

Component Test Limit vs. Weight Limit

There have been some questions directed at **REHABTech** about the difference between the component test limit and the maximum weight limit set by the manufacturer. This can be confusing so the following is a description of what the differences may be.

The component test limit is the maximum patient weight for which the component was tested to the specified standard.

For products tested to ISO 10328 the maximum value will be 100kg.

This value is important. It is the maximum load derived from any components tested to the same international standard from different manufacturers.

Most manufacturers have products that they will warranty for heavier patients at a specified load. The tests conducted for this load will be unique to the company and can not be compared to another manufacturer's product with the same maximum load.

For example, Components A and B from manufacturers 1 and 2 have been tested to ISO 10328. Each had a component test limit of 100kg. Both these components tested the same and are comparable.

Component C from manufacturer 1 is warranted to 120kg. Component D from manufacturer 2 is also warranted to 120kg. Even though both components have the same maximum load, they may have been tested differently to determine this load.

The manufacturer's limit is included in the **TechGUIDE** under component restriction category which is in the **Information provided by Manufacturers** section.

Both the component test limit and component restriction value should be considered when selecting a component.

On the **World Wide Web** ...

The Canadian-based Corel Software Corporation have just released 'The Amputee' a new CD-ROM in their Medical Series. Put together by Ottawa surgeon Dr Jean Paul Desjardins and prosthetists Craig and Sam Smith, this unique CD-ROM takes a look at all aspects of prosthetic limbs and amputation from the latest technology to surgical techniques. The CD-ROM's target audience are amputees, family members and medical professionals. **REHABTech** has not yet reviewed the CD, and to find out more visit http://www.amputeeonline.com/amputee_mall/cd_roms/amputeeecd.html

Please address correspondence to: The Editor- **Tech LINK**
c/o REHAB Tech, 260-294 Kooyong Road, Caulfield Vic 3162, Australia.
Telephone: +61 3 9528 1960, Facsimile: + 61 3 9528 1077, e-mail: REHAB.Tech@eng.monash.edu.au
INTERNET - <http://www.monash.edu.au/rehabtech/>

Associate Lecturer/Lecturer in Prosthetics & Orthotics

The National Centre for Prosthetics and Orthotics at La Trobe University, Melbourne is interested to hear from applicants who will take responsibility for teaching and subject co-ordination.

Applicants can obtain a position description and details of how to apply by visiting www.latrobe.edu.au/jobs/ or email: personnel@latrobe.edu.au or telephone +61 3 9479 1365 quoting reference number ACAC/4283. Closing date is 6 January 1999.

Prosthetist/Orthotist

Experienced clinician required for service provision on site at Orthotic Prosthetic Services Tasmania and out-of-hours on call services to Hobart Acute Care Hospitals.

For further information and/or a copy of the position description contact: John Alderdice, Manager, OPST on (03) 6222 7375. Applications close 8 January 1999.

Amputees United of Australia

Mr Kerry Whittle, President of Amputees United of Australia, has advised that the group's Annual General Meeting for 1999 will take place Saturday, 30 January at 4 pm. Please forward agenda items fourteen days prior to Kerry at 67 Sunbeam Crescent, Panorama Heights, Devonport Tasmania 7310 (fax: 03 6427 9428).

Main Events in 1999

4 – 9 January	Lower Limb Prosthetics Course, Prince Henry's Hospital, Sydney
22 – 26 February	Lower Limb Prosthetics & Amputee Rehabilitation Course North West Hospital, Melbourne. Contact Nick Freijah (03) 9389 7288
15 March 16 March 23 – 26 March	Update Seminar and Component Inspection Course at RALAC Adelaide. Contact Raelene Jarvis (08) 8275 1655 AFRM Annual Scientific Meeting & Conference, Adelaide
17 – 21 May	Clinical Management of Upper Limb Amputees Course at REHABTech
28 – 30 September	ARATA Conference, Sydney. Contact (02) 9890 0100
21 – 23 October	Access Expo, Melbourne
4 – 6 November	ISPO Australian Scientific Meeting, Hobart, Tasmania Contact Weston Wiggins (03) 6222 7367

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