

AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND COLLEGE OF ANAESTHETISTS

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MINIMUM SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR ANAESTHETIC MACHINES FOR CLINICAL PRACTICE

Review T3 (2008)

Key points:

1.3 The general intent of this document is that all Anaesthetic machines in clinical use should comply with Australian/New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 3200.2.13:2005 "Medical electrical equipment - Particular requirements for safety - Anaesthetic systems" and other relevant national standards by 1st January 2011.

2.2.2 Anaesthetic machines that meet all of the essential safety requirements of section 3 but fail to comply with one or more of the relative safety requirements of section 4.

Action: Anaesthetic machines in this category should enter an update or replacement process for which planning should start immediately. By 1 January 2011, all Anaesthetic machines in this category must either have been upgraded to comply with all the safety requirements of this document or have been removed from clinical use.

4. RELATIVE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

4.1 An airway pressure alarm that responds to sustained positive pressure in the breathing system must be present.

4.2 The emergency oxygen flush control must be protected from accidental activation.

4.3 An "on/off" switch, if present, must be protected from unintended activation.

4.4 If an immediate return to normal operation is not possible, turning "off" an Anaesthetic

machine should either require a confirmatory step or the machine should display a warning (for a period of at least 10 seconds) that it is going to turn off and provide an option to cancel this action.

4.5 If the Anaesthetic machine requires electrical power for normal operation, a backup power supply must be a part of the machine and permit normal operation for at least 30 minutes after a mains power supply failure. An alarm must be activated at the time of the mains failure, and the state of the reserve power supply must be indicated while it is in use.

4.6 An airway pressure alarm should be provided in response to high peak pressure and negative pressure