

Did You Know?



“Trap Bottles should be utilized between collection bottles and the source of suction to prevent spillage.”

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)[®]
NFPA-99, 2002 Standard for Healthcare Facilities

Improve Suction Performance, Improve Safety

One of the most important, preventive safety measures a healthcare facility can take is to use an **Overflow Safety Trap** between the vacuum regulator and the collection system.

The purpose of this key safety accessory is to prevent flooding of vacuum regulators, pipeline systems and vacuum pumps by acting as a physical barrier for body fluids entering the vacuum regulator and piping system. Despite improvements in disposable collection system shut-off valves and filters, accidents continue to occur. These failures result from canisters falling over, accidental failure of “failsafe” shut-off valves and clinicians by-passing the collection system.

Although there is no evidence that associates a contaminated vacuum regulator with a patient infection, contaminated vacuum regulators may be a hazard to caregivers and may contaminate the vacuum piping system and vacuum pumps at your facility. This results in a costly repair of your vacuum pump(s) and/or purging of your piping system. NFPA, the codes and standards organization for medical pipeline systems, supports the use of Overflow Safety Traps.³

Because Safety Traps stop body fluids before they get to the vacuum regulators, they reduce the opportunity for system contamination. Safety Traps minimize exposure for clinicians, patients, and technicians.

Benefits of Using an Overflow Safety Trap

- Overflow Safety Traps are simple, inexpensive devices that can also significantly improve the service life of equipment. Vacuum Regulators last longer and perform better.
- Traps reduce the need for maintenance and cleaning. Since traps prevent fluid from being suctioned into the regulatory and wall outlet, maintenance costs are lowered.
- Suctioning body fluids, blood and irrigation solutions through vacuum regulators, wall outlets and pipeline systems results in clogging which reduces air flow and compromises suction power.
- The Overflow Safety Trap not only prevents bolus overflow but also removes aerosols by centrifugal force.
- When properly used and maintained, traps provide positive shutoff. Following shutoff, a suction procedure can be resumed immediately upon replacement of the “full” overflow safety trap with a clean, empty one.

1. Leape LL, Brennan TA, Laird N, Lawthers AG, Localio AR, Barnes BA, et al. The nature of adverse events in hospitalized patients. Results of the Harvard Medical Practice Study II. *N Engl J Med* 1991;324:377-84.

2. Martone WJ, Jarvis WR, Culver DH, Haley RW. Incidence and nature of endemic and epidemic nosocomial infections. In: Bennett JV, Brachman PS, eds. *Hospital infections*. Boston: Little, Brown, and Company, 1992;577-96.

3. NFPA 99-2012; 25-75