



For GE equipment



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AMSORB® Plus

CO₂ Absorbent

AMSORB[°] Plus – absorbs carbon dioxide (CO₂) from cellular respiration during anaesthesia. Unlike other absorbents it is not capable of degrading vapourous anaesthetic agent. Use of AMSORB[°] Plus is supported by an extensive bibliography in peer-reviewed journals.

How AMSORB® Plus Works

The primary reaction is between CO_2 and calcium hydroxide $(Ca(OH)_2)$ and water. These form calcium carbonate $(CaCO_3)$ and water. Exothermic heat is a by-product of absorption. During absorption, $Ca(OH)_2$ is continually re-moistened until converted to $CaCO_3$. Lesser chemicals, calcium chloride $(CaCl_2)$ and calcium sulphate $(CaSO_4)$ prolong the life of $Ca(OH)_2$ and increase the speed of absorption reaction by maintaining granule strength and optimising hydration.

Chemical Reaction of Absorption

Ca(OH) ₂ +	- CO ₂	CaCO ₃	+	H ₂ O
Slightly solu	ble	Insoluble	0	

 ${\rm Ca(OH)}_{_2}$ is an ionic compound which is soluble in water at 0.5g.L at 20°C

- The ions are Ca⁺⁺ and OH⁻ OH⁻
- CO₂ is soluble in water at 1 vol : 1 vol at 20°C
- \bullet CaCO_{_3} is an insoluble ionic compound Ca^{++} and CO_{_3}^{^{--}}
- Reactions take place in solution when particles are mobile and react on collision

A colour indicator is present, changing from WHITE (fresh) to VIOLET upon exhaustion or desiccation. The

indicator reacts to changes in granule hydration as absorption progresses; eventually remaining violetcoloured, once absorption is complete. Colouration also results from contact with ambient air or oxygen, if exposed to these.

Medico-Legal Implications

Carbon monoxide (CO) is produced when passing sevoflurane, isoflurane and desflurane through certain brands of desiccated absorbent. CO is a potentially deadly toxin which users must ensure is not administered to patients, as carboxyhaemoglobin increases can trigger myocardial infarction or cause neurotoxicity in young or anaemic patients.

AMSORB[®] Plus DOES NOT PRODUCE CO

• Formaldehyde (HCOH) is produced when passing sevoflurane through certain brands of desiccated absorbent . HCOH is a potent inhalation irritant and carcinogen and should never be administered to patients. PONV is caused by HCOH inhalation.

AMSORB[®] Plus DOES NOT PRODUCE HCOH

• **Compound A** is produced when passing sevoflurane through certain brands of fresh or desiccated absorbent. Compound A has been proven to be nephro- and hepatotoxic in rats. Its effect in humans has not been established.

AMSORB[®] Plus DOES NOT PRODUCE COMPOUND A

Coppens et al. The mechanisms of carbon monoxide production by inhalational agents. Anaesthesia 2006; vol. 61; pp. 462-468

Keijzer C et al. Carbon monoxide production from desflurane and six types of carbon dioxide absorbents in a patient model. Acta Anaesthesiologica Scandinavica 2005; vol. 49; pp. 815-818

Knolle E et al. Small Carbon Monoxide Formation in Absorbents Does Not Correlate with Small Carbon Dioxide Absorption. Anesthesia & Analgesia 2002; vol. 95; pp650-655

Bedi A et al. The in vitro performance of carbon dioxide absorbents with and without strong alkali. Anaesthesia 2001; vol. 56; pp. 1-6

Yamakage M et al. Carbon Dioxide Absorbents Containing Potassium Hydroxide Produce Much Larger Concentrations of Compound A from Sevoflurane in Clinical Practice. Anesthesia & Analgesia 2000; vol. 91; pp220-224

Product Range



G-CAN® absorber

GE Part number : 2105489-003 1.0 L /canister - Box/8 Disposable Use with Aisys™, Avance™, Aespire™, ADU and 9100c variants



PREFILLED CARTRIDGE

GE Part number : 2105489-004 1.2 L - Box/12 Disposable Use with All Aestiva™ variants



JERICAN

GE Part number : 2105489-007 5.0 L - box/2 Disposable Use with GE reusable canisters

Use of AMSORB® Plus DOES NOT require approval of the anaesthesia machine manufacturer

Colour Change

Colour Change

AMSORB[®] Plus colour indicator reacts strongly and quickly to the dehydrating effects of CO_2 absorption or contact with anhydrous gas, such as oxygen. Whilst the colour change is an indication of the hydrated state and remaining capacity, depletion of the absorbent should be determined by capnometry and the absorbent changed when FiCO₂ has exceeded 0.5% volume or 5mmHg.

