Sterilisation Barrier Solutions

Advice Sheet 33
Guidelines for the Disposal of Westfield Medical Products
- Papers, Wraps, Tyvek and Film

The following guidelines are offered with regard to the disposal of the Westfield Medical products and materials.

Westfield Medical specialises in single use medical packaging and sterile barrier systems including wraps, bags, pouches/reels and rollstock. By definition these products are supplied by Westfield Medical for single use only. In line with the Medical Device Regulation (EU) 2017/745, responsibility for any reuse of the packaging lies with the organisation carrying out the reprocessing.

Westfield Medical products are manufactured from virgin raw materials with full traceability back to the primary source; as such they can be treated as non-hazardous waste, as supplied, in accordance with the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulations 94/62/EC.

The composition of component materials is outlined below:

- **Papers** - Traceable, sustainably replenished, virgin wood pulp with added wet strength
- **Supaspun** - Nonwoven polypropylene material with spunbonded and meltblown construction
- **Supa-T** - Nonwoven polypropylene material with spunbonded construction
- **SupaWrap** – High wet strength creped paper manufactured from virgin wood pulp
- **Supadrape** – High wet strength creped paper manufactured from virgin wood pulp and synthetic reinforcement
- **Supasorb 40** – Nonwoven Viscose with synthetic binder
- **Supasorb 80/140** - High wet strength creped paper manufactured from virgin wood pulp
- **Tyvek®** - High Density Spun Polyolefin (HDPE) manufactured from virgin polymer
- **Films** – Laminated polymer films including virgin polymers of PET, PA, PE or PP. Foil laminates also include aluminium.

If segregated and sorted, all of these materials have the potential to be recycled by specialist reprocessing facilities. In the absence of such a reprocessing facility the materials are suitable for energy recovery by incineration or can be safely sent to landfill. All materials are of high calorific value and, as such, are particularly suited to energy recovery.

Any product that has entered the operating room should be treated as a potential biohazard and be incinerated or discarded in line with approved local practice. Waste disposal methods which combine a compaction process with thermal sterilisation can be used with polypropylene materials to allow reprocessing through general polymer recyclers.

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