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used for instilling fluids into, withdrawing fluids from, splinting, or suppressing bleeding of the alimentary tract. This device may incorporate an integral inflatable balloon for retention or hemostasis. This generic type of device includes the hemostatic bag, irrigation and aspiration catheter (gastric, colonic, etc.), rectal catheter, sterile infant gavage set, gastrointestinal string and tubes to locate internal bleeding, double lumen tube for intestinal decompression or intubation, feeding tube, gastroenterostomy tube, Levine tube, nasogastric tube, single lumen tube with mercury weight balloon for intestinal intubation or decompression, and gastro-urological irrigation tray (for gastrointestinal use).

(b) Classification. (1) Class II (special controls). The barium enema retention catheter and tip with or without a bag that is a gastrointestinal tube and accessory is exempt from the premarket notification procedures in subpart E of this part subject to the limitations in § 876.9.

(2) Class I (general controls) for the dissolvable nasogastric feed tube guide for the nasogastric tube. The class I device is exempt from the premarket notification procedures in subpart E of part 807 of this chapter subject to § 876.9.

§ 876.5990 Extracorporeal shock wave lithotripter.

(a) Identification. An extracorporeal shock wave lithotripter is a device that focuses ultrasonic shock waves into the body to noninvasively fragment urinary calculi within the kidney or ureter. The primary components of the device are a shock wave generator, high voltage generator, control console, imaging/localization system, and patient table. Prior to treatment, the urinary stone is targeted using either an integral or stand-alone localization/imaging system. Shock waves are typically generated using electrostatic spark discharge (spark gap), electromagnetically repelled membranes, or piezoelectric crystal arrays, and focused onto the stone with either a specially designed reflector, dish, or acoustic lens. The shock waves are created under water within the shock wave generator, and are transferred to the patient’s body using an appropriate acoustic interface. After the stone has been fragmented by the focused shock waves, the fragments pass out of the body with the patient’s urine.

(b) Classification. Class II (special controls) (FDA guidance document: “Guidance for the Content of Premarket Notifications (510(k)s) for Extracorporeal Shock Wave Lithotripters Indicated for the Fragmentation of Kidney and Ureteral Calculi.”)

[65 FR 48612, Aug. 9, 2000]
§ 878.1 Scope.

(a) This part sets forth the classification of general and plastic surgery devices intended for human use that are in commercial distribution. 

(b) The identification of a device in a regulation in this part is not a precise description of every device that is, or

Subpart F—Therapeutic Devices

§ 878.5070 Air-handling apparatus for a surgical operating room.

§ 878.5350 Needle-type epilator.

§ 878.5360 Tweezer-type epilator.

§ 878.5400 Low level laser system for aesthetic use.

§ 878.5650 Topical oxygen chamber for extremities.

§ 878.5900 Nonpneumatic tourniquet.

§ 878.5910 Pneumatic tourniquet.


Source: 53 FR 23872, June 24, 1988, unless otherwise noted.

Editorial Note: Nomenclature changes to part 878 appear at 73 FR 35341, June 23, 2008.
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§ 878.3 Effective dates of requirement for premarket approval.

A device included in this part that is classified into class III (premarket approval) shall not be commercially distributed after the date shown in the regulation classifying the device unless the manufacturer has an approval under section 515 of the act (unless an exemption has been granted under section 520(g)(2) of the act). An approval under section 515 of the act consists of FDA’s issuance of an order approving an application for premarket approval (PMA) for the device or declaring completed a product development protocol (PDP) for the device.

(a) Before FDA requires that a device commercially distributed before the enactment date of the amendments, or a device that has been found substantially equivalent to such a device, has an approval under section 515 of the act, FDA must promulgate a regulation under section 515(b) of the act requiring such approval, except as provided in paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section. Such a regulation under section 515(b) of the act shall not be effective during the grace period ending on the 90th day after its promulgation or on the last day of the 30th full calendar month after the regulation that classifies the device into class III is effective, whichever is later. See section 501(f)(2)(B) of the act. Accordingly, unless an effective date of the requirement for premarket approval is shown in the regulation for a device classified into class III in this part, the device may be commercially distributed without FDA’s issuance of an order approving a PMA or declaring completed a PDP for the device. If FDA promulgates a regulation under section 515(b) of the act requiring premarket approval for a device, section 501(f)(1)(A) of the act applies to the device.

(b) Any new, not substantially equivalent, device introduced into commercial distribution on or after May 28, 1976, including a device formerly marketed that has been substantially altered, is classified by statute (section 513(f) of the act) into class III without any grace period and FDA must have issued an order approving a PMA or declaring completed a PDP for the device before the device is commercially distributed unless it is reclassified. If FDA knows that a device being commercially distributed may be a “new” device as defined in this section because of any new intended use or other reasons, FDA may codify the statutory classification of the device into class III for such new use. Accordingly, the regulation for such a class III device states that as of the enactment date of the amendments, May 28, 1976, the device must have an approval under section 515 of the act before commercial distribution.

(c) A device identified in a regulation in this part that is classified into class III and that is subject to the transitional provisions of section 520(l) of the act is automatically classified by statute into class III and must have an approval under section 515 of the act before being commercially distributed. Accordingly, the regulation for such a class III transitional device states that as of the enactment date of the amendments, May 28, 1976, the device must have an approval under section 515 of the act before commercial distribution.
§ 878.9 Limitations of exemptions from section 510(k) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (the act).

