

Water-retention capacity Types 1 and 3, not less than 15.0 g, Appendix XX T. Type 2, not less than 9.0 g, Appendix XX T.

Weight per unit area Types 1 and 3, not less than 150 g m⁻², Appendix XX D1, Method III. Type 2, not less than 132 g m⁻², Appendix XX D1, Method III.

Fluorescence When examined under ultraviolet light (365 nm) the dressing may display not more than a slight brownish violet fluorescence and a few yellow particles. Not more than a few isolated fibres show an intense blue fluorescence.

Sterility Complies with the *test for sterility*, Appendix XVI A.

Labelling The label on the package states whether the dressing is Type 1, Type 2 or Type 3 Perforated Film Absorbent Dressing.

Permeable Plastic Wound Dressing

Definition Permeable Plastic Wound Dressing consists of an absorbent pad attached to a piece of permeable plastic adhesive tape so that a suitable adhesive margin is left. The pad and adhesive margin are covered with a suitable protector which, when removed, does not detach the pad from the tape.

The pad may be impregnated with a suitable antiseptic, as specified in the general requirements for Surgical Dressings. It may be dyed with a suitable yellow dye.

The tape consists of an extensible perforated plastic film spread evenly with an adhesive mass. The perforations are regularly distributed. The tape is permeable to water vapour and air. The film may be coloured with a suitable pigment.

Assembly; Dimensions of adhesive margin The pad is substantially the same shape as the dressing, attached as centrally as possible to the tape, leaving an adhesive margin of not less than 5 mm or not less than 15% of the overall dimensions, whichever is the greater. The width of the margin on any one side is not less than half the width of the margin on the opposite side. Rectangular dressings may have an adhesive margin of not less than 1.5 mm on each of one pair of opposite sides provided that the adhesive margin on each of the other two sides is at least 25% of the overall dimension of the dressing in that direction.

The corners of the dressing may be trimmed; any such trimming is disregarded when defining the shape and dimensions of the dressing.

Tape

Adhesiveness Complies with the tests, Appendix XX H.

Extensibility Complies with the test, Appendix XX G.

Perforations Diameter, not more than 1 mm; area, not more than 20% of the total area of the film.

Water-vapour permeability Not less than 500 g m⁻² per 24 hours, Appendix XX J1.

Weight of adhesive mass Not less than 25 g m⁻², Appendix XX D3, using Method III of Appendix XX D2.

Weight of film Not less than 60 g m⁻², Appendix XX D2, Method III.

Absorbent pad

Content of antiseptic If present, complies with the appropriate requirement, Appendix XX P.

Dimensions Not less than 33% of the overall dimensions of the dressing.

Weight per unit area Not less than 34 g m⁻², Appendix XX D1, Method II.

Labelling The label on the unit container, the label on the shelf container and the label on the outer transit container state, where applicable, that the pad has been dyed.

Polyurethane Foam Dressing

Definition Polyurethane Foam Dressing is an absorbent foam dressing of low adherence.

The dressing is supplied sterile in sheets of appropriate size.

Characteristics A light, pale yellow foam, heat treated to a smooth hydrophilic layer on one side with a hydrophobic foam on the reverse.

Identification The *infrared reflectance spectrum*, Appendix II A, is concordant with the *reference spectrum* of polyurethane (form A).

Absorbency Weigh a sample of dimensions 5 cm × 5 cm and immerse in *water* for 1 hour; a weight may be attached below the sample to ensure that it remains wholly immersed during this period. Remove the sample, allow to drain freely without compression at an angle of 45° for 5 minutes and reweigh. The increase in weight is not less than 7.5 times the initial weight.

Acidity or alkalinity To 15 g add 150 ml of *water*, macerate for 2 hours in a closed vessel, decant the liquid, carefully squeezing out the residual liquid with a glass rod, mix and filter. To 25 ml of the filtered extract add 0.1 ml of *phenolphthalein solution*; to another 25 ml add 0.05 ml of *methyl orange solution*. Neither solution shows a pink colour.

Water-vapour permeability Not less than 1500 g m⁻² per 24 hours, Appendix XX J2.

Weight per unit area 315 to 395 g m⁻², Appendix XX D1, Method II.

Extractable tin Not more than 6 ppm of Sn when determined by the following method. To 5 g, previously cut into pieces not more than 50 mg in weight, add 50 ml of a 0.9% w/v solution of *sodium chloride* and shake for 4 hours. Filter and determine by *atomic absorption spectrophotometry*, Appendix II D, measuring at 224.6 nm and using a nitrous oxide—acetylene flame.

Water-soluble substances Not more than 1.0%, Appendix XX M.

Sterility Complies with the *test for sterility*, Appendix XVI A.