

Service Letter



1. General

(a) No.:	SL 11
(b) Revision / Date	2 / 10-August -2020
(c) Title:	SL11- Enhanced Cleaning Procedures (Covid-19) Background Information
(d) Description:	Provides background information to the instructions given in Flight Manual Supplement 8.60.
(e) Applicability:	All
(f) Effectivity:	All

Note: Applicability= All types and variants to which the advice can be applied.
Effectivity= Actual CN or group of CN's to which the advice applies.

2. Accomplishment Instructions

2.1 Background

FMS 8.60 was written to provide operators with guidance on how to perform enhanced cleaning of their equipment during the Covid-19 pandemic, where this is mandated or advised by a relevant national authority.

The supplement draws on available knowledge of the efficacy of available cleaning materials; however, it cannot assess the effectiveness of cleaning techniques on actual ballooning equipment.

2.2 Sanitising of balloon equipment by isolation

Isolation offers a very simple method of sanitising equipment that is used infrequently. 72 hours is widely accepted as a satisfactory length of time to significantly reduce the risk of infection from a contaminated surface e.g. Ref 1 & 2.

2.3 Use of soap and water

The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control advises that *"The use of a neutral detergent for the cleaning of surfaces in general premises (i.e. not for premises where a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 has been) should be sufficient."* Ref 2.

Soap and water are both low risk for the balloon equipment and for the personnel applying the cleaning medium. As with cleaning hands, cleaning a balloon basket with soap and water is more likely to be effective because it provides for thorough cleaning of the basket and other balloon equipment. Cleaning as described in FMS 8.60 involves wetting, scrubbing, and rinsing of the basket; this will ensure that all surfaces are fully wetted with soap and water and that visible dirt is removed. Spraying of the basket with alcohol or disinfectant may not contact all surfaces of the basket, and is ineffective against persistent dirt.

Soap is effective at both destroying the Lipid (fatty) membrane surrounding the virus and at lifting the virus off surfaces and washing it away. Ref 3.

Pure soap is recommended because many commercial detergents contain unknown additives that may damage the balloon equipment.

2.4 Use of Alcohol on metal parts of fuel cylinders and burners

It is not recommended to wash fuel cylinders with soapy water unless the covers are removed. There is a concern that the cylinder could corrode if the foam linings of the padded cylinder covers become wet and retain soapy water against the cylinder body for an extended period.

Spraying with alcohol is recommended as the required contact time for alcohol preparations to kill virus is 5 minutes. This is not achievable by the use of alcohol wipes, which may also contain unexpected ingredients. Appropriate dilution in water is supported by Ref 3.

2.5 Use of disinfectants

Cameron Balloons has tested a disinfectant, *DuoMax General Purpose cleaner disinfectant*, www.duo-max.com that the manufacturer has claimed to be harmless to materials used in basket construction. Our tests show that DuoMax does not damage wicker, suede, leather, aluminium or steel, apart from some minor staining due to its red colour. This product has now been added to Flight Manual Supplement 8.60.

Use of other disinfectants increases the risk of damage to balloon equipment and the potential hazard to balloon operators and their staff. Disinfectants containing chlorine may cause corrosion of stainless steel parts including fuel cylinders, basket frames, and basket wires. The application of many disinfectants requires operator training and / or PPE. Additionally, the full composition of many disinfectants is not fully known so their effect on ballooning equipment is cannot be fully evaluated.

Where use of disinfectant is required following either a suspected or confirmed case of Covid-19, or because of local rules; the use of alcohol solution is recommended. Note that the ECDC Technical report (Ref 2) has different recommendations for routine cleaning and for cleaning after a suspected or confirmed case of Covid-19.

Ref 1: Public Health England. COVID-19: Cleaning in non-healthcare settings
Updated 15 May 2020

Ref 2: ECDC Technical Report. Disinfection of environments in healthcare and nonhealthcare settings potentially contaminated with SARS-CoV-2. March 2020.

Ref 3: UKRI Can the risk of SARS-CoV-2 infection be reduced by disinfecting surfaces?

With thanks to Dr Colin Butter for his help in preparing this Service Letter, and Flight Manual Supplement 8.60

3. Materials

As described in FMS 8.60 at current revision.

4. Other Publications Affected

Flight manual Supplement 8.60 at current revision.

5. Remarks

None

Compiled by:



Notes:

Date: 10/8/20

Name: D J Cameron

6. Design Organisation Approval

Approval Statement

I hereby confirm that these instructions are in compliance with all the applicable airworthiness requirements. The technical content of this document is approved under the authority of DOA nr EASA.21J.140

Signed, for and on behalf of Cameron Balloons Ltd.



PP Head of Design



Date: 10-8-20

Name: D C Boxall