The exemption from the requirement of premarket notification (section 510(k) of the act) for a generic type of class I or II device is only to the extent that the device has existing or reasonably foreseeable characteristics of commercially distributed devices within that generic type or, in the case of in vitro diagnostic devices, only to the extent that misdiagnosis as a result of using the device would not be associated with high morbidity or mortality. Accordingly, manufacturers of any commercially distributed class I or II device for which FDA has granted an exemption from the requirement of premarket notification must still submit a premarket notification to FDA before introducing or delivering for introduction into interstate commerce for commercial distribution the device when:

(a) The device is intended for a use different from the intended use of a legally marketed device in that generic type of device; e.g., the device is intended for a different medical purpose, or the device is intended for lay use where the former intended use was by health care professionals only;

(b) The modified device operates using a different fundamental scientific technology than a legally marketed device in that generic type of device; e.g., a surgical instrument cuts tissue with a laser beam rather than with a sharpened metal blade, or an in vitro diagnostic device detects or identifies infectious agents by using deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) probe or nucleic acid hybridization technology rather than culture or immunoassay technology; or

(c) The device is an in vitro device that is intended:

1. For use in the diagnosis, monitoring, or screening of neoplastic diseases with the exception of immunohistochemical devices;

2. For use in screening or diagnosis of familial or acquired genetic disorders, including inborn errors of metabolism;

3. For measuring an analyte that serves as a surrogate marker for screening, diagnosis, or monitoring life-threatening diseases such as acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), chronic or active hepatitis, tuberculosis, or myocardial infarction or to monitor therapy;

4. For assessing the risk of cardiovascular diseases;

5. For use in diabetes management;

6. For identifying or inferring the identity of a microorganism directly from clinical material;

7. For detection of antibodies to microorganisms other than immunoglobulin G (IgG) or IgG assays when the results are not qualitative, or are used to determine immunity, or the assay is intended for use in matrices other than serum or plasma;

8. For noninvasive testing as defined in §812.3(k) of this chapter; and

9. For near patient testing (point of care).

[65 FR 2317, Jan. 14, 2000]

Subpart B—Diagnostic Devices

§ 878.1800 Speculum and accessories.

(a) Identification. A speculum is a device intended to be inserted into a body cavity to aid observation. It is either nonilluminated or illuminated and may have various accessories.

(b) Classification. Class I (general controls). The device is exempt from the premarket notification procedures in subpart E of part 807 of this chapter, subject to the limitations in §878.9.


Subpart C [Reserved]

Subpart D—Prosthetic Devices

§ 878.3250 External facial fracture fixation appliance.

(a) Identification. An external facial fracture fixation appliance is a metal apparatus intended to be used during surgical reconstruction and repair to immobilize maxillofacial bone fragments in their proper facial relationship.

(b) Classification. Class I (general controls). The device is exempt from the premarket notification procedures in
§ 878.3300 Surgical mesh.
(a) Identification. Surgical mesh is a metallic or polymeric screen intended to be implanted to reinforce soft tissue or bone where weakness exists. Examples of surgical mesh are metallic and polymeric mesh for hernia repair, and acetabular and cement restrictor mesh used during orthopedic surgery.
(b) Classification. Class II.

§ 878.3500 Polytetrafluoroethylene with carbon fibers composite implant material.
(a) Identification. A polytetrafluoroethylene with carbon fibers composite implant material is a porous device material intended to be implanted during surgery of the chin, jaw, nose, or bones or tissue near the eye or ear. The device material serves as a space-occupying substance and is shaped and formed by the surgeon to conform to the patient’s need.
(b) Classification. Class II.

§ 878.3530 Silicone inflatable breast prosthesis.
(a) Identification. A silicone inflatable breast prosthesis is a silicone rubber shell made of polysiloxanes(s), such as polydimethylsiloxane and polydiphenylsiloxane. The shell contains a fixed amount of cross-linked polymerized silicone gel, filler, and stabilizers or is filled to the desired size with injectable silicone gel at time of implantation. The device is intended to be implanted to augment or reconstruct the female breast.
(b) Classification. Class III.
(c) Date PMA or notice of completion of a PDP is required. A PMA or a notice of completion of a PDP is required to be filed with the Food and Drug Administration on or before July 9, 1991.
§ 878.3550 Chin prosthesis.
   (a) Identification. A chin prosthesis is a silicone rubber solid device intended to be implanted to augment or reconstruct the chin.
   (b) Classification. Class II.

§ 878.3590 Ear prosthesis.
   (a) Identification. An ear prosthesis is a silicone rubber solid device intended to be implanted to reconstruct the external ear.
   (b) Classification. Class II.

§ 878.3610 Esophageal prosthesis.
   (a) Identification. An esophageal prosthesis is a rigid, flexible, or expandable tubular device made of a plastic, metal, or polymeric material that is intended to be implanted to restore the structure and/or function of the esophagus. The metal esophageal prosthesis may be uncovered or covered with a polymeric material. This device may also include a device delivery system.
   (b) Classification. Class II. The special control for this device is FDA’s “Guidance for the Content of Premarket Notification Submissions for Esophageal and Tracheal Prostheses.”

§ 878.3720 Tracheal prosthesis.
   (a) Identification. The tracheal prosthesis is a rigid, flexible, or expandable tubular device made of a silicone, metal, or polymeric material that is intended to be implanted to restore the structure and/or function of the trachea or tracheal bronchial tree. It may be unbranched or contain one or two branches. The metal tracheal prosthesis may be uncovered or covered with a polymeric material. This device may also include a device delivery system.
   (b) Classification. Class II. The special control for this device is FDA’s “Guidance for the Content of Premarket Notification Submissions for Esophageal and Tracheal Prostheses.”

§ 878.3750 External prosthesis adhesive.
   (a) Identification. An external prosthesis adhesive is a silicone-type adhesive intended to be used to fasten to the body an external aesthetic restoration prosthesis, such as an artificial nose.
   (b) Classification. Class I (general controls). The device is exempt from the premarket notification procedures in subpart E of part 807 of this chapter, subject to the limitations in §878.9.

§ 878.3800 External aesthetic restoration prosthesis.
   (a) Identification. An external aesthetic restoration prosthesis is a device intended to be used to construct an external artificial body structure, such as an ear, breast, or nose. Usually the device is made of silicone rubber and it may be fastened to the body with an external prosthesis adhesive. The device is not intended to be implanted.
   (b) Classification. Class I (general controls). The device is exempt from the premarket notification procedures in subpart E of part 807 of this chapter, subject to the limitations in §878.9. If the device is intended for use without an external prosthesis adhesive to fasten it to the body, the device is exempt from the current good manufacturing practice requirements of the quality system regulation in part 820 of this chapter, with the exception of §820.180, with respect to general requirements.
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§ 878.4011 Tissue adhesive with adjunct wound closure device for topical approximation of skin.

