

Specification for

Pneumatic tourniquet equipment

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Committees responsible for this British Standard

The preparation of this British Standard was entrusted by the Health Care Standards Policy Committee (HCC/-) to Technical Committee HCC/12, upon which the following bodies were represented:

- Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland
- British Orthopaedic Association
- British Surgical Trades' Association Incorporated
- Casualty Surgeons' Association
- Department of Health
- Scottish Health Services

This British Standard, having been prepared under the direction of the Health Care Standards Policy Committee, was published under the authority of the Board of BSI and comes into effect on 30 June 1989

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Contents

	Page
Committees responsible	Inside front cover
Foreword	ii
1 Scope	1
2 Cuffs	1
3 Hoses and connectors	1
4 Pressure gauges	1
5 Elapsed time indicator	2
6 Pressure source	2
7 Cuff pressure regulation	2
8 Mobile tourniquet equipment	2
9 Marking	2
10 Accompanying documents	3
Appendix A Recommendations on distribution of pressure under the cuff	4
Appendix B Test for construction of cuffs and performance of fastenings	4
Appendix C Test for leaks from hoses and connectors	4
Appendix D Test to simulate exhaustion or interruption of the gas supply	4
Appendix E Test for indication of deflation	4
Appendix F Test for pressure compensation	4
Appendix G Stability of mobile tourniquet equipment	5
Table 1 — Internal dimensions of inflatable bag, measured when deflated	1
Table 2 — Test for distribution of pressure	4
Publications referred to	Inside back cover

Foreword

This British Standard has been prepared under the direction of the Health Care Standards Policy Committee at the request of the Scottish Health Service. It is intended to encourage the manufacture of safer tourniquet equipment.

The main use of pneumatic tourniquet equipment is to maintain a blood-free field during limb surgery. It is also, however, used extensively as part of the Biers Block technique for intravenous analgesia of the limbs where the function of the tourniquet is to isolate the analgesic from the main circulation.

Cuffs currently available have been shown to produce areas of low pressure which, if sited over a vein, facilitate the escape of anaesthetic into the blood circulation despite arterial occlusion. Attention is drawn to Appendix A of this British Standard, which recommends that manufacturers perform a test to determine the uniformity of pressure distribution on a dummy limb.

The technical committee responsible for this British Standard was unable to include this test as a requirement because of lack of test data and lack of agreement on suitable transducers. The technical committee intends, however, to carry out further studies and to convert the recommendations given in Appendix A into requirements, perhaps with modifications.

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Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i and ii, pages 1 to 6, an inside back cover and a back cover.

This standard has been updated (see copyright date) and may have had amendments incorporated. This will be indicated in the amendment table on the inside front cover.