

Creating Support for Life

# AMSORB<sup>®</sup> Plus

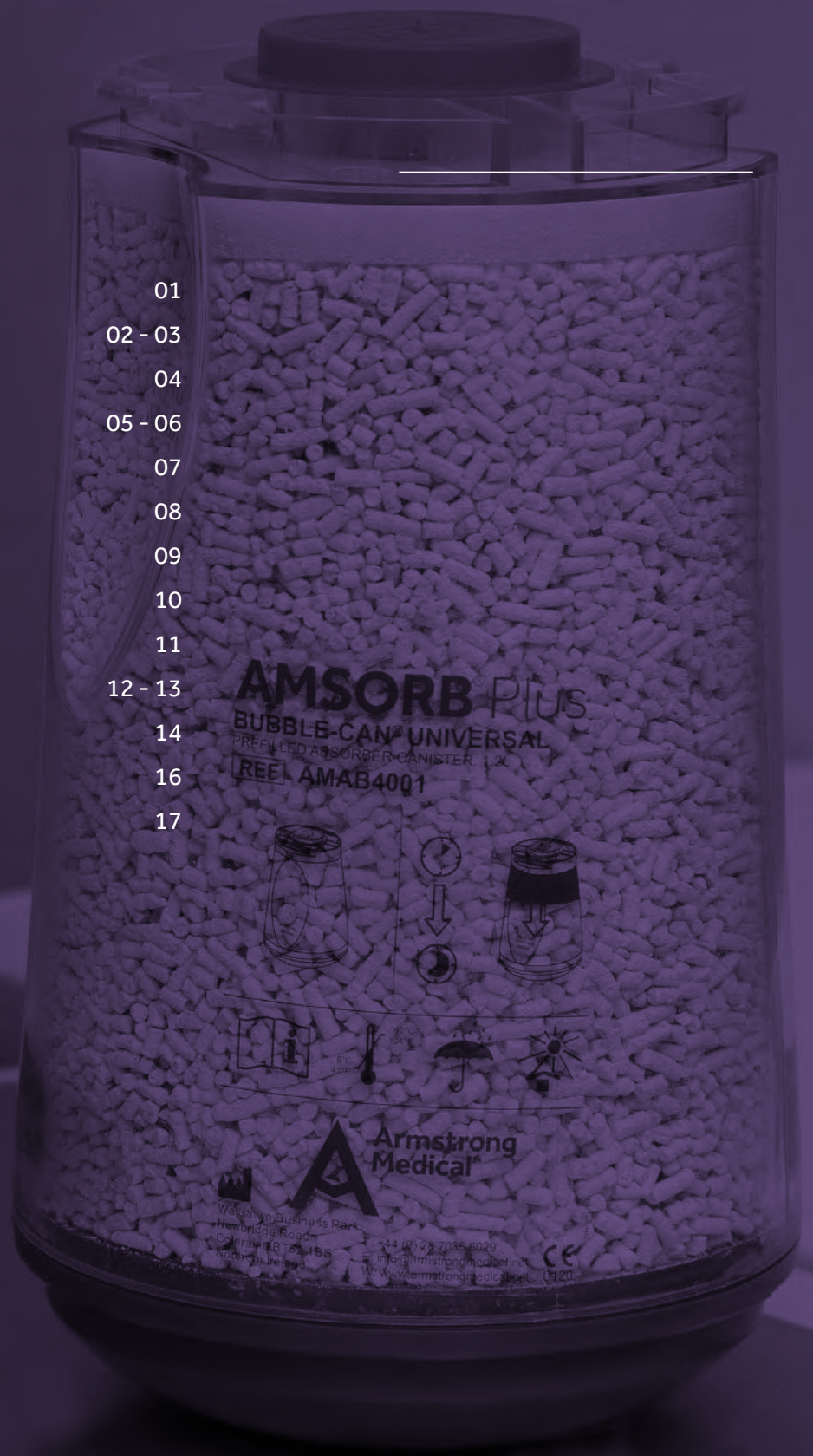
Safe CO<sub>2</sub> absorption that eliminates dangers, saves money and decreases environmental footprint



