

ENGINEERING, FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

Biomedical Equipment Maintenance



Dental Delivery System Shared Procurement Contract

The DEN-TAL-EZ dental delivery system on shared procurement is currently being evaluated by Dental Investigative Services (DIS). DIS has determined that even though all three components are individually UL listed, when assembled as a system, they fail to provide an adequate ground in accordance with NFPA 99 and UL 544. Although remote, the present configuration presents a potential shock hazard to the operator and/or patient.

DEN-TAL-EZ has voluntarily initiated the following corrective actions:

- Installing a grounding strap and modifying the power cord plugs so the unit and chair can be plugged into the same electrical outlet for all systems subsequently manufactured for federal services.

- Notifying current users of affected systems of the potential hazards and corrective action planned.

- Installing grounding straps and modified plugs no later than 2 Dec 96.

- Inserting into the installation instructions, a cautionary statement warning that the chair and unit must not be plugged into different power outlets.

- Providing written documentation of the completion of the corrective actions.

Using activities are reminded that shared procurement contracts are mandatory sources of supply. Waivers for exemption from participation in shared procurement must be sent to the MAJCOM and AFMLO/FOM-P. (AFMLO/FOM-P, Capt David J. Zemkosky, DSN 343-4028)

Medical Technology Management Conference

The 12th National Conference on Medical Technology Management (MTM) will be held in the Chicago area from 4-6 Dec 96. The conference will include a visit to the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA) Vendor Exhibition at McCormick Plaza. The RSNA is the world's largest exhibition on imaging equipment in the world. The MTM conference represents an excellent opportunity for Biomedical Equipment Technicians and Clinical Engineers to see the latest imaging equipment available. The conference will offer focused educational sessions emphasizing new management techniques within changing health care delivery structures as well as advances in technology, compliance on regulatory issues, and expanding operational responsibilities. For personnel arriving at the conference a day early, General Electric will provide a free tour of their tube and CT manufacturing facilities and education center on 3 Dec 96. This conference is designed for Clinical Engineers, BMETs, and Facility Managers involved in purchasing, installing, or servicing of medical equipment. Cost for military members to attend is \$495 for full registration (includes GE tours & RSNA trip) and \$445 for two-day educational sessions only (5-6 Dec 96). These costs must be funded locally. Please contact AFMLO/FOM for further information. (AFMLO/FOM-P, Capt David J. Zemkosky, DSN 343-4028)

Calibration of Collimators

Calibration of Collimators was a big topic at the Medical Equipment Repair Center (MERC) conference in Sep 96. Air Force Instruction (AFI)

41-201 states collimator calibration is the responsibility of both the local Bioenvironmental Medical Equipment Technician (BMET) and the MERC. Collimators should be calibrated and repaired by the local BMET prior to arrival of the MERC team at your facility. During the technical visit, the MERC team will perform a collimation checkout and accomplish appropriate calibration computer forms to indicate calibration is within compliance. Collimators out of calibration will be adjusted by the local BMET and the MERC team before departure from the facility. There will be no collimator uncalibrated after completion of the MERC team visit. Questions should be addressed to Chief Christian. (AFMLO/FOM-E, CMSgt Al Christian, DSN 343-4040)

Career Advisor's Corner

Call for Instructors

There will soon be a need for committed, willing non-commissioned officers (NCOs) for instructor duty. The current requirements are primarily for SSgts and TSgts with at least an associate's degree. Anyone who desires to help the career field during this critical time is encouraged to apply. Instructor duty at Sheppard AFB TX not only enhances your technical background, but also provides excellent opportunities for civilian education and professional growth. Information on AETC Technical Instructor duty is available in the Special Category Guide located in your local Military Personnel Flight (MPF) office (previously Consolidated Base Personnel Office (CBPO)). Interested personnel are encouraged to contact Capt Frederick Weaver at the 384th Training Squadron (TRS/HTSR), Sheppard AFB TX, DSN 736-4009/4010, or AFMLO for more details. (AFMLO/FOM-E, CMSgt Al Christian, DSN 343-4040)

Career Development Courses (CDCs)

Numerous inquiries have been received as to who has to complete the B version of the CDCs. Personnel who started upgrade training after 1 Jun 96 must complete both the A and B version of the CDC. The "B" version was not released for printing until May 96. Individuals in the upgrade training and had completed the "A" version CDC set prior to 1 Jun 96 must be upgraded as soon as possible. These personnel will not be required to complete the "B" set of CDCs. If you have problems or concerns on CDC completion and upgrade requirements call Chief Christian at DSN 343-4040. (AFMLO/FOM-E, CMSgt Al Christian, DSN 343-4040)

Quality Assurance

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/FOM-P, Capt David Zemkosky, DSN 343-4028)

**Safety Alert --
Defibrillator/Monitor, MDC 11128, First
Medic 710 Semiautomatic Defibrillators,
Physio-Control Corp.**

Reference ECRI *Health Devices Alerts* Number 1996-A41, 11 Oct 96, Accession No. A3128. ECRI reports that Physio-Control has identified a power supply line in the First Medic 3-lead ECG/Sync Modules that has excessive noise characteristics that may cause the defibrillator charge cycle to be interrupted, or the loss of all ECG information displayed on the screen. Physio-Control initiated a recall of the modules by letter in Sep 96, informing customers replacement modules would be issued in the near future. Physio-Control states only the modules are affected and not the First Medic 710 defibrillators. Using activities should verify receipt of the Sep 96 letter from Physio-Control. The firm states the module may continue to be used until a replacement product is received. If using the module and the defib charge cycle is interrupted or ECG data is lost from the screen, turn the unit off briefly and then reinitiate power. The unit should operate normally when powered back on. If it does not, turn the unit off, remove the 3-lead module and power the unit back on. For additional information, U.S. customers should contact Physio-Control Technical Support at (800) 442-1142; customers outside the U.S. should contact their local Physio-Control representative.

**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 inspection and reporting associated with equipment hazards. If a similar problem is experienced locally, submit an SF 380 in accordance with AFMAN 23-110, Vol. 5, Chap.

19. It is vital documentation of equipment problems are received since severity and impact of a materiel defect is frequently judged by the number of separate complaints received.

**Sterilizer, Steris, System 1,
Model 89A1, STERIS Corporation**

An activity reports loss of characters being printed during use. The activity believes the problem is caused by water dripping on a CPU board or printer paper during filter changes. The activity believes the manufacturer's design regarding the location of the filter to nearby CPU boards and printer paper is poor and filter changing procedures are unreasonable and cannot be followed 100 percent of the time because of the amount of water in the filter (if accidentally spilled) could soak through the prescribed towels that are to be placed over the microcomputer housing and paper roll.

Medical Equipment Management

Shared Procurement Equipment Items Currently Available

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/FOM-P, Capt David Zemkosky, DSN 343-4028)

“Piggyback” Contracts Currently Available

AFMLL 16-96, Attachment 1, pages 4 and 5, 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 MILSTRIP requisitions to DPSC, and reference the contract number (from the listing) in the notes section. (AFMLO/FOM-P, Capt David Zemkosky, DSN 343-4028)

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