In the case of NaOH-containing (sodium hydroxide)

absorbents, colouration reverts to white when contact with CO_2 ceases, often after a few hours of non-use. This is due to the strongly alkaline nature of NaOH in soda lime. Desiccation of soda lime through contact with anhydrous gas or moisture loss through exposure to ambient air DOES NOT trigger the colour indicator in soda lime and the soda lime can be desiccated but coloured white, thus appearing fresh and safe for clinical use. Soda lime is potentially dangerous to use when desiccated, as CO_2 absorption may continue.

CO, Breakthrough **Breakthrough Curve** 0.5% 4% -0.4% 6% H₂O dolourdhanc 0.3% 8% 0.2% 10% 12% 0.1% Start Fresh 14% 0% Time In Minutes (Hours) (6.5) 570 (9.5) 390

Fresh Gas Flow 0.5L.min

Method: *in vitro* patient model. 1.0kg AMSORB[®] Plus. Tidal volume 500mL, respiratory rate 12 breaths per minute, fresh gas flow 500mL.min. O_{2^2} 250mL. min. CO_2 added to expiratory limb. Colour change is permanent at the time of CO_2 breakthrough to 0.5% volume and remains provided the granules are not subsequently rehydrated. Not all granules will change colour.

AvanceTM

Use until FiCO₂ exceeds 5mmHg, then exchange canister mid-case.

Aestiva™

Use until top canister shows total colour change then exchange both canisters between cases.



AMSORB[®] Plus is NOT the same as soda lime.

No production of CO or Compound A (even when desiccated). Low flow and closed-circuit techniques are safer, even with sevoflurane.

Discard as non-hazardous waste. AMSORB[®] Plus exhausted pH <12.5, is safe for landfill and breaks down to harmless inorganic compounds.



Ca(OH),	Calcium hydroxide	77 - 88%	
CaSO, •0.5 H, O	Calcium sulphate hemihydrate	e 0.6 - 1.5%	
4	Calcium chloride	2.0 - 3.5%	
	Colour indicator	Trace	
	H ₂ O	10 - 18%	
Product Name	Product Brand	Duration (min)	CO ₂ Absorption (L.kg)
AMSORB®Plus	Armstrong Medical	290	145
Drägersorb Free	Dräger Medical	300	150
Sodasorb	WR Grace	295	148
Drägersorb 800+	Dräger Medical	290	145
Sofnolime	Molecular Products	290	145
Carbolime	Allied Healthcare	275	138
Sodasorb LF	WR Grace	270	135
Medisorb	GE Healthcare	268	134
Spherasorb	Intersurgical	250	125
LoFloSorb	Intersurgical	150	75

Composition of Absorbents

Product Name	Brand	NaOH*	Silicates	Other Additives	Permanent Colour Change	Agel Carbon Monoxide (CO)	Agent Degradation** on Compound A Formalde oxide	: Degradation** Compound A Formaldehyde
AMSORB [®] Plus	Armstrong Medical	%0		<3% calcium chloride (CaCl ₃)	YES	NO	Q	N
Drägersorb Free	Dräger Medical	0.5-2%		<3% calcium chloride	NO	insufficier	insufficient evidence available	available
Sodasorb	WR Grace	3.7%			ON	Yes	Yes	Yes
Drägersorb 800+	Dräger Medical	1-3%			NO	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sofnolime	Molecular Products	<3.5%			ON	Yes	Yes	Yes
Carbolime	Allied Healthcare	3%			ON	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sodasorb LF	WR Grace	<1%	1% quartz	trace phosphonic acid	ON	insufficier	insufficient evidence available	available
Medisorb	GE Healthcare	<3.5%			ON	Yes	Yes	Yes
Spherasorb	Intersurgical	1.3%	4% zeolite		NO	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sodalime	Carlo Erba	>3.5%			ON	Yes	Yes	Yes
LoFloSorb	Intersurgical	%0	6.5% silica		NO	Yes	insufficient	insufficient evidence available