[armstrongmedical.net](http://armstrongmedical.net)

Contents

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| AMSORB® Plus - CO <sub>2</sub> Absorbent | 01      |
| Product Range                            | 02 - 03 |
| Colour Change                            | 04      |
| Composition of Absorbents                | 05 - 06 |
| CO <sub>2</sub> Absorption Capacity      | 07      |
| Gas Toxicity                             | 08      |
| Agent Adsorption                         | 09      |
| Alkalinity of Soda Lime                  | 10      |
| Desiccation                              | 11      |
| Background                               | 12 - 13 |
| Machine Compatability                    | 14      |
| Frequently Asked Questions               | 16      |
| Why change to AMSORB® Plus?              | 17      |



# AMSORB® Plus

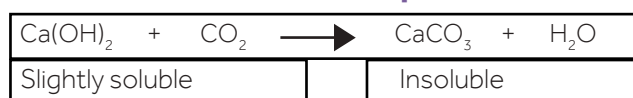
CO<sub>2</sub> Absorbent

AMSORB® Plus – absorbs carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from cellular respiration during anaesthesia. Unlike other absorbents it is not capable of degrading vaporous 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<sub>2</sub> and calcium hydroxide (Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub>) and water. These form calcium carbonate (CaCO<sub>3</sub>) and water. Exothermic heat is a by-product of absorption. During absorption, Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub> is continually re-moistened until converted to CaCO<sub>3</sub>. Lesser chemicals, calcium chloride (CaCl<sub>2</sub>) and calcium sulphate (CaSO<sub>4</sub>) prolong the life of Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub> and increase the speed of absorption reaction by maintaining granule strength and optimising hydration.

## Chemical Reaction of Absorption



Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub> is an ionic compound which is soluble in water at 0.5g/L at 20°C:

- The ions are Ca<sup>++</sup> and OH<sup>-</sup> OH<sup>-</sup>
- CO<sub>2</sub> is soluble in water at 1 vol : 1 vol at 20°C
- CaCO<sub>3</sub> is an insoluble ionic compound Ca<sup>++</sup> and CO<sub>3</sub><sup>--</sup>
- 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 violet-coloured, 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



## AMAB3000

5.0 litres jerican  
Case Quantity - 2pcs



## AMAB3201 1kg

1.2 litres cartridge  
(without sealing gasket)  
Case Quantity - 12pcs



## AMAB3400

1.0kg bag  
Case Quantity - 12pcs



## AMAB3801

Prefilled G-CAN® absorber, 1.0 litres  
for GE Healthcare Aisys, Avance and  
Aespire anaesthesia workstations  
Case Quantity - 8pcs

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

# Product Range



## AMAB3803

1.4 litres prefilled CARE-CAN  
Case Quantity - 8pcs



## AMAB4001 1kg

Prefilled UNIVERSAL BUBBLE-CAN® absorber,  
1.2 litres for Dräger anaesthesia workstations  
including Apollo, Pallas and Primus  
Case Quantity - 6pcs



## AMAB4000/001

BUBBLE-PLATE®  
Adapter for Dräger  
anaesthesia workstations  
Case Quantity - 1pc



## AMAB4000/002

BUBBLE-BLOC®  
Adapter for Dräger  
anaesthesia workstations  
Case Quantity - 1pc