(a) Identification. A tissue adhesive with adjunct wound closure device intended for the topical approximation of skin is a device indicated for topical application only to hold closed easily approximated skin edges of wounds from surgical incisions, including punctures from minimally invasive surgery, and simple, thoroughly cleansed, trauma-induced lacerations.
§ 878.4014 Nonresorbable gauze/sponge for external use.

(a) Identification. A nonresorbable gauze/sponge for external use is a sterile or non-sterile device intended for medical purposes, such as to be placed directly on a patient’s wound to absorb exudate. It consists of a strip, piece, or pad made from open woven or nonwoven mesh cotton cellulose or a simple chemical derivative of cellulose. This classification does not include a nonresorbable gauze/sponge for external use that contains added drugs such as antimicrobial agents, added biologics such as growth factors, or is composed of materials derived from animal sources.

(b) Classification. Class I (general controls). The device is exempt from the premarket notification procedures in part 807, subpart E of this chapter subject to the limitations in §878.9.

[64 FR 53929, Oct. 5, 1999]

§ 878.4015 Wound dressing with poly (diallyl dimethyl ammonium chloride) (pDADMAC) additive.

(a) Identification. A wound dressing with pDADMAC additive is intended for use as a primary dressing for exuding wounds, 1st and 2d degree burns, and surgical wounds, to secure and prevent movement of a primary dressing, and as a wound packing.

(b) Classification. Class II (special controls). The special control is: the FDA guidance document entitled “Class II Special Controls Guidance Document: Wound Dressing With Poly (Diallyl Dimethyl Ammonium Chloride) (pDADMAC) Additive.” See §878.1(e) for availability of this guidance document.

[74 FR 33167, Oct. 16, 2009]

§ 878.4018 Hydrophilic wound dressing.

(a) Identification. A hydrophilic wound dressing is a sterile or non-sterile device intended to cover a wound and to absorb exudate. It consists of nonresorbable materials with hydrophilic properties that are capable of absorbing exudate (e.g., cotton, cotton derivatives, alginates, dextran, and rayon). This classification does not include a hydrophilic wound dressing that contains added drugs such as antimicrobial agents, added biologics such as growth factors, or is composed of materials derived from animal sources.

(b) Classification. Class I (general controls). The device is exempt from the premarket notification procedures in part 807, subpart E of this chapter subject to the limitations in §878.9.

[64 FR 53929, Oct. 5, 1999]

§ 878.4020 Occlusive wound dressing.

(a) Identification. An occlusive wound dressing is a nonresorbable, sterile or non-sterile device intended to cover a wound, to provide or support a moist wound environment, and to allow the exchange of gases such as oxygen and water vapor through the device. It consists of a piece of synthetic polymeric material, such as polyurethane, with or without an adhesive backing. This classification does not include an occlusive wound dressing that contains added drugs such as antimicrobial agents, added biologics such as growth factors, or is composed of materials derived from animal sources.

(b) Classification. Class I (general controls). The device is exempt from the premarket notification procedures in part 807, subpart E of this chapter subject to the limitations in §878.9.

[64 FR 53929, Oct. 5, 1999]
§ 878.4022 Hydrogel wound dressing and burn dressing.

(a) Identification. A hydrogel wound dressing is a sterile or non-sterile device intended to cover a wound, to absorb wound exudate, to control bleeding or fluid loss, and to protect against abrasion, friction, desiccation, and contamination. It consists of a nonresorbable matrix made of hydrophilic polymers or other material in combination with water (at least 50 percent) and capable of absorbing exudate. This classification does not include a hydrogel wound dressing that contains added drugs such as antimicrobial agents, added biologics such as growth factors, or is composed of materials derived from animal sources.

(b) Classification. Class I (general controls). The device is exempt from the premarket notification procedures in part 807, subpart E of this chapter subject to the limitations in §878.9.

[64 FR 53929, Oct. 5, 1999]

§ 878.4025 Silicone sheeting.

(a) Identification. Silicone sheeting is intended for use in the management of closed hyperproliferative (hypertrophic and keloid) scars.

(b) Classification. Class I (general controls). The device is exempt from the premarket notification procedures in subpart E of part 807 of this chapter subject to the limitations in §878.9.

[69 FR 48148, Aug. 9, 2004]

§ 878.4040 Surgical apparel.

(a) Identification. Surgical apparel are devices that are intended to be worn by operating room personnel during surgical procedures to protect both the surgical patient and the operating room personnel from transfer of microorganisms, body fluids, and particulate material. Examples include surgical caps, hoods, masks, gowns, operating room shoes and shoe covers, and isolation masks and gowns. Surgical suits and dresses, commonly known as scrub suits, are excluded.

(b) Classification. (1) Class II (special controls) for surgical gowns and surgical masks.

(2) Class I (general controls) for surgical apparel other than surgical gowns and surgical masks. The class I device is exempt from the premarket notification procedures in subpart E of part 807 of this chapter subject to §878.9.


§ 878.4100 Organ bag.

(a) Identification. An organ bag is a device that is a flexible plastic bag intended to be used as a temporary receptacle for an organ during surgical procedures to prevent moisture loss.

(b) Classification. Class I (general controls). The device is exempt from the premarket notification procedures in subpart E of part 807 of this chapter subject to §878.9.

[53 FR 23872, June 24, 1988, as amended at 65 FR 2317, Jan. 14, 2000]

§ 878.4160 Surgical camera and accessories.

(a) Identification. A surgical camera and accessories is a device intended to be used to record operative procedures.

(b) Classification. Class I (general controls). The device is exempt from the premarket notification procedures in subpart E of part 807 of this chapter subject to the limitations in §878.9.


§ 878.4200 Introduction/drainage catheter and accessories.

(a) Identification. An introduction/drainage catheter is a device that is a flexible single or multilumen tube intended to be used to introduce nondrug fluids into body cavities other than blood vessels, drain fluids from body cavities, or evaluate certain physiologic conditions. Examples include irrigation and drainage catheters, pediatric catheters, peritoneal catheters (including dialysis), and other general surgical catheters. An introduction/drainage catheter accessory is intended to aid in the manipulation of or insertion of the device into the body. Examples of accessories include adaptors, connectors, and catheter needles.