Composition of Absorbents

(u	205	217						
oit kg		(186)						
، (۲ مدل	(155)		146					
osc Vti								-
IA Dec				107	121	126		
de ² 03							73	
)								
Product Name	AMSORB [®] Plus	Drägersorb Free	Drägersorb Free Drägersorb 800+ Medisorb	Medisorb	Sodasorb	Intersorb Plus	LoFloSorb	Sph
Brand	Armstrong	Dräger	Dräger	GE Healthcare	WR Grace	Intersurgical	Intersurgical	Inte
Publication	Kobayashi, 2004	Kobayashi, 2004 Knolle, 2002		Higuchi, 2001	Higuchi, 2001	Knolle, 2002	Knolle, 2002	Kno
	(Struys, 2004))	_		_

tersurgical

herasorb

nolle, 2002

CO₂ Absorption Capacity

Kobayashi S et al. Journal of Anesthesia 2004; vol. 18;pp277-281 Knolle E et al. Anesthesia & Analgesia 2002; vol. 95; pp650-655 Struys MMRF et al. Anaesthesia 2004; vol. 59; pp584-589 Higuchi et al. Anesthesia & Analgesia 2000; vol. 91; pp434-439

Gas Toxicity

CO Production

Review of independently published scientific literature for CO production of respective absorbent brands

σ					13,317		
m) ate							9,045
) (ppm) esiccated ent						8,000	
Des Des		620					
			548	525			
Peak from Abso	0						
Product	AMSORB [®] Plus	Drägersorb 800+	Intersorb Plus	LoFloSorb	Medisorb	Sodasorb	Spherasorb
Brand	Armstrong	Dräger	Intersurgical	Intersurgical	GE Healthcare	WR Grace	Intersurgical
Publication	Struys, 2004	Knolle, 2002	Knolle, 2002	Keijzer, 2005	Keijzer, 2005	Fang, 1995	Keijzer, 2005

Struys MMRF et al. Anaesthesia 2004; vol. 59; pp. 584-589 Knolle E et al. Anesthesia & Analgesia 2002; vol. 95; pp. 650-655 Keijzer C et al. Acta Anaesthesiologica Scandinavica 2005; vol. 49; pp. 815-818 Fang ZX et al. Anesthesia and Analgesia 1995; vol. 80(6); pp. 1187-1193

Agent Degradation



Bedi A et al. The in vitro performance of carbon dioxide absorbents with and without strong alkali. Anaesthesia 2001; vol. 56; pp. 1-6

Agent Adsorption

Agent Adsorption - Patient Awareness

Anaesthetic vapour condenses on desiccated soda lime and on new generation absorbents containing molecular sieve zeolites, quartz or silica. This process, called adsorption, temporarily binds anaesthetic vapour within the absorbent. Knolle (2002) reported adsorption using LoFloSorb (Intersurgical, UK) of 89% of the inflow of 0.5% isoflurane for over 60 minutes, in combination with production of CO. Adsorption is characterised by condensing and accumulation of the vapourised agent on the absorbent granules and re-vapourisation of the agent when canister temperature rises during CO₂ absorption; creating potential for reduced narcosis or blood toxicity from excessive drug exposure. This effect is greater at low fresh gas flow rates and when soda limes and LoFloSorb are used.

Clinical signs of adsorption will include inspired concentrations of the anaesthetic agent being different to the vapouriser setting. Recollection, by the patient of the surgical event or pain during surgery is possible,



given inadequate anaesthesia. Use of muscle relaxants could mask a patient's response to surgical stimuli, allowing patient awareness to go unchecked. Also, the cost of adsorption of vapour into the absorbent should be considered when choosing a brand of absorbent.

by s)				89% for >60 min	
- <u>-</u>					50% for 33 mins
oflu d t (%					
orptic 5% is ccate			31% for 20 mins		
Adsor of 0.5 ⁶ desicc absorl		26% for 16 mins			
Adsc of 0. [.] desic abso	20% for 15 mins				
Product	AMSORB Plus	Drägersorb 800+	Intersorb Plus	LoFloSorb	Spherasorb
Brand	Armstrong	Dräger	Intersurgical	Intersurgical	Intersurgical