## AMAB0001

Limescale removal fluid,  
500mL spray  
Case Quantity - 1pc

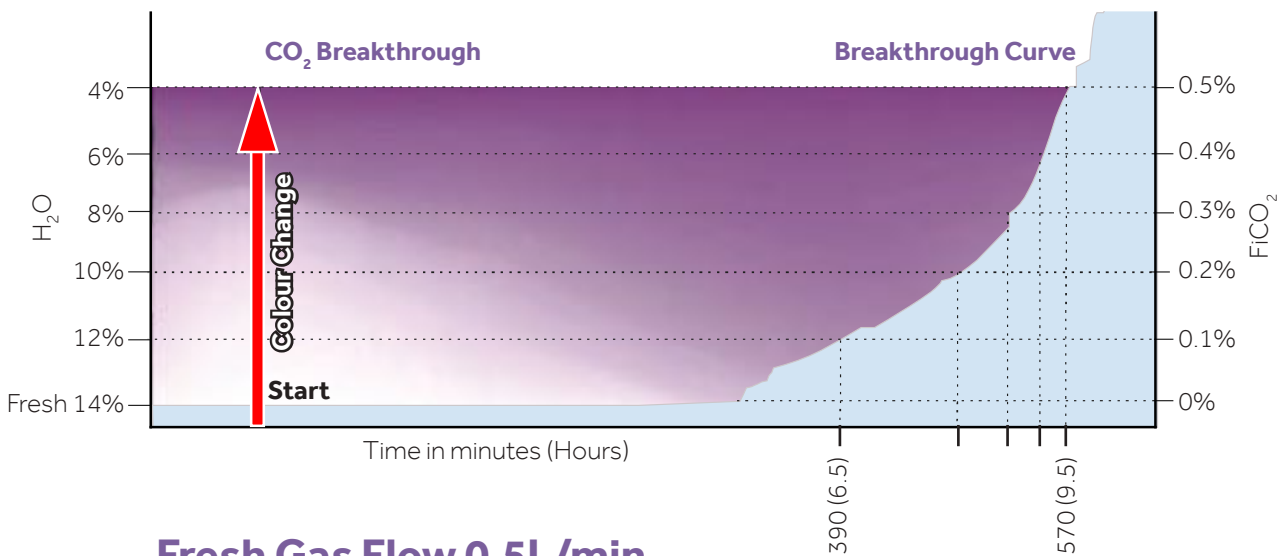
# Colour Change

## Colour Change

AMSORB® Plus colour indicator reacts strongly and quickly to the dehydrating effects of CO<sub>2</sub> 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 FiCO<sub>2</sub> has exceeded 0.5% volume or 5mmHg.

In the case of NaOH-containing (sodium hydroxide) absorbents, colouration reverts to white when

contact with CO<sub>2</sub> 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<sub>2</sub> absorption may continue.



## 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<sub>2</sub>, 250mL/min. CO<sub>2</sub> added to expiratory limb. Colour change is permanent at the time of CO<sub>2</sub> breakthrough to 0.5% volume and remains provided the granules are not subsequently rehydrated. Not all granules will change colour.

### Avance®

Use until FiCO<sub>2</sub> exceeds 5mmHg, then exchange canister mid-case.



### Aestiva®

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

## When to exchange?

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.



## Composition of Absorbents

# Composition of AMSORB® Plus:

|  |                              |            |
|--|------------------------------|------------|
| $\text{Ca(OH)}_2$                            | Calcium hydroxide            | 77 - 88%   |
| $\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 0.5 \text{H}_2\text{O}$ | Calcium sulphate hemihydrate | 0.6 - 1.5% |
| $\text{CaCl}_2$                              | Calcium chloride             | 2.0 - 3.5% |
|  | Colour indicator             | Trace      |
|  | $\text{H}_2\text{O}$         | 10 - 18%   |

**AMSORB® Plus**  
BUBBLE-CAN® UNIVERSAL  
PREFILLED ABSORBER CANISTER, 1.2L  
REF. AMAB4001



**Armstrong Medical**  
Walslow Business Park  
Newbridge Road  
Coleraine BT62 1BS  
Northern Ireland  
+44 (0) 28 7035 6029  
info@armstrongmedical.net  
www.armstrongmedical.net  
CE 0120

