

PACKAGING GLOSSARY

AAMI	Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation.
AORN	Association of periOperative Nurses
Barrier	Anything that prevents or obstructs passage.
CDC	Centers for Disease Control.
Biological indicator	Sterilization monitoring device consisting of a standardized, viable population of microorganisms.
Chemical indicator	Sterilization process monitoring device designed to respond to one or more physical conditions within the package.
Containment Device	Reusable rigid sterilization container, instrument case/cassette, or organizing tray and any reusable accessories intended for use in healthcare facilities for the purpose of containing reusable medical devices for sterilization.
Contaminate	To render unfit for use through introduction of a substance which is harmful or injurious.
Disposable	An item designed to be used only once and discarded.
FDA	Food and Drug Administration; agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
Event Related Sterility	Shelf life of hospital sterilized items that have no expiration date. Based on principle that shelf life is event related, not time related.

FDA	Food and Drug Administration; Agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The agency ensures the safety and effectiveness of drugs, commercially manufactured medical devices, and sterilants.
Filter	A microbial barrier integral to a sterilization container.
Gasket	A seal such as is used around the inside of a container.
Labeling	Any legend or mark attached to or accompanying a medical device.
Latching mechanism	Mechanical device that secures the container lid to the base.
Nonwoven	A material made by bonding fibers together as opposed to weaving of threads.
Nosocomial Infection	A healthcare-acquired infection.
Packaging Systems	A generic term meant to include all types of packaging, such as wrap, pouches, and rigid containers.
Recommended Practices	Guidelines based on principles of microbiology, scientific literature, research, and the opinions of experts. Periodically updated.
Reprocessing	To cause to undergo additional processing before reuse.
Standard	The level of requirement established as a measure or model.
Sterile/sterility	Free from viable microorganisms.

Sterile storage area	An area of a healthcare facility designed to store clean and sterile supplies.
Sterility Maintenance Cover	A plastic cover placed over packaged sterilized products to help maintain sterility by protecting the package from the environment.
Sterilization	Destruction of all living organisms by exposure to physical or chemical agents.
Tamper Evident Seal	A disposable lock or seal generally secured on the container latching mechanism. The device is designed so it cannot be resealed after opening.
Valve	A mechanical closure that can provide for sterilant penetration and closure after sterilization.
Wrapper	A disposable or reusable material used for packaging medical devices for sterilization, usually constructed from polypropylene or muslin.