

Make Sense of Healthcare Guidelines

Let Rada, the TMV experts, help you through the guidelines relating to the correct use and installation of thermostatic mixing valves in healthcare environments...

Thinking about the impact of the Draft Health Technical Memorandum 04-01 on your job?

Responsible for CCA critical care environments? "The key is providing state-of the art technology" (HBN 57)

Growth of electronic non-touch hand-washing in facilities for surgical procedures (HBN26)

**Specifying healthcare sanitary assemblies? (HTM 64)
"Trust in digital technology"**

Whether you are involved in specifying, designing, infection control or maintenance, there are a plethora of healthcare legislation and guidelines that relate to the control and supply of water in healthcare establishments.

Water plays a vitally important role in hygiene procedures but presents considerable risks to vulnerable users if not managed effectively. On close examination of the four most prominent documents, it seems clear that the best way to meet the current requirements is to specify state-of-the-art technology; digital mixing valves.

No.2 in a series of factsheets from Rada. For further information, or to download other factsheets visit www.radasense.com

Health Technical Memorandum 04-01 (Draft)

MRSA, and other Hospital Acquired Infections, have led to increased concerns about hand-washing and hygiene and although the use of alcohol gels has grown, the guidelines state that hands should be regularly washed in running water. HTM 04-01 highlights the importance of "basic hand-washing". "Hand-washing", it recommends, "is best performed under running water in basins/sinks..." this necessitates "the installation of a mixing device which should comply with the standards of MES DO8 and be tested and accepted by the TMV scheme."

To lower the risk from cross contamination HTM 04-01 "recommends the use of non-touch taps in surgical, general washroom and food preparation areas." Whilst it clearly recognises the importance of "non-touch" hand-washing, it nonetheless highlights the limitations of traditional "no-touch" electronic taps.

It points out that when installed;

- They make regular maintenance flushing time consuming and costly because of the need for a continued presence to activate the tap during flushing and therefore "are not recommended where the frequency of use of sanitary assemblies is low";
- Temperature is non adjustable and the fixed flow duration period can be too short to take into account optimum washing times in scrub applications.

Enter Rada Sense, the world's first digital mixing valve for hand washing.

Rada Sense is no ordinary "no-touch" tap. The T-logic digital intelligence inside the product makes it smarter, safer and more hygienic than any other tap on the market and addresses both of the issues raised in HTM 04-01. Not only does the control panel allow the user to initiate flow *and* select temperature without touching it, but the valve also facilitates an automatic "duty flush" cycle after a predetermined period of inactivity of infrequently used outlets.

For nurses and users the TMV2 & 3 approved **Rada Sense** will provide safe temperature water for hand-washing and the control panel provides no-touch on/off and temperature control to minimise the risks of cross infection. The digital valve is activated by the user placing their hand in front of the control panel, usually mounted above the spout; the water will flow at a preset temperature for a flexible predetermined period of time.

Rada Sense uses its digital intelligence to provide a number of additional features that simplify maintenance regimes. A unique programmable "duty flush", ensures the valve will automatically flush water through the outlet after a preset period of inactivity.

HBN 26 – Facilities for surgical procedures

Like HTM 04-01 this health building note highlights the importance of non-touch taps. HBN 26 provides standards on the built environment required to support clinical and diagnostic invasive procedures.

It recommends that specifiers select "non-touch electronic taps with a sufficient run-on time for the surgical scrub protocol to be completed, with a sensing range of 200-250mm." It also recommends that the "valve used to supply the taps is a thermostatic mixer that can be accessed to provide ease of maintenance."

Installing infra-red proximity sensor taps with long sensing ranges can be problematic, as accidental activation can occur by reflective material. Proximity sensors were designed for basin spouts and basic hand washing, the HBN 26 reference "the need for a sufficient run on time", highlights their weakness. This statement is to prevent the installation of taps that stop if the user moves out of the sensing range during scrub protocol.

Clearly non-touch operation is critically important, however most of the electronic taps on the market are not designed with healthcare, or scrub-up protocols in mind.

Enter Rada Sense! A Digital no-touch hand-washing solution specifically designed for use in clinical and surgical applications.

- No-touch flow *and* temperature adjustment
- Flexible time flow selection; 5secs – 59mins
- TMV3 approved

Rada Sense can be programmed to deliver water at the correct temperature for the duration of the scrub protocol. The sensing range is not important in this instance because once the control panel has been activated the water flow will continue until the time flow period has elapsed, allowing the person scrubbing-up to move more freely during the operation without deactivating the water flow.

Because **Rada Sense** can be programmed to flow between 5secs – 59mins the needs of different hand-washing protocols can easily be met. It will also deliver water at a predetermined temperature, that can be increased or decreased by the user, without the need to touch the control panel.

Maintenance of the valve is made easy, simple checks or fault diagnosis can be made via the control panel using a hand-held computer and software supplied with the product. Valve usage can also be monitored to help schedule service intervals at more appropriate times.

HTM 64 Sanitary assemblies in Healthcare

If you are involved in the specification or design for new capital projects or refurbishment of existing facilities this technical memorandum is essential reading. Critical aspects of water management are covered and include control of legionella, hygiene, safe hot water, cold water and drinking water systems.

HTM 64 reinforces the need for thermostatically controlled water for hand-washing, bathing and showering. It suggests that wall mounted spouts with no-touch control are recommended for washbasins in particular for surgical scrub or CCA. It also highlights the fact that electronic taps can be effective at reducing water wastage.

So, you are specifying a project; your key concerns are hygiene, safety and the lifetime costs of the product? You need a product that satisfies the requirements of HTM64 but that also meets the needs of infection control, maintenance and the life-time costs of running the facility?

Enter Rada Sense, the world's first digital mixing valve for hand washing, showering and bathing.

- TMV3 Approved
- Ultimate in safety; the unit carries out 8 internal safety checks 40 times per second
- No-touch on/off and no-touch temperature selection
- Programmable flow times
- Legionella control features; thermal disinfection cycle and automatic flushing
- Unique engineering features; valve usage information and diagnostics

Rada has combined years of experience delivering thermostatically controlled water with state-of-the-art digital intelligence, T-logic, to create the world's first digital mixing valve for hand-washing, showering and bathing. The intelligence in the valve makes it smarter, safer and more hygienic. The control panel offers no-touch on/off and temperature control, helping to reduce the risk of cross infection and the valve delivers water at accurately controlled temperatures for a pre-determined flow time.

Duty flushing and thermal disinfection are considered vital procedures in offsetting the growth of legionella bacteria and because **Rada Sense** can undertake both functions with the minimum of disruption to the facility, the valve offers cost effective, safe and recordable processes for keeping the water system in the best condition.

HBN 57- Facilities for critical care

Designing for, or working in critical care areas (CCA), requires a holistic approach. The support facilities that underpin the critical care areas are as important; all product needs to be fit for purpose but the key is ensuring excellence.

"Excellence is delivered through state of the art technology," and has been delivered for water control by Rada in the form of their Digital mixing valve **Rada Sense**.

Rada Sense is available for hand-washing, showering, bathing or bidets. It consistently delivers safe temperature water, operated by no-touch controls. The T-logic digital intelligence allows the user or engineer to operate, communicate or exchange information with the thermostatic mixing valve making it safer, smarter and more hygienic than other electronic taps or mechanical mixing valves.

Kohler Mira Limited
Cromwell Road Cheltenham
Gloucestershire GL52 5EP
Telephone 01242 282527
Facsimile 01242 282404
Email rada_technical@mirashowers.com

Please note, this information is offered for interest and does not purport to give professional advice.

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The Shower and Washroom Experts.