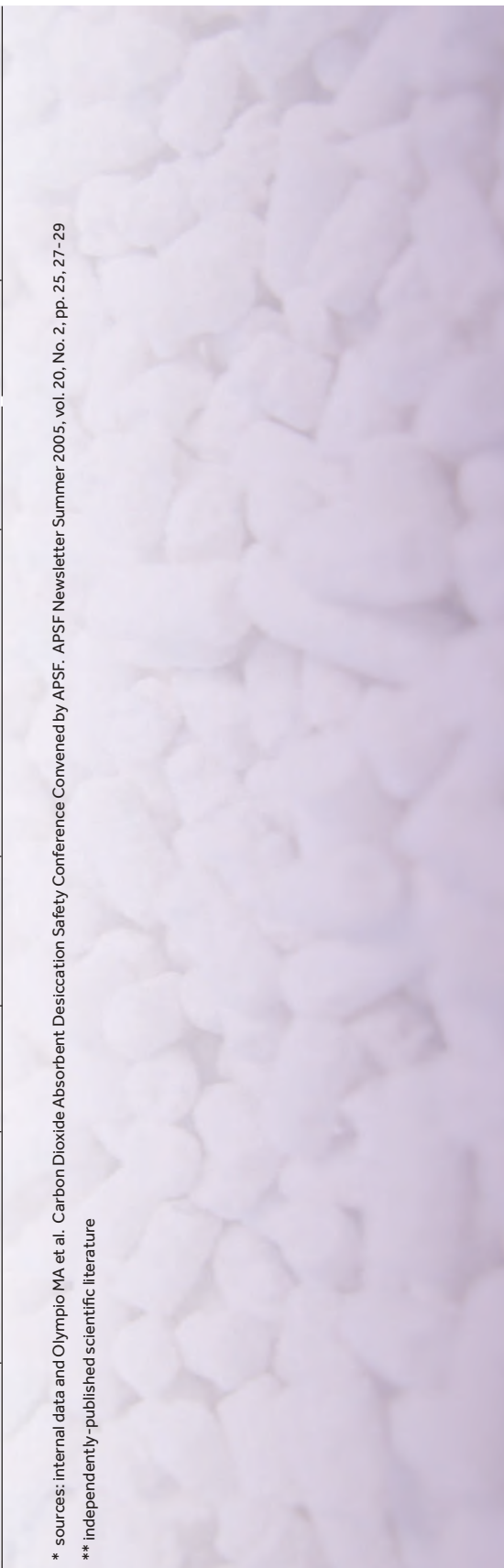
# Composition of Absorbents

## Chemical Formulations and Performance

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

\* sources: internal data and Olympio MA et al. Carbon Dioxide Absorbent Desiccation Safety Conference Convened by APSF. APSF Newsletter Summer 2005, vol. 20, No. 2, pp. 25, 27 - 29

\*\* independently-published scientific literature





# CO<sub>2</sub> Absorption Capacity

## CO<sub>2</sub> Absorption Capacity

Review of independently published scientific literature for CO<sub>2</sub> absorption capacity of respective absorbent brands:

| CO <sub>2</sub> Absorption Capacity (L/kg) |                                   |                                   |                 |               |               |                 |               |               |  |    |     |
|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|--|----|-----|
|  | 205                               |                                   |                 |               |               |                 |               |               |  |    |     |
|  | 217                               |                                   |                 |               |               |                 |               |               |  |    |     |
|  | (186)                             |                                   |                 |               |               |                 |               |               |  |    |     |
|  | (155)                             | 146                               |                 |               |               |                 |               |               |  |    | 133 |
|  |                                   |                                   |                 | 107           | 121           | 126             |               |               |  |    |     |
|  |                                   |                                   |                 |               |               |                 |               |               |  | 73 |     |
|  |                                   |                                   |                 |               |               |                 |               |               |  |    |     |
| <b>Product Name</b>                        | <b>AMSORB® Plus</b>               | Drägerorb® Free                   | Drägerorb® 800+ | Medisorb®     | Sodasorb®     | Intersorb Plus™ | LoFloSorb™    | Spherasorb™   |  |    |     |
| <b>Brand</b>                               | <b>Armstrong</b>                  | Dräger                            | Dräger          | GE Healthcare | WR Grace      | Intersurgical   | Intersurgical | Intersurgical |  |    |     |
| <b>Publication</b>                         | Kobayashi, 2004<br>(Struys, 2004) | Kobayashi, 2004<br>(Struys, 2004) | Knolle, 2002    | Higuchi, 2001 | Higuchi, 2001 | Knolle, 2002    | Knolle, 2002  | Knolle, 2002  |  |    |     |



