disinfect you are preventing a disease. So you are fully part of this directive.

They must use equipment certified according to the European Regulation 2017/745 on medical devices.

What ATS Bergamo says about SANITATION and DISINFECTION

CLEANING AND SANITATION OF WORKPLACES (ATS Health Protection Agency)

PREMISE

The need to guarantee adequate hygienic conditions in all environments, both domestic and working, is confirmed in most Ministerial and Regional regulations and circulars. the "Shared protocol for the regulation of measures to combat and contain the spread of the Covid-19 virus in the workplace" signed on March 14, 2020, on the subject of cleaning and sanitization, specifically indicates that:

The company ensures daily cleaning and periodic sanitization of the premises, environments, workstations and common and leisure areas

In the case of the presence of a person with COVID-19 inside the company premises, the aforementioned are cleaned and sanitized according to the provisions of circular no. 5443 of 22 February 2020 of the Ministry of Health and their ventilation

- Cleaning at the end of the shift and periodic sanitization of keyboards, touch screens, mice with suitable detergents must be guaranteed, both in the offices and in the production departments

Environment Sanitization and Disinfection:witch Certifications?

- In compliance with the indications of the Ministry of Health according to the methods deemed most appropriate, the company can organize special / periodic cleaning interventions using social safety nets (also by way of derogation). There are many questions, especially regarding the interpretation of some terms such as "sanitization".

The Higher Institute of Health, in the ISS COVID-19 Report • n. 5/2020 of 23 March 2020¹³ has given specific indications for the prevention and management of indoor environments in relation to the transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 virus infection.

The report, to which reference is made for further information, provides a series of recommendations to be followed both in the home and at work to maintain a good level of indoor air quality in relation to the containment of the risk of contagion from COVID-19, also clarifying some basic concepts such as sanitization.

In particular, it clarifies that, for

DAILY CLEANING / SANITATION

It means: "the complex of procedures and operations aimed at making a certain environment healthy by cleaning, cleaning and / or subsequent disinfection. Reference UNI 10585: 1993.

Cleaning / sanitization and disinfection can be carried out separately or be carried out with a single process using products that have a dual action; it is important to remove dirt or dirt residues that can help make the whole process ineffective. "

In addition to providing general recommendations to be implemented on a daily basis, in the emergency conditions associated with the SARSCoV-2 viral epidemic, the Istituto Superiore di Sanità in the cited document, for the maintenance of good indoor air quality in the workplace, it also offers indications for cleaning the workplace. Some indications are given below, referring to the reading of the document for further information:

- Ensure good air exchange in all environments where workstations and personnel are present by opening the various openings more frequently to encourage a reduction in the concentrations of specific pollutants, odors, humidity and bioaerosol which can carry bacteria , viruses, allergens,

filamentous fungi (molds). It is underlined that scarce air changes favor indoor exposure to pollutants and can facilitate the transmission of pathogens among workers.

- The change of air must take into account the number of workers present, the type of activity carried out and the length of stay in the workplace. During the natural exchange of air, it is advisable to avoid creating uncomfortable / discomfort conditions (drafts or excessive cold / heat) for staff in the workplace.
- In buildings equipped with specific Controlled Mechanical Ventilation systems, they must keep the air inlet and extraction active 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (possibly with a decrease in ventilation rates at night when not in use of the building). In this emergency period, to increase the level of protection, the air recirculation function must be totally eliminated to avoid the possible transport of pathogens (bacteria, viruses, etc.) into the air. At this stage it may also be useful to open the windows and balconies during the working day to further increase the level of air exchange.
- The ventilation sockets and grills must be cleaned with clean microfibre cloths moistened with soap and water, or with 75% ethyl alcohol, drying afterwards.
- Ensure good air exchange even in the environments / spaces where there are vending machines for hot drinks, water and food. In these environments, periodic cleaning / sanitization (by professional cleaning operators) and daily cleaning / sanitization (by operators assigned to automatic vending machines) of vending machine keypads with special detergents compatibly with the types of materials must be guaranteed.
- In the case of rooms without windows (e.g. archives, changing rooms, bathrooms, etc.), but equipped with fans / extractors, these must be kept in operation for the entire duration of the stay. ATS recommends activating the air extractor a few minutes before staff access it.
- The staff / professional operators who carry out daily cleaning of the rooms and / or places (dusting and sweeping wet or with dust-catching cloths, washing, disinfection, etc.) must correctly follow the procedures, protocols, methods and adopt the use of Personal Protective Equipment omitted ...

Environment Sanitization and Disinfection:witch Certifications?

