CLAIMS

1. A method for validating a decontamination procedure performed using a decontamination system, the decontamination system comprising a first product for use in a first step of the procedure and a second product for use in a subsequent second step of the procedure, the method comprising:

capturing a video stream of a work area in which the decontamination procedure is carried out by a user;

analysing the video stream using a trained neural network to identify when the first product is present in the work area and when the second product is present in the work area;

determining, based on said identification, that the first and second products have been presented in the correct order in the decontamination procedure; and

causing a corresponding indication to be provided to the user.

2. A method according to Claim 1, wherein analysing the video stream comprises detecting a first product container containing the first product and/or a second product container containing the second product.

3. A method according to Claim 2, wherein the first product container and the second product container are differentiated in appearance by different indicia.

4. A method according to Claim 2 or Claim 3, wherein the first product container and the second product container are differentiated in appearance by different colours.

5. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein analysing the video stream further comprising determining, from the video stream, information relating to the first product and/or information relating to the second product.

6. A method according to Claim 5 when dependent on any of Claims 2 to 4, wherein said determined information relating to the first product and/or said determined information relating to the second product is retrieved from a database that cross-references product information and product container appearance.

7. A method according to Claim 5 or Claim 6, comprising checking, using said determined information relating to the first product and/or said determined information relating to the second product, whether the first product and/or the second product are approved for use in the decontamination system, and providing a corresponding indication to the user.

8. A method according to any of Claims 5 to 7, comprising checking said determined information relating to the first product and/or said determined information relating to the second product against corresponding user-input information, and providing a corresponding indication to the user.

9. A method according to any of Claims 5 to 8, wherein the decontamination procedure is for a medical device, and wherein the method comprises checking compatibility between the medical device and the decontamination system using said determined information relating to the first product and/or said determined information relating to the second product.

10. A method according to Claim 9, comprising analysing the video stream to determine information relating to the medical device, and checking compatibility between the medical device and the decontamination system using said determined information relating to the medical device.

11. A method according to any of Claims 5 to 10, comprising electronically logging said determined information relating to the first product and/or said determined information relating to the second product.

12. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein the first product

comprises a pre-clean composition and the second product comprises a disinfecting composition.

13. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein the decontamination system comprises a third product for use in a third step of the procedure subsequent to the second step, and wherein the method comprises:

analysing the video stream using the trained neural network to identify when the third product is present in the work area; and

determining that the first, second and third products have been presented in the correct order in the decontamination procedure.

14. A method according to Claim 13 when dependent on Claim 12, wherein the third product comprises a rinse composition.

15. A method according to any preceding claim, further comprising:

when analysing the video stream, identifying one or more alert events in the video stream that correspond with potential errors being made during performance of the decontamination procedure;

and upon identification of an alert event, causing a corresponding alert to be provided to the user.

16. A method according to Claim 15, wherein the alert event or one of the alert events comprises an incorrect product being present in the work area.

17. A method according to Claim 15 or Claim 16, wherein the alert event or one of the alert events comprises the first product, the second product and, when used, the third product being presented in an incorrect order in the work area.

18. A method according to any preceding claim, further comprising electronically logging that the first and second products have been presented in the correct order in the decontamination procedure.

19. Apparatus for validating a decontamination procedure performed using a

decontamination system, the decontamination system comprising a first product for use in a first step of the procedure and a second product for use in a subsequent second step of the procedure, the apparatus comprising:

a camera system for capturing a video stream of a work area in which the decontamination procedure is carried out by a user;

an output device for providing audio, textual and/or visual indications to the user;

an image analysis module configured to receive the video stream and to identify that the first product is present in the work area and that the second product is present in the work area; and

a validator module configured to determine, based on said identification, if the first and second products have been presented in the correct order in the decontamination procedure, and to cause the output device to provide a corresponding indication to the user;

wherein the image analysis module comprises a neural network-based classifier trained to recognise said first and second products.

20. An apparatus according to Claim 19, further comprising a logging module configured to electronically log the first and second products have been presented in the correct order in the decontamination procedure.

21. An apparatus according to Claim 19 or 20, comprising a smartphone or tablet computer device.

22. A decontamination system for performing a decontamination procedure, comprising:

a first product for use in a first step of the procedure;

a second product for use in a subsequent second step of the procedure; and

an apparatus according to any of Claims 19 to 21 for validating the decontamination procedure in use of the decontamination system.

23. A decontamination system according to Claim 22, wherein the first product is

provided in a first product container and the second product is provided in a second product container, the first and second product containers being differentiated in appearance, and wherein the image analysis module is configured to detect the presence in the work area of the first product container and the second product container.