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BRITISH STANDARD SPECIFICATION

SURGICAL
SCALPELS

B.S. 2820 : 1957

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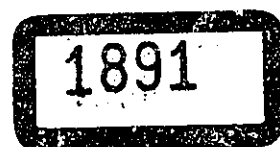
BRITISH STANDARDS INSTITUTION

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THIS BRITISH STANDARD, having been approved by the Surgical Instruments and Medical Appliances Industry Standards Committee and endorsed by the Chairman of the Chemical Divisional Council, was published under the authority of the General Council on 30th January, 1957.

The Institution desires to call attention to the fact that this British Standard does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract.

In order to keep abreast of progress in the industries concerned, British Standards are subject to periodical review. Suggestions for improvements will be recorded and in due course brought to the notice of the committees charged with the revision of the standards to which they refer.

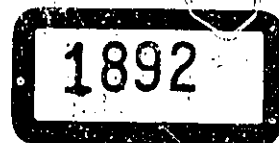
A complete list of British Standards, numbering over 2500, indexed and cross-indexed for reference, together with an abstract of each standard, will be found in the Institution's Yearbook, price 12s. 6d.

This standard makes reference to the following British Standards :

B.S. 350. Conversion factors and tables.

British Standards are revised, when necessary, by the issue either of amendment slips or of revised editions. It is important that users of British Standards should ascertain that they are in possession of the latest amendments or editions.

The following B.S.I. references relate to the work on this standard:—
Committee reference SGC/4 Draft for comment CV(SGC) 6346



CO-OPERATING ORGANIZATIONS

The Surgical Instruments and Medical Appliances Industry Standards Committee under whose supervision this British Standard was prepared consists of representatives from the following Government departments and scientific and industrial organizations:—

- *Admiralty
- *Air Ministry
- *Association of Hospital Matrons
- British Dental Association
- British Medical Association
- British Paediatric Association
- *Federation of Surgical Instrument Manufacturers
- Imperial Chemical Industries Limited
- *Institute of British Surgical Technicians
- Medical Defence Union
- Medical Defence Union of Scotland
- Medical Protection Society
- Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
- *Ministry of Health
- Queen's Institute of District Nursing
- Royal College of Midwives
- *Royal College of Nursing
- *Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
- *Royal College of Physicians
- *Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh
- *Royal College of Surgeons of England
- Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow
- *Surgical Instrument Manufacturers' Association
- *War Office

The Government departments and scientific and industrial organizations marked with an asterisk in the above list, together with the following, were directly represented on the committee entrusted with the preparation of this British Standard:—

- British Iron and Steel Federation
- British Orthopaedic Association
- National Federation of Hospital Officers

BRITISH STANDARD SPECIFICATION FOR SURGICAL SCAPELS

FOREWORD

This British Standard has been prepared at the request of the Ministry of Health and was authorized by the Surgical Instruments and Medical Appliances Industry Standards Committee of the British Standards Institution.

The standard range of six sizes of scalpel blades was selected for general purpose use. It was known that the designation of blade sizes often varied from one manufacturer to another, and it is consequently hoped that the introduction of a standard range of blade sizes will prove of practical convenience to all concerned. Allowance, within certain limits, was made for the depth of the belly of the blade to be made according to the requirements of the purchaser, although recognition was given to the fact that the shape of the blade can be substantially altered by the processes of regrinding and re-setting during the life of the scalpel. A handle of the same size and shape was made standard throughout the specified range of scalpels to give the same 'feel' and approximately the same balance to the instruments in the hands of the surgeon. The choice of either a rough or smooth finish to the handle has been left to individual preference.

Provision has been made for scalpels manufactured by two methods, namely those completely hand-forged, and those manufactured from drop-forged handles with block end for subsequent hand-forging of the blade. Different grades of steel have been specified to suit these two methods of manufacture.

With respect to quality, certain basic requirements considered as essentials in the manufacture of scalpels have been defined; on the other hand, it was recognized that hand-forging remains an art and there has been no intention of specifying needless details for which responsibility largely rests with the individual craftsman.

SPECIFICATION

SCOPE

1. This British Standard specifies surgical scalpels in a range of six sizes.

Provision is made for scalpels made by two methods of manufacture, viz:—

- a.* Completely hand-forged from one piece of steel, and
- b.* From drop-forged handles with block ends made from one piece of steel for subsequent hand-forging of the blades.