Adsorption of Anaesthetic Vapour

PublicationKnolle E et al. Small Carbon Monoxide Formation in Absorbents Does Not Correlate with Small
Carbon Dioxide Absorption. Anesthesia & Analgesia 2002; vol. 95; pp650-655

Cost of Adsorption

 $T \times FGF \times V_s$ = volume of vapour per time unit

 $200.0 \text{ molecular weight at } 20^{\circ}\text{C}$ = ml of liquid sevoflurane per time unit

	V	apour loss	as 50%		E	quals
Time unit (min)	FGF (mL.min)	Vapouriser (%)	Vapour loss (%)	Molecular weight (g.mol) at 20°C at Vp 157mmHg	Liquid loss (mL)	cost per time unit at \$0.60/mL
40	500	8	50	200.055	4.00	\$2.40

Alkalinity of Soda Lime

NaOH Concentration Increases as Soda Lime Desiccates

Exponential increases in alkalinity triggers degradation of anaesthetic vapour to toxic inhalants.

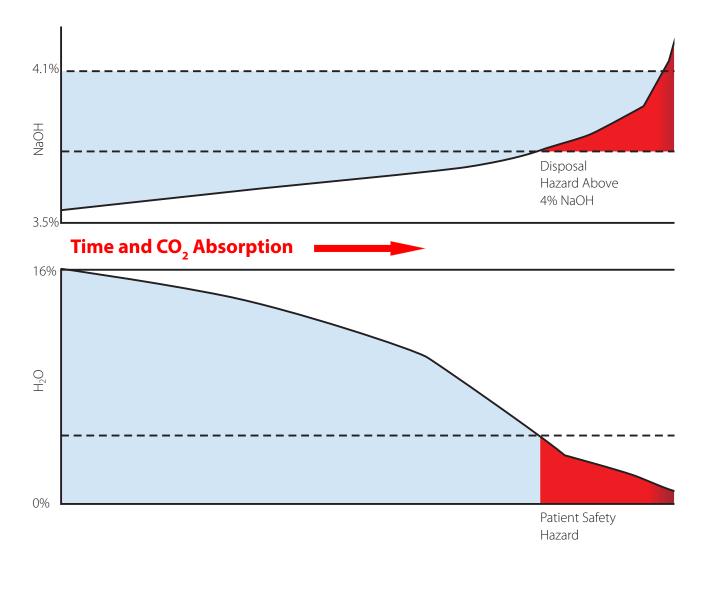
Safe disposal of soda lime must take account of increases in alkalinity brought about by desiccation.

Manufacturers of absorbents cannot declare the pH of their material at any stage, as determination of pH requires the absorbent sample to be converted to a solution. Adding water to a sample of soda lime allows NaOH and NaCO₃ to dissolve in water, thus lowering the alkalinity of the material to provide a misleading pH value. A declaration of pH for disposal of soda lime is inaccurate as it does not reflect the actual pH of the material. In some jurisdictions, alkalinity above certain thresholds requires special disposal methods to comply with environmental legislation.

AMSORB[®] Plus is free from strong base chemicals and therefore cannot become strongly alkaline. Disposal is with non-contaminated clinical waste for landfill.

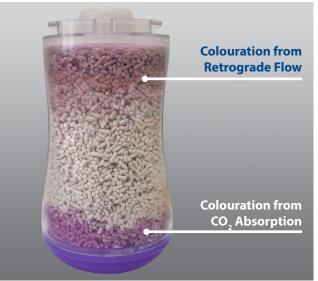
Alkalinity Increases as Moisture Decreases

Progressive dehydration causes a 5-fold increase in the alkalinity of soda lime.



