



Spirax Sarco clean steam generator meets state-of-the-art sterilization needs

A Spirax Sarco clean steam generator is meeting increased demand for clean steam from a state-of-the-art sterilization facility at Ross Hall Hospital in Glasgow. The CSM-K is a complete pre-assembled engineered system that uses existing plant steam to heat demineralized water to produce high quality steam.

The CSM-K Engineered System at Ross Hall Hospital produces up to 2,000 kg/hr of clean steam at 3 bar g, which is used to decontaminate medical instruments. The first step is a washing cycle, with the water heated directly by clean steam. This is followed by a packaging line, after which the wrapped instruments are sterilized using more clean steam at 134°C and 2.5 bar g. The packs are then dried thoroughly to prevent condensation building up on the inside as they cool, prior to dispatch.

The equipment used throughout the process is stainless steel. "It's designed to provide an environment very much like a pharmaceutical plant," says Mr. Steve Buchan, Chief Engineer at Ross Hall Hospital. In accordance with this need, the CSM-K has 316L stainless steel clean steam wetted parts to withstand the corrosive effects of demineralized water, eliminating the risk of steam contamination and degrading of the process.

Ross Hall Hospital has relocated its sterilization services to a separate building over a mile away from the main hospital. The move was partly in response to expansion at the hospital, which saw the existing sterilization department displaced by a new operating theatre. The new plant also helps to meet tighter guidance on sterilization of reusable

medical instruments. "In particular, the publication of Health Service Circular HSC 2000/032 Decontamination of Medical Devices, which was intended to improve decontamination procedures," says Mr. Buchan.

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In addition, Ross Hall, which is owned by BMI Healthcare, aims to take on sterilization work for other private and NHS hospitals in the area. The new site has a capacity eight times greater than the old in-house sterilization department and there's plenty of room in the building to double this again.

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