

# Technical Bulletin

<i>Distribution:</i>	
Olympus America Inc.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
International distributors	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Medivators – Field Clinical Specialists	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Medivators – Technical Service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Date:** November 24<sup>th</sup> 2003

**RE:** Main Water Line Contamination

Facility main water lines can become potentially contaminated by many external sources. The contamination may be real or perceived in nature, but either threat will require similar action.

Contamination may be due to either a broken or disrupted main water line, or a result of microorganisms or chemicals in the incoming water.

Most facilities will have a protocol or procedure in place to deal with this type of occurrence, Protocols will usually require running water supplies to waste for a predetermined period of time, boiling water before use, or some form of chemical treatment to the water. Many of these procedures will pertain to the usage of water for human consumption and will not be practical for application to mechanical equipment connected to the water main.

If the Medivators endoscope reprocessor is fitted with a 0.2 micron bacteria-retentive filter, this should be sufficient to stop potential microbiological contamination of the machine, endoscope or patient. However, in the absence of any written facility procedure or protocol, it would be prudent to follow the recommendations of this bulletin.

The following recommendations should be implemented in the absence of defined procedures or protocols issued by the facility. It is extremely important to discuss these points with a senior facility staff member or the infection control department, and obtain written confirmation that these recommendations are deemed suitable for the incident at hand.

At a minimum, the facility should bleed incoming water from the valve on top of the 0.2 micron filter housing for a period of time or volume recommended by the Water Company, facility - engineering department and/or infection control department. This water should be drained into a suitable container for disposal or directed straight to a floor drain.

Once a sufficient amount of water has been drained, water-line sanitization should be carried out in accordance with the appropriate reprocessor manual. This will ensure that any microbiological contamination that has reached the upstream side of the filter membrane will have been exposed to liquid chemical germicide and killed.



The downstream side of the filter and associated pipe work will have been protected from contamination by the filter membrane.

Chemical contamination of the facility's main water supply cannot be dealt with in the manner described above and should be addressed in conjunction with experts in this field.

If you have any questions relating to this Technical Bulletin, please contact Medivators Reprocessing Systems Technical Services Department.