



# New Zealand **Anaesthetic Technicians' Society**

## **Machine OSCE's Introduction of a Checklist**

In 2012 the NZATS Executive reviewed the Registration Exam processes and content. It was agreed that a checklist should be introduced for use in the machine OSCE stations.

The rationale for this change is that current research strongly recommends critical equipment safety tests are accompanied by use of a simple checklist, rather than reliance on memory. We believe this should be reflected in the examination to ensure best practice is both taught and adhered to. In addition to this, the introduction of checklists for each machine OSCE will mean that the trainee can check they have completed all relevant tests and inform the examiners when they are satisfied. This will reduce the issue of prompting and or examiner interruption which has been raised as potentially causing loss of concentration to candidates.

The appropriate checklist will be available on the Anaesthetic Machine in each practical machine OSCE station.

### **Important advice to trainees & educators**

Ensure you read all the checklists available on NZATS website ([www.nzats.co.nz](http://www.nzats.co.nz)), in conjunction with the NZATS Best Practice Guidelines for the anaesthetic machine that will be used in the exam. The NZATS Best Practice Machine Check Guidelines are also available on the website.

Use them to practice performing your machine checks section by section, e.g. preliminary checks, high pressure tests, circuit and absorber tests etc.

Note that the checklists document contains only the key checks. They do not describe or list each individual test/step in detail. Trainees must not assume that the availability of a checklist in the exam is a substitute for focused practice beforehand. Trainees are expected to know what each test entails and will be examined on this.

Examples of this are:

Circuit & Absorber Checklist, '2 bag test' is listed. It is expected that the trainee knows how to perform a complete '2 bag test' as per the instructions in the NZATS

Best Practice Guidelines (i.e. after leak test, open APL valve, observe passive spillage of the reservoir bags, ensure bags do not empty completely confirming scavenging is patent but not overactive; close APL, squeeze both bags ensuring free movement of uni-directional valves and no resistance; open APL, squeeze both bags ensuring even and easy gas spill).

Vaporiser, Back Bar & Oxygen Flush checklist, 'Negative pressure tests' is listed. Trainees will be expected to perform this set of tests in full as per the Best Practice Guidelines.

Please note that the checklists are machine specific and might have slight variations between different machines.

Trainees may tick off items on the checklist if they wish to do so, or they can simply do a visual check that all tests are completed.

Trainees should inform the exam team when they are satisfied with their checks.

Remember that the use of the checklist may add additional time to your checks so you should allow for this in your revision. The 7 minute time frame will still apply and depending on the station may include some viva questions.