Desiccation

Retrograde Flow in Absorbents



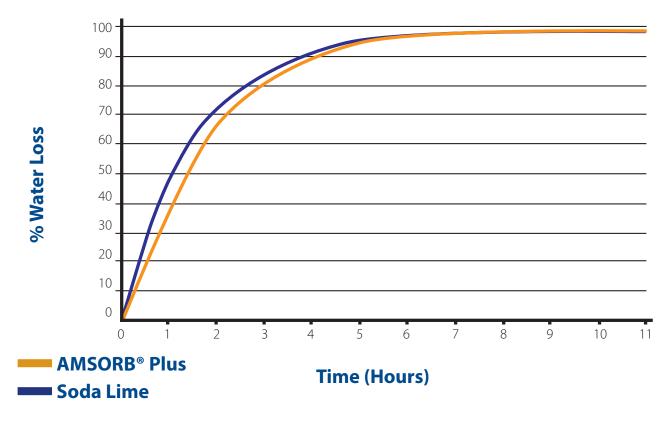
Gas flow desiccates all absorbents. Retrograde flow occurs when fresh gas flow is left running during nonuse of an anaesthetic machine. Gas may pass over the top of the absorbent canister and desiccate the absorbent. In subsequent use of some absorbents, degradation of the anaesthetic agent may occur in conjunction with agent adsorption. NaOH-containing absorbents will NOT change colour during gas flow desiccation. Instead they remain white but may be desiccated. Desiccated soda lime may absorb CO₂.

Colouration of AMSORB[®] Plus confirms desiccation. Desiccated AMSORB[®] Plus will not absorb CO₂. To avoid retrograde flow, fresh gas flow should be turned off during periods of non-use of the anaesthetic machine.

AMSORB® PLUS BUBBLE-CAN® UNIVERSAL

AMSORB® PLUS Rate of Dehydration

Moisture retention from passing 1.0L.min. O_2 through 1.0kg of fresh AMSORB[®] Plus and fresh soda lime. AMSORB[®] Plus compares favourably to other absorbents in resisting moisture loss.



Background

Benefits of Prefilled Canisters

Prefilled canisters containing AMSORB[®] Plus offer convenience and user safety. They facilitate rapid 'switch-out' of exhausted material without interruption to mechanical ventilation. CO₂ accumulation in the breathing circuit can be avoided.

Absorbent Heat

Absorption of CO₂ by AMSORB[®] Plus produces heat. The amount of heat depends on rate of respiration, fresh gas flow rate and the shape and volume of the absorber canister. An increase in gas temperature does not reduce the efficiency of the reaction; in most cases it improves it. A peak temperature of 45°C may be observed with AMSORB[®] Plus. Such temperature has a positive effect on maintenance of core body temperature and mucocilliary function during surgery.

Clinical reports show use of sevoflurane, in combination with certain desiccated absorbents, creates conditions for anaesthetic agent degradation to flammable byproducts CO and HCOH as a precursor to extreme heat leading to fire in the absorber canister. Struys *et al* reported that temperatures within an absorber canister of fresh or desiccated AMSORB[®] Plus did not exceed 40°C. Additionally, end-users have not reported elevated temperatures, nor have extensive in-house tests shown increased temperatures under any conditions. It logically follows that the chemical basis and sequelae for elevated temperature or fire is not possible when using AMSORB[®] Plus, given its chemical make-up and inability to degrade anaesthetic vapour.

Humidity Management in Breathing Circuits

Condensed water observed in the breathing system may originate from moisture in the patient's breath and from water produced by the exothermic reaction of absorption of CO_2 . It may evaporate as the canister heats up and may condense on cooler parts of the apparatus. This is normal. A water trap can be used in the breathing circuit to collect water condensate. Alternatively, there may be a drainable water collection sump located on the absorber canister. This should be drained regularly.

Woehlck HJ. Sleeping with Uncertainty : Anesthetics and Desiccated Absorbent. Anesthesiology 2004; vol. 101; pp. 276-278

Laster M et al. Fires from the Interaction of Anesthetics with Desiccated Absorbent. Anesth Analg 2004; vol. 99; pp. 769-774

Junzheng WU et al. Spontaneous Ignition, Explosion, and Fire with Sevoflurane and Barium Hydroxide Lime. Anesthesiology 2004; vol.101; pp. 534-537

Holak E J et al. Carbon Monoxide Production from Sevoflurane Breakdown: Modeling of Exposures Under Clinical Conditions. Anesthesia & Analgesia 2003; vol. 96: pp. 757-764

Struys MMRF et al. Production of compound A and carbon monoxide in circle systems: an in vitro comparison of two carbon dioxide absorbents. Anaesthesia 2004; vol. 59; pp. 584-589

