What does the CDC say about one-step cleaner-disinfectant processes?

Recommendations for Disinfection and Sterilization in Healthcare Facilities

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has suggested implementation of a One-Step Process in Healthcare Facilities, stating:

“The ultimate goal of the Recommendations for Disinfection and Sterilization in Healthcare Facilities, 2008, is to reduce rates of healthcare-associated infections through appropriate use of both disinfection and sterilization.”

Under these guidelines per Section 5’s recommendations: “Cleaning and Disinfecting Environmental Surfaces in Healthcare Facilities”, the CDC recommends in Paragraph G:

“Use a one-step process and an EPA-registered hospital disinfectant designed for housekeeping purposes in patient care areas where 1) uncertainty exists about the nature of the soil on the surfaces (e.g., blood or body fluid contamination versus routine dust or dirt); or 2) uncertainty exists about the presence of multidrug resistant organisms on such surfaces.”

To review and/or download the entire guide: http://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/Disinfection_Sterilization/17_00Recommendations.html

EPA Testing Requirements for One-Step Cleaner-Disinfectant Registration

The One-Step Cleaner Disinfectant rating is achieved by separate test for each specific pathogen listed on an EPA-Registered disinfectant label by testing the time required to achieve complete kill (99.9999%) against each pathogen by the disinfectant in the presence of a 5% serum load. These stringent testing protocols are intended to account for real world environments where soil, blood, body fluid and other contaminants routinely exist in patient care areas.

STERIPLEX SD C. diff Sporicide, One-Step Cleaner and Disinfectant was tested utilizing 5% serum load and/or spore carrier testing as required by the Environmental Protection Agency to achieve the overall One-Step Disinfectant rating. The one-step cleaner-disinfectant tests are much more difficult than merely testing the kill rate of pathogens when exposed to the chemical only, which does not accurately represent real world and the benefit of the 5% serum load validation requirement.

Disinfectants that are not one-step registered with the EPA require separate cleaning and disinfection steps. Cleaning as a separate step requires twice the product, twice the time and twice the labor.