STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES
FOR AUTOCLAVING
Human Resources, Occupational Health and Safety
Western University, August 2012

DO NOT autoclave liquids containing bleach, formalin or glutaraldehyde

1 CHECK THAT STEAM IS ON

2 CHECK THAT JACKET TEMPERATURE HAS REACHED 121°C

3 CHECK CYCLE TYPE - Liquids or dry goods? Liquids need slow venting to avoid boiling Do not process dry goods with liquids

4 SET CYCLE TIME OR SELECT PRE-SET CYCLE - previously verified by biological ampoules

5 LOAD AUTOCLAVE CORRECTLY
   Liquid containers MUST be inside a container to hold entire contents
   Bags MUST be placed in a plastic tray
   Bags should be loosely sealed or open

6 CLOSE AUTOCLAVE DOOR
   If applicable, ensure that radial arms engage firmly - do not wrench

7 START CYCLE
   Wait until autoclave reaches 121°C. The autoclave may then be left unattended until the end of the cycle. If steam is leaking from the door, abort cycle, re-close and tighten door further.

8 AT COMPLETION OF CYCLE
   Ensure that the pressure in the chamber is zero before opening door
   Stand behind door and loosen radial arms slowly
   Crack door open and wait for steam to dissipate before opening door wide
   Use insulated gloves to remove goods
   Use CAUTION when removing liquids.
   Ensure that the liquids have cooled so that flashing does not occur

9 SPILLS AND BREAKAGE IN AUTOCLAVE
   Remove pan containing spilled contents. Remove broken glass with tongs
   Re-autoclave spilled or broken items before disposal

Departmental Autoclave Contact: _________________________ Western Ext.: _________