

No. F. 6-6/2005-Reg-II (South)  
Government of Pakistan  
Ministry of Health

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Islamabad the 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2006

**NOTIFICATION**

**SUBJECT: REVISED SPECIFICATIONS FOR TESTING OF ABSORBENT COTTON, COTTON BANDAGES, CREPE BANDAGES, SURGICAL GAUZE , GAUZE SWABS AND TULLE.**

I am directed to convey the approval of competent authority for adoption of the following specifications and recommendations for implementation with immediate effect. All manufacturers of these products are required to adopt these specifications and the recommendations:-

**A) ABSORBENT COTTON WOOL.**

1. **Description.**

- i) Well carded.
- ii) Should have a staple length of not less than 08mm.
- iii) Should be bleached to a good white and be odorless.
- iv) Should be free from pieces of thread and reasonable free from leaf. Shell and foreign matter.
- v) Should offer appreciable resistance when pulled and should not shed any appreciable quantity of dust when gently shaken.

2. **Fiber Identification.**

Treat with iodinated zinc chloride solution, the fiber become violet.

The fibers are soluble in a 66 percent v/v solution of sulphuric acid; they swell uniformly and except for the contents of the lumen, finally dissolve in ammoniacal copper oxide solution; they are insoluble in 1.25 M sodium hydroxide.

Complies with Cotton Test.

3. **Absorbency.**

- i) The sinking time should not be more than 15 seconds at the temperature 20-25 °C.
- ii) Water holding capacity not less than 20 gm per gm.

4. **Acidity of Alkalinity.**

Neutral.

5. **Surface – Active Substances.**

Same as in the latest B.P.C.

6. **Loss on Drying.**

Not more than 08%.

7. **Weight Variation.**

Weight variation up-to 3 – 5 % is allowed for 100 gm to 500 gm packing.

8. Manufacturers are strictly directed to put their Company's LOGO on the inner and outer packages and packed either in Polythene, Paper coated, Aluminum Foil materials or any other, which cannot be imitated.

9. Manufacturers of Commercial Cotton are advised/directed to pack their products in such a way that it should not resemble with registered Absorbent Cotton wool and advised further that commercial cotton wool label should be diagonally crossed with two parallel line in conspicuous manner from one corner to the other bearing the instructions in English and Urdu in bold letters. “NOT FOR MEDICAL AND SURGICAL USE/PURPOSE”.

10. Manufacturers of commercial cotton wool are advised and directed to ensure through different steps like labeling/packing & others so that their products will not be mis-used or used for medical and surgical purposes, failing which be treated as violation of the Drug Act, 1976 and will be treated accordingly i.e. considering their product as un registered drug. LOGO.

11. Provincial governments shall ensure the availability of Registered Absorbent Cotton Wool on the Medical Stores like other medicaments.

B) **BANDAGES.**

1. Only B.P.C and B.P. Type-2 bandages will be allowed to manufacture.
2. All other bandages will be deregistered.
3. In the case of warp and weft the total number of thread will be as per B.P. number of weft and warp number may differ up-to 05%.
4. Standard sizes of Width 5cm, 6.5cm, 7.5cm, 10cm & 15cm and 3 Mtr, 4 Mtrs., 5 Mtrs & 6 Mtrs. in length of Bandages will only be allowed.
5. Manufacturers are strictly directed to put their Company's LOGO on the inner and outer packages of each bandages
6. Any kind of commercial bandages, what so ever its purpose may be will not be allowed to manufacture.

C) **GAUZE.**

Gauze shall conform to the BPC specifications.

- i) Manufacturers are strictly directed to put their Company's LOGO on the inner and outer packages.
- ii) Only one type of packing of Absorbent Gauze in the shape of Roll of 100cm (4 ply folded Roll) in WIDTH and 2.5 Mtr. 20 Mtr, 30 Mtr. 40 Mtr. in LENGTH is allowed.

D) **GAUZE SWABS.**

Gauze Swabs shall conform to the BPC specifications.

- i) Manufacturers are strictly directed to put their Company's LOGO on the inner and outer packages and packed either in, Paper coated, Aluminum Foil materials or any other, which cannot be imitated.
- ii) Standard sizes of 5cm x 5cm, 7.5cm x 7.5cm, 10cm x 10cm & 15cm x 15cm in 8 Ply, 12 Ply & 16 Ply should only be allowed.

E) **CREPE BANDAGES.**

Crepe Bandages shall conform to the BP specifications.

- i) Manufacturers are strictly directed to put their Company's LOGO on the inner packages and packed either in Polythene, Paper coated, Aluminum Foil materials or any other, which cannot be imitated.
- ii) Standard sizes will be 5cm, 7.5cm, 10cm & 15cm in WIDTH and 3 Mtr & 4.5 Mtrs (stretched) in length should only be allowed.

F) **TULLE / MEDICATED GAUZE DRESSINGS.**

Tulle / Medicated Gauze Dressing shall conform to the BP specifications.

- i) Manufacturers are strictly advised to put their Company's LOGO on the inner and outer packages and packed either in Polythene, Paper coated, Aluminum Foil materials or any other, which cannot be imitated.

- ii) Production of un-registered Tulle either it is in alloepathic, homeopathic, ayurvedic or unani formulation, bearing any instruction like that “Do Not Fall under the Drug Act 1976” or similar one, is not allowed in any case

**Decided that:-**

- a) All Federal/Provincial government Institutions/Departments and other organization buying bandages, gauze, Gauze Swabs, Crepe Bandages, are advised to purchase these products according to the above mentioned packing, length and sizes from licensed manufactures as a registered product.
- b) Provincial Governments may please advise to the EDOs (Health), Government Institutions/Hospitals & Teaching Institutions or other departments under their administration, to add an additional clause in the Tender Enquiries (Terms & Conditions) for printing of **Company’s LOGO** on the Inner & Outer packing of Surgical Dressings, while supplying to the Government Institutions or private market.

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- c) Medical Stores should only store the registered ones and the ones manufactured by a licensed manufacturer.
- d) Field staff should be instructed to specifically check the sale and stocking of Registered Cotton, Cotton Bandages, Crepe Bandages, Gauze, Gauze Swabs, and Tulle according to the above said directions and to take solid measures to discourage the sale of Commercial Cotton & Commercial Bandages on the Medical Stores.

Sd/-  
**(Abdul Sattar  
Sohrani)**  
Deputy Drugs  
Controller  
(Reg-II-South)

