QUICK GUIDE

CFPP 01-04 FOR HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE ENVIRONMENTS
WHAT IS CFPP 01-04?

This is a guidance document the Department of Health introduced in July 2012 with regards to infection control in laundry processing. It brings together all of the best practice processes that a laundry should carry out in order to reduce the risk of cross contamination and infection, and amalgamates all earlier versions of laundry guidance and incorporates and supersedes HSG(95)18 and parts of Health Building Note 25 – ‘Laundry’.

WHO DOES IT APPLY TO?

It applies to all healthcare establishments that process laundry, from NHS laundries to outsource textile processors to care and nursing homes.

WHY HAS THIS BEEN INTRODUCED?

Infection can be transferred between contaminated and uncontaminated items of linen. Therefore incorrect handling, processing and storage can pose an infection hazard and measures should be taken to reduce these risks. These guidelines identify specific measures that should be taken to reduce the risks, including appropriate decontamination and correct handling of linen to help prevent the spread of infection.

WHAT DOES THIS ACTUALLY MEAN FOR LAUNDRIES IN THESE ENVIRONMENTS?

Sites need to review their laundry processes and procedures to ensure infection control is a priority, and as such the guidelines provide a structure for the management and decontamination of linen.

The aim is to help ensure the safety of residents and staff with regards to infection, and although some of the requirements and details contained in the documentation are aimed at larger NHS style and outsource laundries, there are still many processes that are applicable to the smaller care home style laundry.

DO THESE GUIDELINES APPLY TO EVERY LAUNDRY?

The guidelines promote continuous improvement in the laundry by outlining two standards – the base level Essential Quality Requirements (EQR) and the higher level Best Practice (BP) and every social care laundry should ensure that their processes meet at least EQR and ideally aim to achieve BP.

Small care homes for residents who have learning disability or mental health needs provide linen processing services that are similar to domestic arrangements. The guidelines state this type of arrangement can continue for existing installations as long as EQR is achieved. However for homes that routinely process infectious linen additional, enhanced washing process criteria apply.
DO I NEED TO CHANGE MY LAUNDRY PROCEDURES?

The health of residents will dictate the required laundry wash processes that should be used, and sites should regularly review their procedures to ensure compliance with the requirements. It is the responsibility of the person handling the linen to ensure that it is segregated appropriately into the correct washing process.

CFPP 01-04 adopts the principle that most residents in an adult social care setting are well most of the time. This means that the standard washing process can be used most of the time, the requirements of which include that soiled items should be placed into a water-soluble bag or placed directly in a white impermeable laundry bag for transport to the laundry before being washed at the highest suitable temperature in accordance with the garment care label.

However where residents laundry may pose an infection risk, e.g. confirmed infection or cases of scabies or lice, diarrhoea and vomiting, rashes or fever the enhanced washing process should be used. This requires that upon removal, items should be immediately sealed in a red water-soluble bag, which should then be placed in an impermeable or nylon/polyester bag carrying the wording ‘Infectious linen’. Consumables such as water soluble bags, laundry sacks and trolleys are all available from our Laundryserv Supplies Direct team on 0800 085 0607.

The wash cycle used should have either a verifiable thermal or chemical disinfection process, for which all Laundryservs care home machines include thermal disinfection cycles and we can also provide a number of different chemical disinfection options.

Staff should never open any water-soluble bags, these should be transferred to the washing machine for decontamination & heavily soiled items should also have a pre-wash or sluice cycle selected – again all Laundryservs care home machines include sluice cycles.

HOW CAN I VERIFY DISINFECTION HAS TAKEN PLACE ON THE WASH PROCESS?

One of the new requirements within these guidelines is the need to verify that disinfection has actually taken place. For thermal disinfection, the requirements include the need to calibrate the washer annually to ensure the correct temperatures are being achieved. Laundryserv can provide such an annual calibration of its machines. We also provide a verification system, Trace Tech, which creates an audit trail showing all aspects of the machines’ activity including if thermal disinfection cycles have been used.

For chemical disinfection, the requirements are quite different, and require the laundry to provide regular periodic proof of disinfection via the use of swabs & microbiological analysis. Laundryserv provide various different chemical disinfection options which are all acceptable within the guidelines, however the laundry management would need to organise the required regular proof of disinfection.

HOW CAN I ENSURE ITEMS ARE BEING LAUNDERED CORRECTLY IN MY LAUNDRY?

Many laundries do not wash items at a high enough temperature due to a combination of factors - operators may not understand the significance of temperature on disinfection, or may be under pressure to process quantity therefore reduce the wash temperature in order to reduce cycle time.

Laundryserv provide full training to operators to ensure they understand the significance of washing at correct temperatures, and can set standard programmes on our equipment to ensure correct temperatures are used in wash cycles.
WHAT LAUNDRY PROCESSES AND PROCEDURES ARE REQUIRED?

The guidelines require a number of procedures to be in place for each of the EQR and BP levels, including provision of written policies and safe working procedures for the operation of all washers and dryers including the correct use of detergents. Laundryserv can also help with this as we provide auto dosing solutions which help ensure safe and accurate dosing of detergents into the machine. Sites that regularly use the enhanced washing process should undertake a risk analysis of their processes, including identifying key areas requiring control of contamination.

The laundry area should be designed to minimise the risk of recontamination of linen and to ensure the protection of residents and staff involved in the handling of used linen. If required Laundryserv consultants can provide advice on all aspects of the design and set up of the laundry to aid the through flow of dirty to clean. The design should include segregation of clean and dirty items including a segregated dirty area for the removal of solids and sluicing of linen, and hand washing facilities including a wash-hand basin, liquid soap, paper towels, pedal-operated waste receptacles and a first-aid kit.

The guidelines include the requirement for a commercial washing machine capable of meeting the disinfection requirements. Thermal disinfection is recommended (holding the linen at 71°C for at least 3 minutes or 65°C for at least 10 minutes) or a chemical disinfection process may be used. This should be professionally installed and maintained. All Laundryservs care home machines include thermal disinfection cycles and we can also provide a number of different chemical disinfection options. All equipment provided on a full service rental includes professional installation, ongoing maintenance and an annual preventative maintenance visit by our qualified engineers.

PHS Laundryserv are one of the UK’s leading providers of commercial laundry equipment, and with over 40 years experience of providing laundry installations, are experts in the laundry industry.

For further information on any how we can help your laundry meet these requirements, please contact your local PHS Laundryserv consultant on 0800 7311 399 or visit www.laundryserv.co.uk

The information contained within this document is designed to help you better understand the CFPP 01-04 guidelines. It is not a substitute for reviewing the DoH documentation, and sites should obtain & review this to identify all actions required to comply. The full DoH documentation can be obtained from https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/148539/CFPP_01-04_BS_EN_Final.pdf