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BRITISH STANDARD 2982-1958
SCALPPELS

SCALPPELS
WITH DETACHABLE
BLADES

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BRITISH STANDARD SPECIFICATION

SCALPELS
WITH DETACHABLE
BLADES

B.S. 2982 : 1958

Price 3/- net

BRITISH STANDARDS INSTITUTION

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER

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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 29th May, 1958.

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 3000, indexed and cross-indexed for reference, together with an abstract of each standard, will be found in the Institution's Yearbook, price 15s.

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/4/2 Draft for comment CX(SGC) 6418

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
- *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 standard:—

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

BRITISH STANDARD SPECIFICATION FOR SCALPELS WITH DETACHABLE BLADES

FOREWORD

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

Although scalpels with detachable blades have become well established in use, it has been found that slight differences in the dimensions of the fittings whereby blades are attached to handles made by different manufacturers may give rise to difficult or inadequate fitting of these components. The primary purpose of this standard is to ensure that reasonable limits may be maintained for such fittings, so that blades and handles of differing manufacture will give a satisfactory grip and so that the design of this fitting will be related to balance and efficiency in use.

Provision is not made for the specification of shapes and sizes of blades, which may be open to considerable variation according to the many uses to which such equipment is put.

SPECIFICATION

SCOPE

1. This British Standard specifies requirements for dimensions of attachment details for scalpels with detachable blades together with requirements for materials and the packaging of blades and handles.

DIMENSIONS OF ATTACHMENT DETAILS

2. The dimensions of attachment details shall comply with the requirements of Fig. 1 for small size fittings (No. 3) and Fig. 2 for large size fittings (No. 4).

HANDLE

3. *a. Materials.* The handle shall be made of non-ferrous nickel alloy or other suitable corrosion resisting material.

b. Hardness. The hardness shall be not less than 140 HV (diamond pyramid hardness) as determined on the face of the head of the handle in accordance with B.S. 427.*

c. Construction. The handle shall be of one piece construction.

d. Groove. The groove in the head of the handle shall permit the

* B.S. 427, 'Diamond pyramid hardness numbers'.

cutting edge of the fitted blade to lie in a plane through the linear axis of the handle.

e. Finish. The handle shall be free from burrs and sharp or rough edges and shall have a matt finish unless otherwise specified by the purchaser.

BLADE

4. *a. Material.* Blades shall be made of steel having the following composition:

| | |
|------------|------------------------|
| Carbon | 1.20-1.30 per cent |
| Manganese | 0.20-0.45 per cent |
| Silicon | 0.10-0.35 per cent |
| Sulphur | 0.025 per cent maximum |
| Phosphorus | 0.035 per cent maximum |
| Chromium | 0.10-0.40 per cent |

b. Thickness. The blade thickness shall be 0.015 ± 0.0003 in. (0.381 mm).

Blades may be reinforced by thickening the back edge if required.

c. Hardness. The hardness of the blade, determined as near to the cutting edge as practicable, shall be not less than 800 HV (diamond pyramid hardness).

d. Finish. The blade shall be finished smooth and free from burrs and corrosion.

e. Cutting edge. The cutting edge shall be in a central position, shall be surgically sharp and shall, under normal visual inspection, be free from nicks and feathers.

PACKAGING

5. *a. Handles.* Handles shall be individually packed.

b. Blades. Blades shall be coated with a corrosion resisting substance or shall be wrapped in material which is not capable of promoting corrosion of the blades and which contains a corrosion inhibitor. The blades shall be individually wrapped, or wrapped in such a manner that the edges are not capable of coming into contact with one another.

MARKING

6. *a. Handles.* Handles shall be permanently marked as follows:

- (i) With the size number appropriate to either small or large fittings.
- (ii) With the name of manufacturer or trade mark.