

# CLINICAL ENGINEERING

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## Quality Assurance

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### Type III Materiel Complaints - Information Exchange

A summary of the most recent medical materiel complaints involving medical equipment is listed below. This summary is provided for information only. Please note the complaints **are not validated**. They do not constitute a recall, nor do they require you to perform the sort of inspection and reporting associated with equipment hazards. If you have experienced a similar problem locally, please submit an SF 380 in accordance with AFMAN 23-110, Vol. 5, Chap. 19. It is important that we receive documentation of equipment problems since severity and impact of a materiel defect is frequently judged by the number of separate complaints received.

Lights, Surgical, MDC 12282, AMSCO Model OTC-93, Surgical Lighting System. *Complaint:* The flexible plastic extrusions that cover the mounting track can warp or bend causing the electrical contact brushes to move away the contact strips. This results in arcing of the contact strips to the brushes, which creates burned areas on the plastic extrusions and causes the brushes and plastic brush housing to overheat. The brush housing can get hot enough to cause the power terminal inserts to slip out of the housing, eventually resulting in complete power loss to the lights. AMSCO recognizes the problem and has its engineering group working on design enhancements to solve the problem. If you are having similar problems with AMSCO surgical lights, please contact Mr. Scott King, AMSCO, at (334) 277-6660 for replacement carriage brush assemblies (part No. 56938-408). This will also put you in a

position to receive the design change when implemented. (AFMLO/FOMP, Capt David Zemkosky, DSN 343-4028)

### Mandatory Modification to Corometrics Model 116 Fetal Heart Monitor - Suggestion No. SCO960016

A suggestion to replace a component in the subject equipment which may fail after a three year or greater time period was recently received and approved. Implementation of this suggestion will prevent equipment downtime and reduce repair costs at medical treatment facilities (MTFs) utilizing the Corometrics model 116 Fetal Heart Monitor. The suggestion was submitted in response to failure of capacitors in three separate units at Scott Medical Equipment Repair Center (MERC). The component that fails is C36, a capacitor located on the CPU board. Coordination with the manufacturer revealed a circuit change was incorporated in later units...this modification applies only to units with C36 positioned with the "+" side toward the bottom edge connector (units manufactured after 1992). In this case, C36 (P/N 152080) should be replaced and reversed. Corometrics indicated they will provide the replacement capacitor free of charge. MTFs must contact Mr. Carl Rizzo, Corometrics Technical Support Department at 1-800-243-3960, extension 1260 to request replacement and verify units they intend to modify. The component replacement requires two hours completion time.

Implementation of this suggestion is mandatory for units requiring the modification. Applicability should be evaluated locally by each base. If your facility adopts this suggestion, please complete an AF Form 1000-1, Suggestion Evaluation and Transmittal, citing the suggestion number SCO960016, and forward it to the originating base suggestion program office (375 AW/MO, 102 W. Losey Street, Room 223, Scott AFB IL 62225-

5206). Information and guidance on the Air Force Suggestion Program can be found in AFI 38-401.

We commend Albert Ben Ricker Jr., Scott MERC, for this cost-saving idea. (AFMLO/FOME, TSgt Benjamin Allen, DSN 343-4039)

### **Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Recalls/Alert Notices**

**Attachment 2**, paragraph 1, provides information on FDA medical equipment recalls and alerts. Personnel from clinical engineering, biomedical equipment maintenance, quality assurance, and safety should follow the guidance provided to ensure the effective maintenance and management of medical equipment. (AFMLO/FOMP, Capt David Zemkosky, DSN 343-4028)

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## **Medical Equipment Management**

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### **Shared Procurement Equipment Items Currently Available**

AFMLL 10-96, Attachment 1, pages 1 and 2, contains a list of all current Shared Procurement contracts and optional contracts available through the Defense Personnel Support Center (DPSC). If you plan to order any of these items for your facility, use the specific ordering instructions and overall program guidance contained in AFMLL 4-96, pages CE-4 and CE-5. (AFMLO/FOMP, Capt David Zemkosky, DSN 343-4028)

### **“Piggyback” Contracts Currently Available**

AFMLL 08-96, Attachment 1, pages 1 and 2, contains a list of all current “piggyback” contracts currently available through DPSC. These contracts will allow facilities to “piggyback” requirements onto existing orders placed for specific quantities. Many of these contracts are designed to buy large quantities at reduced prices, and are written with the option of buying additional quantities at the same price. The list includes available quantities and “Order By” dates. To order, send your requisitions to DPSC (using the MILSTRIP process), Attn: Mr. J. Gallagher/DPSC-MQA, and reference the contract number (from the listing) in the notes section. (AFMLO/FOMP, Capt David Zemkosky, DSN 343-4028)

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