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:

|   |              |                 |                 |               |               |            |               |
|---|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|------------|---------------|
| Peak CO (ppm) from Desiccated Absorbent |              |                 |                 |               | 13,317        |            |               |
|   |              |                 |                 |               |               | 8,000      | 9,045         |
|   |              | 620             |                 |               |               |            |               |
|   |              |                 | 548             | 525           |               |            |               |
|   | 0            |                 |                 |               |               |            |               |
| Product                                 | AMSORB® Plus | Drägerorb® 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

Some absorbents negatively impact patient safety. Their continued use raises ethical questions. Inability to determine when some absorbents are desiccated and hence potentially dangerous, demands that a safe absorbent is used.

Many absorbents are known to degrade anaesthetic vapour to produce toxic levels of CO and HCOH, when desiccated. CO is a toxin with affinity for haemoglobin greater than oxygen. HCOH is a potent respiratory tract irritant and carcinogen and has been shown to cause post-operative nausea and vomiting.

All absorbents desiccate through clinical use as well as through exposure to ambient air or gas flow. Absorbent hydration cannot be managed during use. In absorbents other than AMSORB® Plus,

colouration, if present, is not a reliable indication of hydration. In all absorbents, the chemical reaction of CO<sub>2</sub> absorption forces moisture from the material. In many brands, this exponentially increases alkalinity; potentially enabling the absorbent to become sufficiently desiccated to degrade anaesthetic whilst continuing to absorb CO<sub>2</sub>.

APSF (Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation) states that absorbents that significantly degrade anaesthetic agents should not be used. This followed earlier notification by Abbott Laboratories that their drug Ultane (sevoflurane) was involved in adverse reactions with CO<sub>2</sub> absorbents.



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<sub>2</sub>.

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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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.

## Adsorption of Anaesthetic Vapour

|  |                  |                        |                        |                           |                        |
|--|------------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Adsorption of 0.5% isoflurane by desiccated absorbent (% : mins) |                  |                        |                        | <b>89% for &gt;60 min</b> |                        |
|  |                  |                        |                        |                           | <b>50% for 33 mins</b> |
|  |                  |                        |                        | <b>31% for 20 mins</b>    |                        |
|  |                  |                        | <b>26% for 16 mins</b> |                           |                        |
|  |                  | <b>20% for 15 mins</b> |                        |                           |                        |
|  | <b>Product</b>   | <b>AMSORB® Plus</b>    | Dräger sorb® 800+      | Intersorb Plus™           | LoFloSorb™             |
| <b>Company</b>   | <b>Armstrong</b> | Dräger                 | Intersurgical          | Intersurgical             | Intersurgical          |

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>Publication</b> | Knolle E <i>et al</i> , Small Carbon Monoxide Formation in Absorbents Does Not Correlate with Small Carbon Dioxide Absorption. Anesthesia & Analgesia 2002; vol. 95; pp650-655 |
|--------------------|--|

