The purpose of good incubator care is to prevent infection and enhance proper functioning of the incubator

Daily checks
1) Check whether the incubator is in good working order and record on the daily check form
2) Check humidity reservoir, if available, and ensure that it is empty (i.e. with no water) to prevent accumulation of microorganisms
3) Check and adjust the incubator temperature according to the weight and age of the baby that is nursed in it, although the usual range is 32 - 36°C (see “Neonatal Hypothermia” guideline)
4) Incubator should be thoroughly cleaned and dried inside and out with hibiscrub and water daily. Mothers can be encouraged to assist with this
5) Incubator cuffs should be changed daily and sent for sterilising (CSSD)

Terminal disinfection
1) Disconnect the incubator from the electrical power point and dismantle the machine completely. Lift the top of the incubator and remove the mattress, tray, base plate and rubber seal and clean thoroughly
2) Remove all foreign objects from the incubator
3) Clean the inside and outside with soapy water and cloth, drying each part quickly and thoroughly with a paper towel
4) Incubator cuffs should be changed daily and sent for sterilising

Maintenance of the incubator
1) The incubator must be inspected and overhauled by a qualified technician twice a year according to the maintenance programme of the institution
2) Check if incubator filter requires changing and change every three months. Ensure date of next change is clearly visible
3) Ensure that incubator is switched on and set to 36°C even when not in use