Castro BA et al. Explosion within an Anesthesia Machine: Baralyme[®], High Fresh Gas Flows and Sevoflurane Concentration. Anesthesiology 2004; vol.101; pp. 537-539

Fatheree RS et al. Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome after and Exothermic Baralyme[®]-Sevoflurane Reaction. Anesthesiology 2004; vol.101; pp. 531-533

Background

AMSORB® Plus and Bacteriostasis

Digestive enzymes of bacterial organisms such as MRSA and VRE are known to be susceptible to neutralisation by alkaline solutions. The weakly alkaline composition of AMSORB® Plus provides an inhospitable environment for such organisms. Use of a breathing filter at the patient-end of a breathing circuit is a useful adjunct in protecting patients from respiratory-borne infection. These filters provide a sufficient level of protection against infectious liquid- and air-borne organisms such as HIV, MRSA and VRE, as such organisms are more likely to be found in the tubing system, connecting the patient to the absorber system, than in the absorber itself. If AMSORB[®] Plus is intended to be used on a patient known to be infected with a contagious organism, the absorbent canister should be replaced before and after such use.

Disposal Considerations

Dispose of AMSORB® Plus as per the hospital's waste management programme for non-contaminated clinical waste. The material is safe to handle during its disposal. Unlike soda limes, AMSORB® Plus does not contain strong base chemicals. Therefore, the material is non-hazardous, making it suitable for landfill. It will break down into harmless compounds.

Storage Requirements

AMSORB[®] Plus does not deteriorate in storage when in sealed containers at ambient humidity between 5-40°C. If exposed to ambient air it will absorb CO₂ and lose moisture to the air; either of which will deplete hydration and cause colouration to appear. Prefilled canisters should be kept within outer box packaging until use as light can damage the colour indicator.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the advantages of using AMSORB® Plus over other available absorbents?

- Does not generate CO under any clinical conditions; does not generate Compound A or any like compounds when used with sevoflurane; does not generate HCOH or methanol when used with sevoflurane
- Irreversible colour change, when fully exhausted; optimum CO₂ absorption; low resistance to gas flow; low dust levels with consistent granule size
- Non-corrosive to skin.

What anaesthetic agents can be used with AMSORB[®] Plus?

AMSORB® Plus can be used safely with anaesthetic agents halothane, enflurane, isoflurane, desflurane and sevoflurane. No fresh gas flow restrictions apply.

Does AMSORB[®] Plus adsorb anaesthetic vapour?

Completely desiccated AMSORB[®] Plus has least ability to adsorb anaesthetic vapour when compared to other absorbents (Knolle, 2002). Note that desiccated AMSORB[®] Plus is incapable of absorbing CO₂ and therefore will not be in clinical use.

When to cease using AMSORB® Plus?

This is determined by capnometry. The absorbent is changed when $FiCO_2$ has exceeded 0.5% volume or 5mmHg. CO_2 breakthrough to 0.5% volume or 5mmHg may be associated with colouration of 50% of the total height of the absorber canister.

Why does utilisation time vary?

Utilisation time is influenced by the following factors:

- Fresh gas flow rate; metabolic CO₂ production; tidal volume; respiratory rate
- Shape and volume of the absorber canister and design of breathing circuit
- Humidification management in the breathing circuit.

Sometimes exhaustion is indicated by physiological signs or capnometry before the colour changes - why is this?

It may be that the apparatus is not working properly or is incorrectly assembled. There may be channeling of gases through the middle of the absorber canister. Condensed water may be interfering with the composition of sampled gases. Absorbent granules may have absorbed water which is preventing CO₂ absorption.

Should water be added to AMSORB® Plus?

This should NEVER be done.

What is the cause of water condensation in the breathing circuit?

This may originate from moisture in the patient's breath and from water produced by the exothermic reaction of absorption of CO_2 . It may evaporate as the canister heats up and may condense on cooler parts of the apparatus.

What makes AMSORB[®] Plus heat up? Does this mean the granules are not working?

The reaction whereby CO_2 is absorbed is exothermic (heat is spontaneously generated from the chemical reaction). The amount of heat depends on rate of respiration, fresh gas flow rate and the shape and volume of the absorber canister.



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Armstrong Medical manufacture a complete range of disposable respiratory products for anaesthesia and critical care applications. For supply of these products or any product within the Armstrong Medical range, please contact your local representative.