(b) Classification. Class I (general controls). The device is exempt from the premarket notification procedures in part 807 of this chapter subject to §878.9.
§ 878.4300 Implantable clip.

(a) Identification. An implantable clip is a clip-like device intended to connect internal tissues to aid healing. It is not absorbable.

(b) Classification. Class II.

§ 878.4320 Removable skin clip.

(a) Identification. A removable skin clip is a clip-like device intended to connect skin tissues temporarily to aid healing. It is not absorbable.

(b) Classification. Class I (general controls). The device is exempt from the premarket notification procedures in subpart E of part 807 of this chapter subject to § 878.9.

§ 878.4340 Contact cooling system for aesthetic use.

(a) Identification. A contact cooling system for aesthetic use is a device that is a combination of a cooling pad associated with a vacuum or mechanical massager intended for the disruption of adipocyte cells intended for non-invasive aesthetic use.

(b) Classification. Class II (special controls). The special controls for this device are FDA’s “Guidance for Industry and FDA Staff; Class II Special Controls Guidance Document: Contact Cooling System for Aesthetic Use.” See § 878.1(e) for the availability of this guidance document.

§ 878.4350 Cryosurgical unit and accessories.

(a) Identification—(1) Cryosurgical unit with a liquid nitrogen cooled cryoprobe and accessories. A cryosurgical unit with a liquid nitrogen cooled cryoprobe and accessories is a device intended to destroy tissue during surgical procedures by applying extreme cold.

(2) Cryosurgical unit with a nitrous oxide cooled cryoprobe and accessories. A cryosurgical unit with a nitrous oxide cooled cryoprobe and accessories is a device intended to destroy tissue during surgical procedures, including urological applications, by applying extreme cold.

(3) Cryosurgical unit with a carbon dioxide cooled cryoprobe or a carbon dioxide dry ice applicator and accessories. A cryosurgical unit with a carbon dioxide cooled cryoprobe or a carbon dioxide dry ice applicator and accessories is a device intended to destroy tissue during surgical procedures by applying extreme cold. The device is intended to treat disease conditions such as tumors, skin cancers, acne scars, or hemangiomas (benign tumors consisting of newly formed blood vessels) and various benign or malignant gynecological conditions affecting vulvar, vaginal, or cervical tissue. The device is not intended for urological applications.

(b) Classification. Class II.

§ 878.4360 Scalp cooling system to reduce the likelihood of chemotherapy-induced alopecia.

(a) Identification. A scalp cooling system to reduce the likelihood of chemotherapy-induced alopecia is a prescription device intended to reduce the frequency and severity of alopecia during chemotherapy in which alopecia-inducing chemotherapeutic agents are used.

(b) Classification—Class II (special controls). The special controls for this device are:

(1) Non-clinical performance testing must demonstrate that the device meets all design specifications and performance requirements, and that the device performs as intended under anticipated conditions of use. This information must include testing to demonstrate accuracy of the temperature control mechanism.

(2) Performance testing must demonstrate the electromagnetic compatibility and electrical safety of the device.

(3) Software verification, validation, and hazard analysis must be performed.

(4) The patient contacting components of the device must be demonstrated to be biocompatible. Material names must be provided.

(5) Labeling must include the following:

§ 878.4300
(i) A statement describing the potential risk of developing scalp metastasis.

(ii) Information on the patient population and chemotherapeutic agents/regimen for which the device has been demonstrated to be effective.

(iii) A summary of the non-clinical and/or clinical testing pertinent to use of the device.

(iv) A summary of the device technical parameters, including temperature cooling range and duration of cooling.

(v) A summary of the device- and procedure-related adverse events pertinent to use of the device.

(vi) Information on how the device operates and the typical course of treatment.

§ 878.4370 Surgical drape and drape accessories.

(a) Identification. A surgical drape and drape accessories is a device made of natural or synthetic materials intended to be used as a protective patient covering, such as to isolate a site of surgical incision from microbial and other contamination. The device includes a plastic wound protector that may adhere to the skin around a surgical incision or be placed in a wound to cover its exposed edges, and a latex drape with a self-retaining finger cot that is intended to allow repeated insertion of the surgeon’s finger into the rectum during performance of a transurethral prostatectomy.

(b) Classification. Class II.

§ 878.4380 Drape adhesive.

(a) Identification. A drape adhesive is a device intended to be placed on the skin to attach a surgical drape.

(b) Classification. Class I (general controls). The device is exempt from the premarket notification procedures in subpart E of part 807 of this chapter, subject to the limitations in §878.9.

§ 878.4400 Electrosurgical cutting and coagulation device and accessories.

(a) Identification. An electrosurgical cutting and coagulation device and accessories is a device intended to remove tissue and control bleeding by use of high-frequency electrical current.

(b) Classification. Class II.

§ 878.4410 Low energy ultrasound wound cleaner.

(a) Identification. A low energy ultrasound wound cleaner is a device that uses ultrasound energy to vaporize a solution and generate a mist that is used for the cleaning and maintenance debridement of wounds. Low levels of ultrasound energy may be carried to the wound by the saline mist.

(b) Classification. Class II (special controls). The special control is FDA’s guidance document entitled “Class II Special Controls Guidance Document: Low Energy Ultrasound Wound Cleaner.” See §878.1(e) for the availability of this guidance document.

§ 878.4440 Eye pad.

(a) Identification. An eye pad is a device that consists of a pad made of various materials, such as gauze and cotton, intended for use as a bandage over the eye for protection or absorption of secretions.

(b) Classification. Class I (general controls). The device is exempt from the premarket notification procedures in subpart E of part 807 of this chapter, subject to the limitations in §878.9.
§ 878.4450 Nonabsorbable gauze for internal use.

(a) Identification. Nonabsorbable gauze for internal use is a device made of an open mesh fabric intended to be used inside the body or a surgical incision or applied to internal organs or structures, to control bleeding, absorb fluids, or protect organs or structures from abrasion, drying, or contamination. The device is woven from material made of not less than 50 percent by mass cotton, cellulose, or a simple chemical derivative of cellulose, and contains x-ray detectable elements.