# 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.

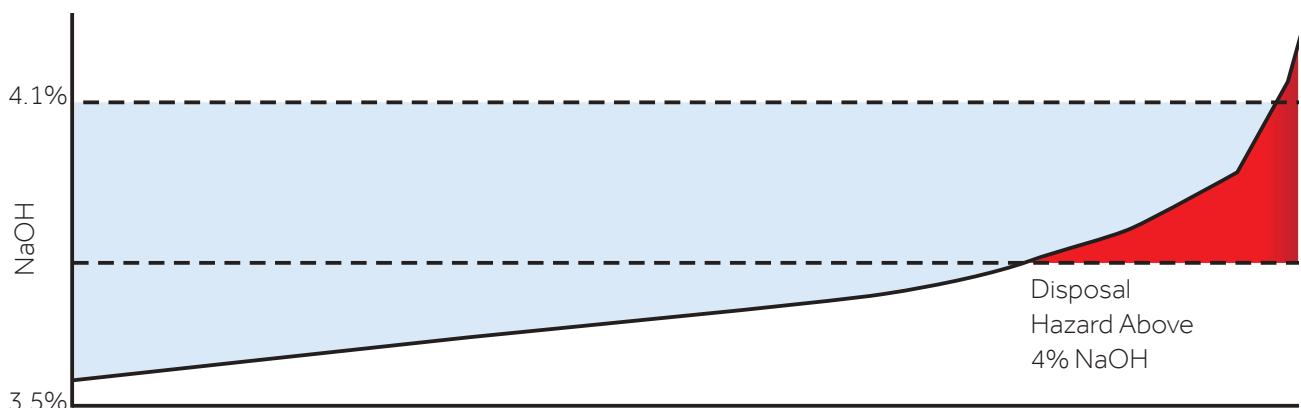
**Manufacturers of absorbents cannot declare the pH of their material at any stage, as determination of pH requires the absorbent sample to be converted to a solution. Adding water to a sample of soda lime allows NaOH and NaCO<sub>3</sub> to dissolve in water, thus lowering the alkalinity of the material 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.

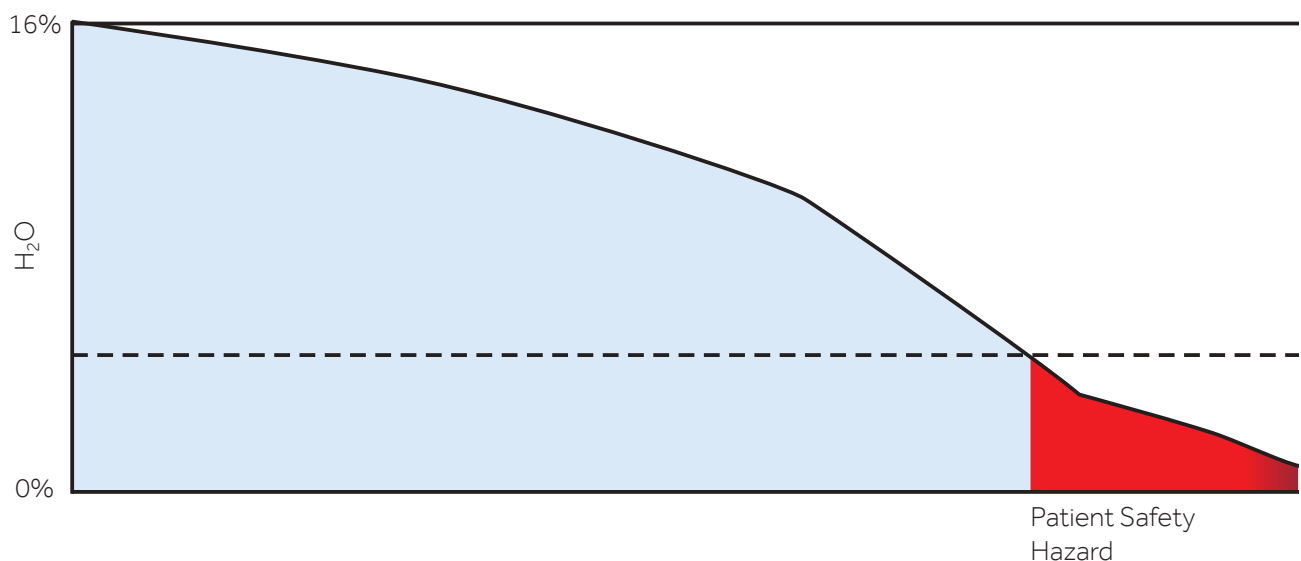
AMSORB® Plus is free from strong base chemicals and therefore cannot become strongly alkaline. Disposal is with non-contaminated clinical waste for landfill.

