

## Custom Ultrasonics, Inc.

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### **RE: "Boil water alert"**

*To whom it may concern:*

At times due to unique circumstances, such as during a hurricane or a power outage, the tap water supply of health care facilities may become contaminated, is no longer potable, or drinkable, and a "boil water alert" may be issued.

During such an alert, it is necessary to boil the tap water to make it potable and safe for drinking. In addition to its impact on drinking, contamination of a health care facility's tap water supply typically has significant implications for the reprocessing and water rinsing of reusable medical instruments including endoscopes.

Most automated endoscope reprocessors or "systems" require that the endoscope be rinsed with water in accordance with the labels of the liquid chemical sterilant/disinfectant (e.g., 2% glutaraldehyde) and the endoscope. Because the respective labels of both of these usually require the use of potable water (at a minimum) for rinsing, the labeling of automated endoscope reprocessors or "systems" requires that the water supply be potable. Moreover, the label of the bacterial water filters (0.1 or 0.2 microns) used by virtually all automated endoscope reprocessors or "systems" similarly requires potable water.

*As a result, it is recommended that automated endoscope reprocessors or "systems" be taken off-line and not operated whenever the tap water is no longer potable or a "boil water alert" has been issued. If the automated endoscope reprocessor or "system" has been inadvertently operated during a boil water alert, refer to its operator's manual to determine how to "auto-disinfect/sterilize" its internal plumbing and components. It will likely also be necessary to replace the water filter(s). Once the boil water alert has been lifted and these steps performed, operating the automated endoscope reprocessor or "system," without an endoscope, for at least one complete cycle is recommended to purge the plumbing lines of potentially contaminated water before going back on-line and reprocessing endoscopes.*

Respectfully,

**Lawrence F. Muscarella, Ph.D.**

*Director, Research and Development  
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