

Product Review

Tom Thumb

Customers who have requested the modifications, i.e. a restrictor fitted, will have their details logged on the "Repairs file", this work will be carried out free of charge.

At the time of compiling this report, two customers have requested that the restrictors be fitted:

Grantham	2 Units
Queen Elizabeth Hospital	2 Units (Gateshead)

A new test procedure has been drafted to increase the accuracy and clarity of documentation, which is completed during the final Quality Assurance process for each device.

A decision also needs to be made on whether a 5L/min or 15L/min Flowmeter is fitted as standard. The restrictor will work on both flowmeters, although thorough testing needs to take place on the 15L/min version.

The advantage of using the 15L/min version is that the flows greater than 5L/min can be clearly seen on the scale, whereas on the 5L/min version this is the maximum scale indication, anything above is not indicated.

It must be stressed that all units need to be thoroughly tested for the maximum achievable pressure when restrictors are fitted. This is due to the potential specification failure of the restrictors.

Copy of letter supplied to all Tom Thumb users:

In accordance with our ISO 9001 EN 46001 quality system, Viamed has recently re-appraised, in all aspects, the Tom Thumb Resuscitation Device.

The Tom Thumb has been designed to be a flow/pressure, regulated device, enabling the user to control and view the pressures being administered. However, if the flow rate is increased, the pressure in the Tom Thumb will also increase. Due to the increase in volume of gas within the system, the blow-off values will change, thus allowing a potential greater PEEK pressure to the patient. A standard Tom Thumbs' blow-off valves have been calibrated to allow a maximum pressure relief of 50cmH₂O at a flow rate of between 5 – 10 L/min, if for instance the flow rate is increased to above 15L/min, this pressure relief will increase beyond the 50cmH₂O. All flow meters used with the Tom Thumb, have a purge facility allowing higher flows than indicated on the glass tube. In accordance with the User manual the standard flow setting is 5L/min.

Restrictors can be fitted, to limit the maximum inlet flow, but this would also restrict the user from administering high pressures when required by particular patients. If you would like a restrictor fitted, please contact Viamed to arrange for the required work to be carried out.

Our records indicate that your hospital has one or more of these devices on-site; therefore we have enclosed the relevant number of user guides for the Tom Thumb series. We would like to re-iterate the instructions, of testing the pressure before administration to the patient.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries on this or any other matter.

Report compiled by:

Peter Lamb
13-March-2000
Revised 24-5-2000