## Alkalinity Increases as Moisture Decreases

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



**Time and CO<sub>2</sub> Absorption** →



# Desiccation

## Retrograde Flow in Absorbents



AMSORB® Plus BUBBLE-CAN® UNIVERSAL

Gas flow desiccates all absorbents. Retrograde flow occurs when fresh gas flow is left running during non-use 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 CO<sub>2</sub>.**

Colouration of AMSORB® Plus confirms desiccation. Desiccated AMSORB® Plus will not absorb CO<sub>2</sub>. To avoid retrograde flow, fresh gas flow should be turned off during periods of non-use of the anaesthetic machine.

In addition to causing soda limes to become prematurely exhausted without the user's awareness, leaving the fresh gas flow on during periods of non-use is an extremely expensive practice regularly occurring in a significant percentage of hospitals. With AMSORB® Plus, coloration from retrograde flow alerts users to this expensive practice so they can devise protocols to reduce or eliminate its occurrence.

# 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. CO<sub>2</sub> accumulation in the breathing circuit can be avoided.

## Absorbent Heat

Absorption of CO<sub>2</sub> 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 mucociliary function during surgery.

Clinical reports show use of sevoflurane, in combination with certain desiccated absorbents, creates conditions for anaesthetic agent degradation to flammable by-products 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<sub>2</sub>. 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

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

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

# 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 above 15°C. If exposed to ambient air it will absorb CO<sub>2</sub> 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.



# Machine Compatability

## Guaranteed Unlimited Compatability

Armstrong Medical Limited guarantees the unlimited compatibility of AMSORB® Plus on anaesthesia machines in which loose-fill CO<sub>2</sub> absorbent is to be used or on those machines for which we provide a prefilled absorber canister.

### Selection of Anaesthesia Machines

| Manufacturer   | Model/s                 | 1.2 litre CARTRIDGES AMAB3201 | CAN-CAN® AMAB3800 | G-CAN® AMAB3801 | BUBBLE-CAN® UNIVERSAL AMAB4001 | CARE-CAN AMAB3803 |
|----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Anmedic        | Falcon, Kite            |                               |                   |                 | ●                              |                   |
| Dräger Medical | Cato, Cicero,           |                               |                   |                 | ●                              |                   |
|                | Fabius, Julian,         |                               |                   |                 | ●                              |                   |
|                | Zeus                    |                               |                   |                 | ●                              |                   |
| Dräger Medical | Apollo, Primus,         |                               |                   |                 | ●                              |                   |
|                | Pallas                  |                               |                   |                 | ●                              |                   |
| GE Healthcare  | ADU II, Aliseo          |                               | ●                 |                 |                                |                   |
| GE Healthcare  | Aestiva, Excel,         | ●                             |                   |                 |                                |                   |
|                | Modulus                 |                               |                   |                 |                                |                   |
| GE Healthcare  | Aespire, Aisys,         |                               |                   | ●               |                                |                   |
|                | Avance, Amingo          |                               |                   |                 |                                |                   |
| Mindray/       | AS3000                  | ●                             |                   |                 |                                |                   |
| Datascope      |                         |                               |                   |                 |                                |                   |
| Penlon         | SP Prima                | ●                             |                   |                 |                                |                   |
| Siemens        | Kion                    | ●                             |                   |                 |                                |                   |
| Spacelabs      | Frontline, Sirius       | ●                             |                   |                 |                                |                   |
| GE Healthcare  | Carestation™ 600 series |                               |                   |                 |                                | ●                 |





Many of the world's leading hospitals, universities and medical organisations use **AMSORB® Plus** because it is **safer, easier to use, better for the environment** and **more cost effective.**

Ask your **local representative** for a complete list.