□ DAILY CLEANING of rooms / areas, must concern the most frequently touched surfaces (e.g. doors, handles, windows, glass, tables, light switches, toilets, taps, sinks, desks, chairs, passenger handles, keys, keyboards, remote controls, printers). Use different cloths for each type of object / surface, in microfibre moistened with soap and water and / or with 75% ethyl alcohol and subsequently with a solution of sodium hypochlorite diluted with 0.5% of active chlorine for the toilets and the other surfaces (e.g. such as bleach that is commercially available with 5% or 10% chlorine content), and 0.1% active chlorine for all other surfaces, taking into consideration the type of material, use and the environment or other equivalent professional detergents as a field of action (sanitization: detergency and disinfection), paying attention to the correct use for each surface to be cleaned.

□ In the event that there have been suspicious cases of people with COVID-19 inside the building, it is necessary to sanitize the environment, understood as an activity that concerns the complex of procedures and operations aimed at making healthy a certain environment through cleaning and subsequent disinfection.

In this context, it should be remembered that coronaviruses can persist on inanimate surfaces for up to 9 days depending on the matrix / material, concentration, temperature and humidity, even if it is not ascertained they persist in vital form.

The sanitization of the room / area must be carried out according to the provisions of circular no. 5443 of 22 February 2020 of the Ministry of Health (cleaning with soap and water and subsequently with a solution of sodium hypochlorite diluted to 0.1% and with 70% ethyl alcohol for surfaces that can be damaged by sodium hypochlorite).

□ Air the rooms both during and after the use of cleaning products, especially if you use potentially toxic disinfectants / detergents (check the danger symbols on the labels), temporarily increasing the ventilation rates of the VMC systems or opening the windows and balconies. Avoid or limit the use of perfumed detergents, since, despite the fragrance, they unnecessarily add polluting substances and degrade the quality of the indoor air.

CLEANING OF NON-SANITARY ENVIRONMENTS WHERE CONFIRMED CASES OF COVID-19 before being hospitalized.

Environment Sanitization and Disinfection:witch Certifications?

The reference indications are contained in circular no. 5443 of February 22, 2020.

The following cleaning measures will be applied in rooms, public offices, means of transport, schools and other non-medical environments where confirmed cases of COVID-19 have stayed before being hospitalized.

Taking into account the possible survival of the virus in the environment, places and areas potentially contaminated with SARS-CoV-2 must be completely cleaned with water and common detergents before being used again. For decontamination, the use of 0.1% sodium hypochlorite after cleaning is recommended. For surfaces that can be damaged by sodium hypochlorite, use 70% ethanol after cleaning with a neutral detergent.

When cleaning with chemicals, ensure ventilation of the rooms.

All cleaning operations must be carried out by personnel wearing PPE (respiratory filter FFP2 or FFP3, face protection, disposable gloves, disposable waterproof long-sleeved gown, and follow the measures indicated for the safe removal of PPE (undressing).

After use, disposable PPE should be disposed of as potentially infected material.

All frequently touched surfaces must be cleaned with particular care, such as walls, doors and windows surfaces, toilet and sanitary surfaces. Curtains and other fabric materials must be washed with hot water at 90 ° C and detergent. If it is not possible to wash at 90 ° C due to the characteristics of the fabric, add the washing cycle with bleach or sodium hypochlorite based products).

QUESTIONS

Here are the most frequently asked questions relating to companies in the non-healthcare sector.

Question: in the companies that have been closed for 3-4 weeks, is it still necessary to sanitize the premises?

Question: In the absence of further vehicles / causes of contagion (closed company, absence of workers and third parties), how long can the virus be believed to persist on the surfaces?

Question: Is sanitization always necessary before resuming work, where there have been cases of Covid but a certain period of time has passed?

REPLY. According to the information currently available, SARS-CoV-2 viruses can persist on inanimate surfaces for up to 9 days depending on the matrix / material, concentration, temperature and humidity, even if it is not ascertained they persist in vital form. For this reason, if the company has been closed and not visited for more than 9 days, before reopening it will be sufficient to proceed with an adequate cleaning in the same way as for the DAILY CLEANING 14. Daily cleaning according to the methods indicated by the Istituto Superiore di Sanità, they will have to continue after the reopening of the companies.

The rooms will be aired both during and after the use of cleaning products, especially if you use potentially toxic disinfectants / detergents (check the danger symbols on the labels), temporarily increasing the ventilation rates of the VMC systems or opening the windows and balconies. The vents and ventilation grills must be cleaned with clean microfibre cloths moistened with soap and water, or with 75% ethyl alcohol, drying afterwards.