(b) Classification. Class I (general controls). The device is exempt from the premarket notification procedures in subpart E of part 807 of this chapter, subject to the limitations in §878.9.


§ 878.4452 Nonabsorbable expandable hemostatic sponge for temporary internal use.

(a) Identification. A nonabsorbable expandable hemostatic sponge for temporary internal use is a prescription device intended to be placed temporarily into junctional, non-compressible wounds, which are not amenable to tourniquet use, to control bleeding until surgical care is acquired. The sponges expand upon contact with blood to fill the wound cavity and provide a physical barrier and pressure that facilitates formation of a clot. The device consists of sterile, non-absorbable radiopaque compressed sponges and may include an applicator to facilitate delivery into a wound.

(b) Classification. Class II (special controls). The special controls for this device are:

(1) Performance data must demonstrate the biocompatibility of patient-contacting components.

(2) Performance data must demonstrate the sterility of patient-contacting components including endotoxin and pyrogenicity assessments.

(3) Performance data must support device stability by demonstrating continued sterility of the patient-contacting components of the device, package integrity, and device functionality over the requested shelf life.

(4) Assessment of material characteristics must be sufficient to support safety under anticipated conditions of use. Assessments must include the following:

(i) Material specifications.

(ii) Immunogenicity.

(iii) Viral inactivation for animal-derived materials.

(5) Non-clinical performance data must demonstrate that the device performs as intended under anticipated conditions of use. The following performance characteristics must be tested:

(i) Absorption capacity.

(ii) Extent of swelling.

(iii) Mechanical properties.

(iv) Expansion force/pressure.

(v) Radiopacity.

(vi) Deployment/applicator functionality.

(6) In vivo performance data must demonstrate safe and effective use by verifying that the device performs as intended under anticipated conditions of use. Appropriate analysis/testing must demonstrate that the product: Controls bleeding, does not promote adverse local or systemic effects, and can be completely removed from the wound. The following performance characteristics must be tested:

(i) Deployment.

(ii) Control of bleeding.

(iii) Radiopacity.

(iv) Retrieval.

(v) Assessment of local and systemic effects.

(7) Human factors testing and analysis must validate that the device design and labeling are sufficient for appropriate use by emergency responders deploying the device as well as surgeons retrieving the device from wounds.

(8) Labeling must include:

(i) Specific instructions for deployment by emergency responders and retrieval by surgeons.

(ii) Warnings, cautions, and limitations needed for safe use of the device.

(iii) Information on how the device operates and the typical course of treatment.

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(iv) A detailed summary of the in vivo and human factors testing pertinent to use of the device.
(v) Appropriate imaging information to ensure complete retrieval of device.
(vi) An expiration date/shelf life.

[79 FR 34224, June 16, 2014]

§ 878.4460 Surgeon’s glove.

(a) Identification. A surgeon’s glove is a device made of natural or synthetic rubber intended to be worn by operating room personnel to protect a surgical wound from contamination. The lubricating or dusting powder used in the glove is excluded.

(b) Classification. Class I (general controls).

[53 FR 23872, June 24, 1988, as amended at 66 FR 46952, Sept. 10, 2001]

§ 878.4470 Surgeon’s gloving cream.

(a) Identification. Surgeon’s gloving cream is an ointment intended to be used to lubricate the user’s hand before putting on a surgeon’s glove.

(b) Classification. Class I (general controls). The device is exempt from the premarket notification procedures in subpart E of part 807 of this chapter, subject to the limitations in §878.9.


§ 878.4480 Absorbable powder for lubricating a surgeon’s glove.

(a) Identification. Absorbable powder for lubricating a surgeon’s glove is a powder made from corn starch that meets the specifications for absorbable powder in the United States Pharmacopeia (U.S.P.) and that is intended to be used to lubricate the surgeon’s hand before putting on a surgeon’s glove. The device is absorbable through biological degradation.

(b) Classification. Class II (special controls). The special control for this device is FDA’s “Class II Special Controls Guidance Document: Surgical Sutures; Guidance for Industry and FDA.” See §878.1(e) for the availability of this guidance document.


§ 878.4494 Absorbable poly(hydroxybutyrate) surgical suture produced by recombinant DNA technology.

(a) Identification. An absorbable poly(hydroxybutyrate) surgical suture is an absorbable surgical suture made of material isolated from prokaryotic cells produced by recombinant deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) technology. The device is intended for use in general soft tissue approximation and ligation.

(b) Classification. Class II (special controls). The special control for this device is the FDA guidance document entitled “Class II Special Controls Guidance Document: Absorbable
Poly(hydroxybutyrate) Surgical Suture Produced by Recombinant DNA Technology.” For the availability of this guidance document see §878.1(e).

§ 878.4495 Stainless steel suture.

(a) Identification. A stainless steel suture is a needled or unneedled non-absorbable surgical suture composed of 316L stainless steel, in USP sizes 12-0 through 10, or a substantially equivalent stainless steel suture, intended for use in abdominal wound closure, intestinal anastomosis, hernia repair, and sternal closure.

(b) Classification. Class II (special controls). The special control for this device is FDA’s “Class II Special Controls Guidance Document: Surgical Sutures; Guidance for Industry and FDA.” See §878.1(e) for the availability of this guidance document.

§ 878.4520 Polytetrafluoroethylene injectable.

(a) Identification. Polytetrafluoroethylene injectable is an injectable paste prosthetic device composed of polytetrafluoroethylene intended to be used to augment or reconstruct a vocal cord.

(b) Classification. Class III.

(c) Date PMA or notice of completion of a PDP is required. As of May 28, 1976, an approval under section 515 of the act is required before this device may be commercially distributed. See §878.3.

§ 878.4580 Surgical lamp.

(a) Identification. A surgical lamp (including a fixture) is a device intended to be used to provide visible illumination of the surgical field or the patient.

(b) Classification. Class II.

§ 878.4590 Focused ultrasound stimulator system for aesthetic use.

(a) Identification. A Focused Ultrasound Stimulator System for Aesthetic Use is a device using focused ultrasound to produce localized, mechanical motion within tissues and cells for the purpose of producing either localized heating for tissue coagulation or for mechanical cellular membrane disruption intended for noninvasive aesthetic use.

