Courtemanche & Associates
Consulting Partners Since 1994

Surgical Instrument Inspection Tool

Requirements	Met	Not Met	Comments
Inspection of Instruments Prior to Pre and Packaging			
Thoroughly inspects instruments each time an instrument is processed			
• Magnification lamp is used to visualize the instrument for rust, water makes, blood, bioburden, debris, bone, cement, etc.			
• Looks for evidence of damage or defects			
• Looks for alignment of instruments			
• Looking to make sure the instrument is functioning properly			
Checking for proper functioning includes opening and testing the instruments to see if they function as intended			
Joints – Checks for smooth movement with excessive play. Makes sure box locks and hinges open and close correctly			
Tips – Inspects tips for damage, pitting, cracks, and wear. Makes sure tips align correctly and meet precisely			
Teeth and Jaws – Checks for broken, chipped, or won teeth. Makes sure jaws have good alignment and closing tension			
Locking Mechanism – Tests ratchets, catches, locks, screws, and other devices to ensure they engage and release properly			
Connectors – Looks for loose, damaged, or corroded connectors			
Identification – Verifies all makings, gauge measurements and other engraved ID details are present and legible. Ensures that instrument tape, if used, is applied per the manufacturer's instructions for use and that there is not peeling, cracking, lifting, etc. of the tape.			
Sharpness - Uses proper testing materials to check sharpness of scissors, rougeurs, and osteotomes. Blades should cut cleaning			
Insulation – Tests insulation on handles and shafts to ensure no cracks or fraying are present. Insulator tester in used.			
Cleanliness- Checks for residual soil, debris, lubrication, or bodily fluids. Instruments should be visibly clean after processing, including under magnification.			
Corrosion – Looks for signs of rust, pitting, discoloration, or cracks from chemical exposure			
Lumen – Ensures lumens and cannulas are free of debris, damage, or moisture. Borescope is used, if available.			
Examples			
• **Scissors -** Open them half-way and close on a test material or glove.			
• **Rongeurs -** Cut a 3x5 index card, business card or material of similar weight.			
• **Osteotomes -** Using a plastic testing rod or dowel, or a plastic syringe barrel, test the cutting edge.			
• **Needle Holders -** The jaws of the needle holder should come together at the tips, without having to apply closing pressure on			

Applicable to the following Accreditation Programs: (X) Hospital (X) Critical Access Hospital (X) Behavioral Health (X) Ambulatory Care (X) Office Based Surgery ( ) Disease Specific Certification ( ) Staffing Certification

Regulatory Information may change over time as healthcare expectations change. This document is current as of the date noted within this footer

Requirements	Met	Not Met	Comments
the first ratchet			
• **Clamps -** Close the clamp on the first ratchet and hold it up to the light while continuing to close the ratchet.			
• **Vascular clamps -** To test the atraumatic "teeth," fill a zip lock bag with water.			
• **Forceps -** Toothed forceps should engage evenly when being closed.			
• **Curettes -** Test the sharpness of the curette on a plastic rod, dowel, or syringe barrel, as with the osteotome.			
NOTE: Always check the manufacturer's instructions for use before inspecting instruments to ensure that all aspects of the instruments is inspected.			