

QUESTIONS IN REGARDS TO THE TECHGUIDE

1) *How Does a product end up in the **TechGUIDE**?*

It must have a minimum compliance to all of the categories set by **REHABTech** in order to be included.

2) *What are the categories of for inclusion?*

The **minimum baseline** for the 5 categories are as follows:-

- a) Functional Standards - the component must perform the function that is claimed.
- b) Structural Standards - compliance to a structural standard which is the level of ISO 10328 in the case of lower limb prostheses.
- c) Dimensional Standards - includes compliance with existing components, techniques and serviceability i.e. it must be easily used and serviced within Australia.
- d) Supply - The component is from a reliable supplier with acceptable back-up and delivery capabilities.
- e) Durability - This is a continuous assessment. The product may be included with only the testing knowledge of durability but may be removed from subsequent **TechGUIDE**'s if found to not to be durable.

3) *If a product is in the **TechGUIDE** is it automatically listed on the A.L.S.?*

This is probably the biggest area of confusion between the Monash University Rehabilitation Technology Research Unit and the Artificial Limb Scheme. Once a component is included in the **TechGUIDE**, **REHAB Tech** will inform users of any changes to the information which it contains. However this does not included whether a component is listed on the Artificial Limb Scheme of any particular state. States may choose to use the **TechGUIDE** as an indication of the products availability under their scheme, but may not include all the products listed. Alternatively products not included in the **TechGUIDE** may be available under a states scheme.

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For all questions regarding what is included in a states scheme, contact the scheme administrator for the respective state.

4) *Why isn't "this" product on the A.L.S. even though it is listed in the **TechGUIDE** ?*

Any reason may exist such as the product may be outside the policy of the States scheme or too expensive. Contact your state administrator for further information.

5) *Why does the **REHAB Tech** test products which have been tested overseas?*

This is an unfortunate fallacy. The **REHAB Tech** gathers information from as many testing authorities overseas as it can. (it is important to remember that the onus to provide these results is on the manufacturer or distributor.) It is rare that the **REHAB Tech** conducts its own testing. These tests are usually done when **no adequate overseas testing** is available and it is requested by the manufacturer.

6) *Why is a component not included in the **TechGUIDE** ?*

The major reasons a component will not be included are:-

- a) It has never been submitted for to **REHAB Tech**.
- b) It has failed in one or more of the five categories discussed in question two.

7) *Can a component be removed from the **TechGUIDE** ?*

If a component changes in any of the five categories described or is shown to have a durability problem it may be removed.

8) *Why does the **TechGUIDE** not include products which have been accredited by the Veterans' Administration in the U.S.A.?*

The VA (USA) lists product much the same as the T.G.A. Products are rarely tested in the manner laid out by an ISO standard.

9) *Can we only use products that the **REHAB Tech** allows us to use?*

The **REHAB Tech** **does not dictate** what can and can't be used. They can provide information about components such as the **TechGUIDE** to assist you in making a professional judgement. You can use any component you judge to be suitable.

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10) *Are there components in use in Australia that have not be tested?*

Yes. There are many. Some of these are also structural lower extremity prosthetic components.

11) *Have all components from the major manufacturers been tested and consequently included in the **TechGUIDE**?*

No. It is unwise to assume this. The **REHAB Tech** can provide information on the testing status of a given component. Also users of the **TechGUIDE** receive update information on new or current products prior to the next edition of the **TechGUIDE**.

12) *Are there components in use in Australia that have failed international standards testing?*

Yes. In these cases the professional is either unaware of this or has used his/her own judgement in prescribing/using that particular component. The **REHAB Tech** will only broadcast such failures for components in the **TechGUIDE** .

13) *What is the Therapeutic Goods Act?*

Basically this is legislation which requires all goods used in the health industry to be listed with the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA.). Only some of these have to be tested in Australia or where an ISO standard exists, must have passed this test. It is anticipated as ISO 10328 is finalised it could become a requirement for lower-limb prosthetic components under this act.

14) *What about Orthotics?*

Currently the T.G.A. considers orthotics as custom made and exempt from listing. However, the ISO is also working on a structural standard for orthotics which would virtually force their inclusion into the act.

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