(b) Classification. Class II (special controls). The special control for this device is FDA’s “Class II Special Controls Guidance Document: Focused Ultrasound Stimulator System for Aesthetic Use.” See §878.1(e) for the availability of this guidance document.

§ 878.4630 Ultraviolet lamp for dermatologic disorders.

(a) Identification. An ultraviolet lamp for dermatologic disorders is a device (including a fixture) intended to provide ultraviolet radiation of the body to photoactivate a drug in the treatment of a dermatologic disorder if the labeling of the drug intended for use with the device bears adequate directions for the device’s use with that drug.

(b) Classification. Class II.

§ 878.4635 Sunlamp products and ultraviolet lamps intended for use in sunlamp products.

(a) Identification. A sunlamp product is any device designed to incorporate one or more ultraviolet (UV) lamps intended for irradiation of any part of the living human body, by UV radiation with wavelengths in air between 200 and 400 nanometers, to induce skin tanning. This definition includes tanning beds and tanning booths. A UV lamp intended for use in sunlamp products is any lamp that produces UV radiation in the wavelength interval of 200 to 400 nanometers in air.

(b) Classification. Class II (special controls). The special controls for sunlamp products and UV lamps intended for use in sunlamp products are:

(1) Conduct performance testing that demonstrates the following:
   (i) Device meets appropriate output performance specifications such as wavelengths, energy density, and lamp life; and
   (ii) Device’s safety features, such as timers to limit UV exposure and alarms, function properly.

(2) Demonstrate that device is mechanically safe to prevent user injury.

(3) Demonstrate software verification, validation, and hazard analysis.
(4) Demonstrate that device is biocompatible.

(5) Demonstrate that device is electrically safe and electromagnetically compatible in its intended use environment.

(6) Labeling—(i) Sunlamp products. (A) The warning statement below must appear on all sunlamp products and must be placed in a black box. This statement must be permanently affixed or inscribed on the product when fully assembled for use so as to be legible and readily accessible to view by the person who will be exposed to UV radiation immediately before the use of the product. It shall be of sufficient durability to remain legible throughout the expected lifetime of the product. It shall appear on a part or panel displayed prominently under normal conditions of use so that it is readily accessible to view whether the tanning bed canopy (or tanning booth door) is open or closed when the person who will be exposed approaches the equipment and the text shall be at least 10 millimeters (height). Labeling on the device must include the following statement:

Attention: This sunlamp product should not be used on persons under the age of 18 years.

(B) Manufacturers shall provide validated instructions on cleaning and disinfection of sunlamp products between uses in the user instructions.

(ii) Sunlamp products and UV lamps intended for use in sunlamp products. Manufacturers of sunlamp products and UV lamps intended for use in sunlamp products shall provide or cause to be provided in the user instructions, as well as all consumer-directed catalogs, specification sheets, descriptive brochures, and Web pages in which sunlamp products or UV lamps intended for use in sunlamp products are offered for sale, the following contraindication and warning statements:

(A) “Contraindication: This product is contraindicated for use on persons under the age of 18 years.”

(B) “Contraindication: This product must not be used if skin lesions or open wounds are present.”

(C) “Warning: This product should not be used on individuals who have had skin cancer or have a family history of skin cancer.”

(D) “Warning: Persons repeatedly exposed to UV radiation should be regularly evaluated for skin cancer.”

(c) Performance standard. Sunlamp products and UV lamps intended for use in sunlamp products are subject to the electronic product performance standard at §1040.20 of this chapter.

§ 878.4660 Skin marker.

(a) Identification. A skin marker is a pen-like device intended to be used to write on the patient’s skin, e.g., to outline surgical incision sites or mark anatomical sites for accurate blood pressure measurement.

(b) Classification. Class I (general controls). The device is exempt from the premarket notification procedures in subpart E of part 807 of this chapter, subject to the limitations in §878.9.

§ 878.4670 Internal tissue marker.

(a) Identification. An internal tissue marker is a prescription use device that is intended for use prior to or during general surgical procedures to demarcate selected sites on internal tissues.

(b) Classification. Class II (special controls). The special controls for this device are:

(1) The device must be demonstrated to be biocompatible. Material names and specific designation numbers must be provided.

(2) Performance testing must demonstrate that the device performs as intended to mark the tissue for which it is indicated.

(3) Performance data must demonstrate the sterility of the device.

(4) Performance data must support the shelf life of the device by demonstrating sterility, package integrity, device functionality, and material stability over the requested shelf life.

(5) Labeling must include:

(i) A warning that the device must not be used on a non-sterile surface prior to use internally.

(ii) An expiration date/shelf life.
§ 878.4680  Nonpowered, single patient, portable suction apparatus.

(a) Identification. A nonpowered, single patient, portable suction apparatus is a device that consists of a manually operated plastic, disposable evacuation system intended to provide a vacuum for suction drainage of surgical wounds.

(b) Classification. Class I (general controls). The device is exempt from the premarket notification procedures in subpart E of part 807 of this chapter subject to §878.9.


§ 878.4683  Non-powered suction apparatus device intended for negative pressure wound therapy.

(a) Identification. A non-powered suction apparatus device intended for negative pressure wound therapy is a device that is indicated for wound management via application of negative pressure to the wound for removal of fluids, including wound exudate, irrigation fluids, and infectious materials. It is further indicated for management of wounds, burns, flaps, and grafts.

(b) Classification. Class II (special controls). The special control for this device is FDA’s “Class II Special Controls Guidance Document: Non-powered Suction Apparatus Device Intended for Negative Pressure Wound Therapy (NPWT).” See §878.1(e) for the availability of this guidance document.

[75 FR 70114, Nov. 17, 2010]

§ 878.4700  Surgical microscope and accessories.

(a) Identification. A surgical microscope and accessories is an AC-powered device intended for use during surgery to provide a magnified view of the surgical field.

(b) Classification. Class I (general controls). The device is exempt from the premarket notification procedures in subpart E of part 807 of this chapter, subject to the limitations in §878.9.


§ 878.4730  Surgical skin degreaser or adhesive tape solvent.

