

	<p>Proposal for Task Force Consideration at the ISSC 2019 Biennial Meeting</p>	<p>1. a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Growing Area b. <input type="checkbox"/> Harvesting/Handling/Distribution c. <input type="checkbox"/> Administrative</p>
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10. Proposal Subject	Microbiology Laboratory Evaluation Checklist - Sterilization	
11. Specific NSSP Guide Reference	Section IV. Guidance Documents, Chapter II. Growing Areas, .15 Evaluation of Laboratories by State Shellfish Laboratory Evaluation Officers Including Laboratory Evaluation Checklists, 1. NSSP Laboratory Evaluation Checklist for Microbiology	
12. Text of Proposal/ Requested Action	The requested action is to adopt the modified text of the NSSP microbiology checklist, section 1.6 Sterilization and Decontamination, item 1.6.3:	
13. Public Health Significance	<p>The laboratory’s goal is to ensure high-quality data using accepted scientific practices. The denoted information acknowledges recommended best practices used in recognized scientific publications to develop a laboratory’s Quality Assurance Program (QAP) for sterilization practices at a wider range of temperature.</p> <p>The sterilization temperature range and the verification of working thermometers are now acceptably referenced to support past and present practices in program laboratories. The current reference material is cited to foster confidence in accepting the changes to an elevated sterilization temperature range and strengthen confidence in the acceptability of past practices for checking accuracy of working temperature monitoring devices.</p> <p>Most references for media sterilization simply state “121°C for no less than 15 minutes.” <i>Difco</i>, a leading media manufacturer, states “A temperature range of 121-124°C for 15 minutes is an accepted standard condition for sterilizing up to one liter of culture medium. The definition of “autoclave at 121°C for 15 minutes” refers to the temperature of the contents of the container being held at 121°C for 15 minutes, not to the temperature and time at which the autoclave has been set.” <i>Standard Methods</i>, 23rd Edition, states “Annually, or preferably semiannually, verify the accuracy of all working temperature-sensing devices (e.g., liquid-in-glass thermometers, thermocouples, and temperature-recording instruments) at the use temperature(s). To do this, compare each device’s measurements to those of a certified NIST temperature-sensing device or one traceable to NIST and conforming to NIST specifications. Discard temperature-sensing devices that differ by >1°C from the reference device.....For general sterilization tasks, the recommended autoclave temperature range is 121 to 124°C (at 200 kPa/29 PSI), although higher temperatures (≥121°C) are acceptable for decontaminating laboratory material.”</p> <p><i>Each lab’s QAP must validate temperature, time and pressure parameters for successful sterilization for media, reagents, supplies and spores using a verified working temperature monitoring device.</i></p>	

14. Cost Information	No Cost. Minor adjustment during regularly scheduled sterilizer preventative maintenance service.
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