# 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 CO<sub>2</sub> absorption; low resistance to gas flow; low dust levels with consistent granule size.
- Non-corrosive to skin.
- No secondary vaporization effect removes risk of complications/dangers including reduced narcosis or blood toxicity from excessive drug exposure (especially applicable to smaller, sensitive patients, i.e. children's hospitals).
- Permanent colour change eliminates possibility of accidentally using expired product.
- Dust is non-caustic and less harmful to techs breathing in dust during canister changes.
- Safe to handle during disposal.
- Better for the environment...unlike soda lime, is non-corrosive and safe for landfill where it breaks down into harmless inorganic compounds.
- Significant product savings due to ability to SAFELY use through to exhaustion (FiCO<sub>2</sub>).
- Anaesthetic savings due to less adsorption of volatile anaesthetic.
- Anaesthetic savings due to lack of degradation.
- Anaesthetic savings due to ability to safely use lower flows.
- Waste and disposal savings due to ability to dispose of as non-hazardous waste.
- Time savings due to reduced frequency of canister changes.
- Significant cost savings due to reduced post-operative resource utilization, including nursing time, patient warming supplies, and time spent in post-operative unit.
- Significant cost savings due to elimination of all potential complications related to anaesthetic breakdown, including additional laboratory tests, hospital days, medical/legal expenses.
- Permanent colour change: increased user confidence and ability to reliably tell at a glance current state of product.
- Prefilled canisters available for all common anaesthesia machines mean hospitals can simplify their ordering and obtain all their absorbent from one source. Most hospitals purchase multiple different soda limes from different manufacturers because they have more than one type of anaesthesia machine.
- Ability to safely deliver low flow anaesthesia for extended time periods.
- Knowing exactly when to change eliminates guesswork, increases confidence, and decreases waste.
- Anaesthesia machines equilibrate faster, are less sluggish, and more accurately deliver desired drug percentages.
- Wealth of independently published peer reviewed literature is a great resource for end users (especially applicable to teaching hospitals).
- Granules reduce likelihood of gas channelling and optimise absorption performance.
- Dust is non-corrosive and not harmful to metal machine parts.
- Reduced instance of headache and PONV.

## 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.

## Why does AMSORB® Plus adsorb less 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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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<sub>2</sub> has exceeded 0.5% volume or 5mmHg. CO<sub>2</sub> breakthrough to 0.5% volume or 5mmHg may be associated with colouration of 50% of the total height of the absorber canister.



# Why change to **AMSORB<sup>®</sup> Plus**

**AMSORB<sup>®</sup> Plus is the world's first CO<sub>2</sub> absorbent to be free of strong alkali. AMSORB<sup>®</sup> Plus offers significant clinical, cost and environmental advantage.**



**AMSORB<sup>®</sup> Plus is easier to use:**

AMSORB<sup>®</sup> Plus retains its desiccated colour change. Available in prefill cartridges compatible with most common anaesthesia machine brands.



**AMSORB<sup>®</sup> Plus is safer:**

Unlike other absorbents, AMSORB<sup>®</sup> Plus is incapable of anaesthetic degradation and does not produce harmful by-products.



**AMSORB<sup>®</sup> Plus is better for the environment:**

AMSORB<sup>®</sup> Plus is free of strong-base chemicals, therefore, the material is non-hazardous, safe to handle during handling and disposal, and is suitable for landfill.



**AMSORB<sup>®</sup> Plus is cost effective:**

AMSORB<sup>®</sup> Plus demonstrates the least potential to delay inhalational induction at any flow rates. Mannion et al. 2011 demonstrated 25.7% annual anaesthetic gas savings.



**AMSORB<sup>®</sup> Plus is designed for low flow anaesthesia:**

AMSORB<sup>®</sup> Plus is safe for use at low and minimal flow rates. It will not adsorb anaesthetic agent and is not capable of agent degradation.

All Armstrong Medical products are manufactured to quality systems under ISO 13485 and EC Directive 93/42/EEC. For reliability, the properties of AMSORB® Plus must conform to carefully controlled parameters and this applies not only to the chemical composition but also to the size of granule, its moisture content and porosity.

Distributed by:



Armstrong 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 range, please contact your local representative.



[armstrongmedical.net](http://armstrongmedical.net)

Armstrong Medical  
Wattstown Business Park, Newbridge Road,  
Coleraine, BT52 1BS, Northern Ireland.  
T +44 (0) 28 7035 6029  
F +44 (0) 28 7035 6875  
[info@armstrongmedical.net](mailto:info@armstrongmedical.net)