(a) Identification. A surgical skin degreaser or an adhesive tape solvent is a device that consists of a liquid such as 1,1,2-trichloro-1,2,2-trifluoroethane; 1,1,1-trichloroethane; and 1,1,1-trichloroethane with mineral spirits intended to be used to dissolve surface skin oil or adhesive tape.

(b) Classification. Class I (general controls). The device is exempt from the premarket notification procedures in subpart E of part 807 of this chapter, subject to the limitations in §878.9.


§ 878.4750  Implantable staple.

(a) Identification. An implantable staple is a staple-like device intended to connect internal tissues to aid healing. It is not absorbable.

(b) Classification. Class II.

§ 878.4755  Absorbable lung biopsy plug.

(a) Identification. A preformed (polymerized) absorbable lung biopsy plug is intended to provide accuracy in marking a biopsy location for visualization during surgical resection and closure of pleural punctures associated with percutaneous, transthoracic needle lung biopsies. Upon deployment into the biopsy tract, the plug expands to fill the biopsy void and remains in place until resorbed.

(b) Classification. Class II (special controls). The special controls for this device are:

(1) The design characteristics of the device must ensure that the geometry and material composition are consistent with the intended use.

(2) Performance testing must demonstrate deployment as indicated in the accompanying labeling, including the indicated introducer needles, and demonstrate expansion and resorption characteristics in a clinically relevant environment.
§ 878.4800 Manual surgical instrument for general use.

(a) Identification. A manual surgical instrument for general use is a non-powered, hand-held, or hand-manipulated device, either reusable or disposable, intended to be used in various general surgical procedures. The device includes the applicator, clip applier, biopsy brush, manual dermabrasion brush, scrub brush, cannula, ligature carrier, chisel, clamp, contractor, curette, cutter, dissector, elevator, skin graft expander, file, forceps, gouge, instrument guide, needle guide, hammer, hemostat, amputation hook, ligature passing and knot-tying instrument, knife, blood lancet, mallet, disposable or reusable aspiration and injection needle, disposable or reusable suturing
§878.4810 Laser surgical instrument for use in general and plastic surgery and in dermatology.
(a) Identification. (1) A carbon dioxide laser for use in general surgery and in dermatology is a laser device intended to cut, destroy, or remove tissue by light energy emitted by carbon dioxide.
(2) An argon laser for use in dermatology is a laser device intended to destroy or coagulate tissue by light energy emitted by argon.
(b) Classification. (1) Class II.
(2) Class I for special laser gas mixtures used as a lasing medium for this class of lasers. The devices subject to this paragraph (b)(2) are exempt from the premarket notification procedures in subpart E of part 807 of this chapter, subject to the limitations in §878.9.

§878.4820 Surgical instrument motors and accessories/attachments.
(a) Identification. Surgical instrument motors and accessories are AC-powered, battery-powered, or air-powered devices intended for use during surgical procedures to provide power to operate various accessories or attachments to cut hard tissue or bone and soft tissue. Accessories or attachments may include a bur, chisel (osteotome), dermabrasion brush, dermatome, drill bit, hammerhead, pin driver, and saw blade.

§878.4830 Absorbable surgical gut suture.
(a) Identification. An absorbable surgical gut suture, both plain and chromic, is an absorbable, sterile, flexible thread prepared from either the serosal connective tissue layer of beef (bovine) or the submucosal fibrous tissue of sheep (ovine) intestine, and is intended for use in soft tissue approximation.
(b) Classification. Class II (special controls). The special control for the device is FDA’s “Class II Special Controls Guidance Document: Surgical Sutures; Guidance for Industry and FDA.” See §878.1(e) for the availability of this guidance document.

§878.4840 Absorbable polydioxanone surgical suture.
(a) Identification. An absorbable polydioxanone surgical suture is an absorbable, flexible, sterile, monofilament thread prepared from polyester polymer poly (p-dioxanone) and is intended for use in soft tissue approximation, including pediatric cardiovascular tissue where growth is expected to occur, and ophthalmic surgery. It may be coated or uncoated, undyed or dyed, and with or without a standard needle attached.
(b) Classification. Class II (special controls). The special control for the device is FDA’s “Class II Special Controls Guidance Document: Surgical Sutures; Guidance for Industry and FDA.” See §878.1(e) for the availability of this guidance document.
§ 878.4950 Manual operating table and accessories and manual operating chair and accessories.

(a) Identification. A manual operating table and accessories and a manual operating chair and accessories are non-powered devices, usually with movable components, intended to be used to support a patient during diagnostic examinations or surgical procedures.

(b) Classification. Class I (general controls). The device is exempt from the premarket notification procedures in subpart E of part 807 of this chapter, subject to the limitations in §878.9.


§ 878.4960 Operating tables and accessories and operating chairs and accessories.

(a) Identification. Operating tables and accessories and operating chairs and accessories are AC-powered or air-powered devices, usually with movable components, intended for use during diagnostic examinations or surgical procedures to support and position a patient.

(b) Classification. Class I (general controls). The device is exempt from the premarket notification procedures in subpart E of part 807 of this chapter, subject to §878.9.


§ 878.5000 Nonabsorbable poly(ethylene terephthalate) surgical suture.

(a) Identification. Nonabsorbable poly(ethylene terephthalate) surgical suture is a multifilament, nonabsorbable, sterile, flexible thread prepared from fibers of high molecular weight, long-chain linear polyesters having recurrent aromatic rings as an integral component and is indicated for use in soft tissue approximation. The poly(ethylene terephthalate) surgical suture meets U.S.P. requirements as described in the U.S.P. Monograph for Nonabsorbable Surgical Sutures; it may be provided uncoated or coated; and it may be undyed or dyed with an appropriate FDA listed color additive. Also, the suture may be provided with or without a standard needle attached.

(b) Classification. Class II (special controls). The special control for this device is FDA’s “Class II Special Controls Guidance Document: Surgical Sutures; Guidance for Industry and FDA.” See §878.1(e) for the availability of this guidance document.


§ 878.5010 Nonabsorbable polypropylene surgical suture.