Further recommendations

In buildings equipped with heating / cooling systems (e.g. heat pumps, fan coils, or convectors), after the reopening of the company and during the entire period of the outbreak, even if in a more attenuated form, it is advisable to keep the lights off implants to avoid possible recirculation of the SARS-CoV-2 virus in the air. If it is not possible to keep the systems stationary, clean the recirculation air filters weekly to keep the adequate levels of filtration / removal low. The dust captured by the filters represents an environment conducive to the proliferation of bacteria and fungi, and in any case of biological agents. Avoid using and spraying detergent / disinfectant spray cleaning products directly on the filter so as not to inhale polluting substances during operation. In these environments it would be necessary to regularly open the windows and balconies to increase the exchange and dilution of the pollutants accumulated in the air recirculated by the system.

In companies where Covid cases have occurred, it is advisable to proceed according to the provisions of circular no. 5443 of 22 February 2020, in the immediacy of the event or in any case

before the re-use of the affected premises taking into account the duration of the maximum persistence of the virus on the surfaces indicated above. Here is the original file from which I copied the text above

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)

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definitions:

1. To the effects of the law 25 January 1994, n. 82, the cleaning, disinfection, disinfestation, rodent control and sanitization activities are defined as follows:

a) cleaning activities are those which concern the complex of procedures and operations aimed at removing dust, unwanted material or dirt from surfaces, objects, confined spaces and areas of relevance;

b) disinfection activities are those which concern the complex of procedures and operations aimed at making certain confined areas and areas of relevance healthy by destroying or inactivating pathogenic microorganisms;

c) disinfestation activities are those that concern the complex of procedures and operations aimed at destroying small animals, in particular arthropods, both because they are parasites, vectors or reserves of infectious agents and because they are annoying and unwanted plant species. The disinfestation can be integral if addressed to all the infesting species or targeted if addressed to single species; d) rat extermination activities are those that concern the complex of procedures and disinfestation operations aimed at determining either the complete destruction or the reduction of the population number of rats or mice below a certain threshold;

e) sanitization activities are those that concern the complex of procedures and operations aimed at making certain environments healthy by cleaning and / or disinfection and / or disinfestation or by controlling and improving the conditions of the microclimate as far as it relates to temperature, humidity and ventilation or to lighting and noise.

Motor vehicles:

"Of 18 March 2020 establish that:" the sanitization and sanitation of the premises, means of transport and means of work must be ap Regulatory protocol for the containment of the spread of Covid-19 in the sector of transport and appropriate logistics and frequent".

To remind and provide useful information for the sanitation of company vehicles is a document entitled "Prompt sanitization instructions for driver's cabs of company vehicles for the purpose of preventing COVID-19 infection".

The document, edited by Eng. Davide Levo, regards "the periodic and extraordinary sanitization of the passenger compartments and driving cabs of vehicles used for business needs that are not permanently assigned to a single driver. Their application helps to comply with current legal requirements regarding the containment of COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) coronavirus contagion in the workplace ". In particular, they fall within the scope of these instructions, for example:

- "light and heavy company vehicles which, for service needs, are in shared use for workers working on multiple shifts;
- company cars assigned to an employee for occasional use and returned at the end of the shift for subsequent assignment to another user;
- company cars that hosted occasional passengers on board;
- company vehicles of any type of return from refueling and / or maintenance activities performed by third parties ".

Furthermore, please note that all the operations described "must be carried out by personnel duly informed and trained and equipped with the individual protection devices provided for in the corporate risk assessment document pursuant to Legislative Decree 81/2008 and / or prescribed

by the current anti-contagion provisions". And the waste produced during sanitization operations "must be managed and disposed of in accordance with current legal provisions".

The frequency of sanitation of company vehicles

The frequency of sanitation of company vehicles

With regard to the frequency of sanitation of company vehicles, it is indicated that "the provisions of the law in force as of today are not specified, which merely require that it be carried out appropriately and frequently".

However "it seems at least necessary to proceed with the sanitization of the passenger compartment or the driver's cab of the company vehicle whenever its new user is part of a segregated shift / work group different from that of the previous user and, in particular, to recovery of each alternate work shift ". By "segregated shift / work group" we mean a "specific set of workers who are independent, distinct and recognizable from the others, and whose members can be immediately suspended from work and isolated as soon as one of them manifests the symptoms of contagion COVID-19".

It is emphasized that "it is essential to minimize, as far as possible, the use of company vehicles shared between different drivers or between different segregated shifts / work groups".

