NOTE: To achieve acceptable results for diagnostic purposes, processing programs may be needed for different sizes and types of specimens. Biopsy specimens may be processed on a shorter schedule than larger specimens; large, dense or fatty specimens and brain specimens will not process adequately on a shorter schedule. A variety of processing programs should be defined and used to achieve good processing results.

Evidence of Compliance:

✓ Defined processing programs for various types and sizes of specimen tissues

ANP.23350 Paraffin Baths, Flotation Baths, and Embedding Stations Phase II

Paraffin baths, flotation baths, and embedding stations are clean and well-maintained.

NOTE: Instruments must be clean and well-maintained (eg, tissue processors, embedding centers, dispensers, flotation baths, stain lines, coverslipping equipment). The temperature of the paraffin dispenser and paraffin baths must be correct for the type of paraffin used. At a minimum, the equipment must be maintained according to the manufacturer's instructions and paraffin temperatures recorded.

The CAP recommends the use of high-quality paraffin with a melting point <60°C. The benefit of low-melt paraffin is that it is removed more efficiently during de-paraffinization and/or antigen retrieval. Efficient paraffin removal is essential for all molecular analyses.

REFERENCES
1) Gephardt GN, Zarbo RJ. Extraneous tissue in surgical pathology. A College of American Pathologists Q-Probes study of 275 laboratories. *Arch Pathol Lab Med.* 1996;120:1009-1014
2) Compton CC, Robb JA, Anderson MW, et al. Preanalytics and Precision Pathology: Pathology Practices to Ensure Molecular Integrity of Cancer Patient Biospecimens for Precision Medicine. *Arch Pathol Lab Med.* 2019;143(11)1346-63.

ANP.23400 Microtome Maintenance Phase I

Microtomes and microtome knives are clean and well-maintained.

NOTE:

1. *Microtomes must be clean, properly lubricated, and without excessive play in the advance mechanism*
2. *Knives must be sharp and free of nicks*

ANP.23410 Cryostat Decontamination Phase II

The cryostat is decontaminated at defined intervals and under defined circumstances.

NOTE: The cryostat must be defrosted and decontaminated by wiping all exposed surfaces with tuberculocidal disinfectant. The cryostat should be at room temperature during decontamination unless otherwise specified by the manufacturer. Decontamination must be done at an interval appropriate for the institution; this must be weekly for instruments used daily. Trimmings and sections of tissue that accumulate inside the cryostat must be removed during decontamination. Although not a requirement, cut-resistant gloves should be worn when changing knife blades.

Evidence of Compliance:

✓ Records of cryostat decontamination

REFERENCES
1) Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute. *Protection of Laboratory Workers From Occupationally Acquired Infections; Approved Guideline.* 4th ed. CLSI Document M29-A4. Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute, Wayne, PA; 2014.
2) US Environmental Protection Agency: Antimicrobials Products Tested or Pending Testing. https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/antimicrobials-products-tested-or-pending-testing Accessed April 19, 2018.

ANP.23420 ISH Slide Processing System Temperature Checks Phase II