

Tentative Interim Amendment

NFPA 99

Standard for Health Care Facilities

2005 Edition

Reference: 13.4.1.2.2, A.13.4.1.2.2.2

TIA 05-2 (NFPA 99)
(SC-05-7-13)

Pursuant to Section 5 of the NFPA Regulations Governing Committee Projects, the National Fire Protection Association has issued the following Tentative Interim Amendment to NFPA 99, *Standard for Health Care Facilities*, 2005 edition. The TIA was processed by the Health Care Facilities Committee, and was issued by the Standards Council on July 29, 2005, with an effective date of August 18, 2005.

A Tentative Interim Amendment is tentative because it has not been processed through the entire standards-making procedures. It is interim because it is effective only between editions of the standard. A TIA automatically becomes a proposal of the proponent for the next edition of the standard; as such, it then is subject to all of the procedures of the standards-making process.

Revise section 13.4.1.2.2 & A.13.4.1.2.2.3 as follows:

13.4.1.2.2 Germicides and Antiseptics.

13.4.1.2.2.1 Medicaments, including those dispersed as aerosols, shall be permitted to be used in anesthetizing locations for germicidal and antiseptic purposes, for affixing plastic surgical drape materials, for preparation of wound dressing, or for other purposes.

13.4.1.2.2.2* Flammable liquid germicides or antiseptics used in anesthetizing locations, whenever the use of electro surgery, cautery, or ~~electrosurgery~~ a laser is contemplated, shall be ~~nonflammable~~ packaged to ensure controlled delivery to the patient in unit dose applicators, swabs, and other similar applicators.

13.4.1.2.2.3 Whenever the application of flammable liquid germicides or antiseptics is employed in surgeries where the use of electro surgery, cautery, or a laser is contemplated, time shall be allowed to elapse between application of the germicide or antiseptic and:

(a) The application of drapes to permit complete evaporation and dissipation of any flammable vehicle remaining, and

(b) The use of electro surgery, cautery, or a laser to ensure the solution is completely dry and to permit thorough evaporation and dissipation of any flammable vehicle remaining.

13.4.1.2.2.4 Any solution-soaked materials shall be removed from the operating room prior to draping or use of electro surgery, cautery, or a laser.

13.4.1.2.2.5 Pooling of flammable liquid germicides or antiseptics shall be avoided; if pooling occurs, excess solution shall be wicked and the germicide or antiseptic allowed to completely dry.

13.4.1.2.2.6 A preoperative “time out” period shall be conducted prior to the initiation of any surgical procedure using flammable liquid germicides or antiseptics to verify that a flammable germicide or antiseptic:

- (a) Application site is dry prior to draping, and use of electro surgery, cautery, or a laser, and
- (b) That pooling of solution has not occurred, or has been corrected, and
- (c) Any solution-soaked materials have been removed from the operating room prior to draping and use of electro surgery, cautery, or a laser.

13.4.1.2.2.7 Whenever flammable aerosols or antiseptics are employed, sufficient time shall be allowed to elapse between deposition and application of drapes to permit complete evaporation and dissipation of any flammable vehicle remaining.

13.4.1.2.2.8 Health care organizations shall establish policies and procedures outlining safety precautions related to the use of flammable liquid or aerosol germicides or antiseptics used in anesthetizing locations, as required in Section 13.4.1.2.10, whenever the use of electro surgery, cautery, or a laser is contemplated.

A.13.4.1.2.2.2 Some tinctures and solutions of disinfecting agents provide significant clinical benefits in reducing the risk of surgical infections. However, they can be flammable, and can be used improperly during surgical procedures. ~~Tipping containers, accidental spillage, and the pouring of excessive amounts of such flammable agents on patients expose them to injury in the event of accidental ignition of the flammable solvent.~~ To control this risk, flammable germicides or antiseptics that are used when electro surgery, cautery, or a laser is contemplated should be packaged to ensure controlled delivery to the patient (e.g., unit dose applicator, swab, etc.) in small volumes appropriate for single application.