In addition, as regards the assessment of the persistence of any vehicle contamination by the coronavirus COVID-19, "for information, the following should be noted:

- according to the information provided on 12/03/2020 by the Istituto Superiore di Sanità, it can be assumed that the coronavirus COVID-19 is deactivated in a time interval between a few minutes and a maximum of 9 days, depending on the matrix / material on which it adheres, concentration, temperature and humidity; in particular, it is likely that it will survive up to 24 hours on disposable clothing, if in a high initial concentration;
- according to information published on 17/03/2020 by the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) and subsequently taken over by the European Center for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), the coronavirus COVID-19 survives, with viral load decreasing over time:

□ in an aerosol suspended indoors for at least 3 hours;

On Carton for no more than 24 hours;

On copper for at least 4 days;

On plastic and steel for at least 3 days

Vehicle sanitization options

The document indicates that, theoretically, there are at least **"three distinct options for the sanitization of company cars' cockpits and cabs:**

1. appeal to an external company specialized in sanitizing transport vehicles, which should intervene at the company site where the vehicles are parked ", for example with the frequency already indicated and, in particular," at the resumption of each segregated work shift ";

2. "where the first solution is not actually feasible, it is possible to resort to the use, by properly equipped and trained company staff, of special cabin sanitization kits, generally consisting of:

- a. single-use cylinder of disinfectant spray with germicidal action with total discharge, with which to saturate the passenger compartment or the cockpit for many minutes with the doors closed; or
- b. portable ozone generator with germicidal anti-viral chemical action, to be blown into the passenger compartment or the driver's cabin;

3.where the second solution is not actually feasible, for example due to the difficulty of quickly finding the sanitization kit and / or staff training and training, it is possible to refer, by immediate technical analogy, to the simplified ISS procedure envisaged on an interim basis from the Circular of the Istituto Superiore di Sanità AOO-ISS 12/03/2020 8293 for the sanitization at the end of the shift of the driver's cabs of vehicles destined for the collection of waste potentially contaminated with coronavirus COVID-19 "

The simplified anti-contagion sanitization procedure

Finally, we take up some indications relating to the simplified anti-contagion sanitization procedure of the passenger compartment or the driver's cab of the company vehicle which "can be performed directly by the driver entering the shift - duly trained in this regard and equipped with the necessary equipment - in compliance with the indications derived from the Circular of the Istituto Superiore di Sanità AOO-ISS 12/03/2020 8293 ".

For this purpose - the document continues - the incoming driver "must carry out the operations described below".

- 1.Clean and disinfect the door handles as well as the bodywork immediately surrounding it with 75% alcohol.
- 2.Fully open all the doors of the cabin or passenger compartment and ensure an abundant and prolonged exchange of air.
- 3.Clean and disinfect footrest mats, previously removed from the cabin or passenger compartment, with 75% alcohol.
- 4.Clean and disinfect with 75% alcohol, preferably by spray dispensing, all internal surfaces of the cabin or passenger compartment (seats, dashboard, dashboard, steering wheel, gearbox, parking brake, controls, indicators, buttons, keyboards, touch screens , interior handles, storage compartments, walls, ceiling, door, windshield, side windows, rear view mirror etc. ...). Particular care must be taken in the cleaning and disinfection of all surfaces placed immediately in front of the seats, which are those most exposed to the droplet issued by the driver and passengers during their stay inside the vehicle.
5. As regards, in particular, the seats and any other fabric parts, it is preferable to first apply a flexible plastic covering (for example a special case, possibly disposable, or, in its absence, a film or a cloth removable: see figures), which can be replaced at each shift or sanitized in the same way as described above; in the event of replacement, this must be the first operation to be carried out once the cabin or passenger compartment has been opened and aired, taking care, in this case, to remove the covering without raising any contaminated dust / aerosol that may have deposited at the upstairs during the previous round. In the absence of washable coatings (highly discouraged), the cleaning and disinfection of the fabric parts must be extremely accurate, since these are porous sites with greater persistence of the virus.

Environment Sanitization and Disinfection:witch Certifications?

6. Clean and disinfect all portable and removable objects and equipment in the cabin or in the passenger compartment (75% alcohol) (ignition key, remote controls, pens, locks, laptops, portable media, work equipment, various accessories, etc...). In this regard, it should be noted that the presence of objects and equipment in the passenger compartment or cabin must be minimized as much as possible.
7. The use of compressed air and / or water under pressure and / or steam for cleaning is strictly prohibited, as well as any other method that can generate splashes or cause aerosols of infectious material in the cabin and in the environment.
8. The use of vacuum cleaners is also prohibited.

We refer to the full reading of the "Instructions", which contain further details, notes and warnings, and we recall, in conclusion, that the document also presents useful indications on:

- sanitizing products,
- extraordinary vehicle sanitization procedure.

recommendations for the use of shared vehicles.