THE RELEASE OF ST108

WATER QUALITY EXPERT

BEYOND CLEAN

Jeffrey Paquet | President & CEO
VERDA Water Quality Systems & mmic™

Beyond Clean Water Quality Expert™:

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In mid-August of this year, AAMI released the very first standard that governs water for the processing of medical devices, ANSI/AAMI ST108. Prior to this, the sterile processing industry relied on an AAMI Technical Information Report, TIR34.

The initial document and its revision were authored by a committee of industry stakeholders from healthcare that range from OEM equipment manufacturers to people like you and me. The goal was to provide high-quality information to sterile processing departments so they could make good decisions about managing their water quality.

While comprehensive, a TIR is not a standard and does not undergo the peer review rigor that an ANSI/AAMI standard does. It can contain information that seems to conflict with other information in other parts of the document. TIR34's intent was to provide guidance, but not necessarily the definite answer on how to manage water quality. ST108 serves a different purpose, to be the definite word on water for this industry.

In future installments of this series, we will discuss various aspects of the ST108 document to help answer some questions. There is an effort, going on now within the same group that offered the standard, to author a new TIR so that sterile processing departments and the facilities they support have a roadmap on how to implement the new standard.

ST108 is a very technical document. Most facilities had issues with complying with the suggested criteria in TIR34. AAMI is sympathetic to the "heavy lift complying with ST108 will require from healthcare facilities." This new TIR will assist facilities with identifying what they must do to become compliant, and how to do it while being sensitive to the reality that the size and type of facility will influence how the standard is implemented. One size will not fit all.

Have more questions for this expert? Contact Jeffrey at jpaquet@mmicmedical.com

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Jeffrey Paquet is the CEO of MMIC Medical Systems and its VERDA Water Quality Systems. Mr. Paquet is an expert in Product Realization and Commercialization that stems from his career that spans nearly 30 yeears in various industries including Healthcare, Automotive, and Aerospace. Jeffrey has a Bachelors of Science in Aerospace Engineering from UCLA with his career focused on design, product development, and manufacturing. His experience in the Aerospace industry has driven his belief that the technology and operational systems employed to monitor processes and provide the ability for rapid response to dynamic situations have direct and valuable application in the healthcare environment.

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