(a) Identification. Nonabsorbable polypropylene surgical suture is a monofilament, nonabsorbable, sterile, flexible thread prepared from long-chain polyolefin polymer known as polypropylene and is indicated for use in soft tissue approximation. The polypropylene surgical suture meets United States Pharmacopeia (U.S.P.) requirements as described in the U.S.P. Monograph for Nonabsorbable Surgical Sutures; it may be undyed or dyed with an FDA approved color additive; and the suture may be provided with or without a standard needle attached.

(b) Classification. Class II (special controls). The special control for this device is FDA’s “Class II Special Controls Guidance Document: Surgical Sutures; Guidance for Industry and FDA.” See §878.1(e) for the availability of this guidance document.


§ 878.5020 Nonabsorbable polyamide surgical suture.

(a) Identification. Nonabsorbable polyamide surgical suture is a nonabsorbable, sterile, flexible thread prepared from long-chain aliphatic polymers Nylon 6 and Nylon 6,6 and is indicated for use in soft tissue approximation. The polyamide surgical suture meets United States Pharmacopeia (U.S.P.) requirements as described in the U.S.P. monograph for nonabsorbable surgical sutures; it may be monofilament or
multifilament in form; it may be provided uncoated or coated; and it may be undyed or dyed with an appropriate FDA listed color additive. Also, the suture may be provided with or without a standard needle attached.

(b) Classification. Class II (special controls). The special control for this device is FDA’s “Class II Special Controls Guidance Document: Surgical Sutures; Guidance for Industry and FDA.” See §878.1(e) for the availability of this guidance document.

§ 878.5030 Natural nonabsorbable silk surgical suture.

(a) Identification. Natural nonabsorbable silk surgical suture is a nonabsorbable, sterile, flexible multifilament thread composed of an organic protein called fibroin. This protein is derived from the domesticated species Bombyx mori (B. mori) of the family Bombycidae. Natural nonabsorbable silk surgical suture is indicated for use in soft tissue approximation. Natural nonabsorbable silk surgical suture meets the United States Pharmacopeia (U.S.P.) monograph requirements for Nonabsorbable Surgical Suture (class I). Natural nonabsorbable silk surgical suture may be braided or twisted; it may be provided uncoated or coated; and it may be undyed or dyed with an FDA listed color additive.

(b) Classification. Class II (special controls). The special control for this device is FDA’s “Class II Special Controls Guidance Document: Surgical Sutures; Guidance for Industry and FDA.” See §878.1(e) for the availability of this guidance document.

§ 878.5035 Nonabsorbable expanded polytetrafluoroethylene surgical suture.

(a) Identification. Nonabsorbable expanded polytetrafluoroethylene (ePTFE) surgical suture is a monofilament, nonabsorbable, sterile, flexible thread prepared from ePTFE and is intended for use in soft tissue approximation and ligation, including cardiovascular surgery. It may be undyed or dyed with an approved color additive and may be provided with or without an attached needle(s).

(b) Classification. Class II (special controls). The special control for this device is FDA’s “Class II Special Controls Guidance Document: Surgical Sutures; Guidance for Industry and FDA.” See §878.1(e) for the availability of this guidance document.

§ 878.5040 Suction lipoplasty system.

(a) Identification. A suction lipoplasty system is a device intended for aesthetic body contouring. The device consists of a powered suction pump (containing a microbial filter on the exhaust and a microbial in-line filter in the connecting tubing between the collection bottle and the safety trap), collection bottle, cannula, and connecting tube. The microbial filters, tubing, collection bottle, and cannula must be capable of being changed between patients. The powered suction pump has a motor with a minimum of 1/3 horsepower, a variable vacuum range from 0 to 29.9 inches of mercury, vacuum control valves to regulate the vacuum with accompanying vacuum gauges, a single or double rotary vane (with or without oil), a single or double diaphragm, a single or double piston, and a safety trap.

(b) Classification. Class II (special controls). Consensus standards and labeling restrictions.

[63 FR 7705, Feb. 17, 1998]

Subpart F—Therapeutic Devices

§ 878.5070 Air-handling apparatus for a surgical operating room.

(a) Identification. Air-handling apparatus for a surgical operating room is a device intended to produce a directed, nonturbulent flow of air that has been filtered to remove particulate matter and microorganisms to provide an area free of contaminants to reduce the possibility of infection in the patient.

(b) Classification. Class II.

§ 878.5350 Needle-type epilator.

(a) Identification. A needle-type epilator is a device intended to destroy the dermal papilla of a hair by applying
electric current at the tip of a fine needle that has been inserted close to the hair shaft, under the skin, and into the dermal papilla. The electric current may be high-frequency AC current, high-frequency AC combined with DC current, or DC current only.

(b) Classification. Class I (general controls). The device is exempt from the premarket notification procedures in subpart E of part 807 of this chapter, subject to the limitations in §878.9.

§ 878.5360 Tweezer-type epilator.

(a) Identification. The tweezer-type epilator is an electrical device intended to remove hair. The energy provided at the tip of the tweezer used to remove hair may be radio frequency, galvanic (direct current), or a combination of radio frequency and galvanic energy.

(b) Classification. Class I (general controls). The device is exempt from the premarket notification procedures in subpart E of part 807 of this chapter, subject to §878.9.

§ 878.5400 Low level laser system for aesthetic use

(a) Identification. A Low Level Laser System for Aesthetic Use is a device using low level laser energy for the disruption of adipocyte cells within the fat layer for the release of fat and lipids from these cells for noninvasive aesthetic use.

(b) Classification. Class II (special controls). The special control for this device is FDA’s “Class II Special Controls Guidance: Low Level Laser System for Aesthetic Use.” See §878.1(e) for the availability of this guidance document.

§ 878.5650 Topical oxygen chamber for extremities.

(a) Identification. A topical oxygen chamber for extremities is a device that is intended to surround a patient’s limb and apply humidified oxygen topically at a pressure slightly greater than atmospheric pressure to aid healing of chronic skin ulcers such as bedsores.

(b) Classification. Class II (special controls). The special control for this device is FDA’s “Class II Special Controls Guidance: Topical Oxygen Chamber for Extremities.” See §878.1(e) for the availability of this guidance document.

§ 878.5900 Nonpneumatic tourniquet.

(a) Identification. A nonpneumatic tourniquet is a device consisting of a strap or tubing intended to be wrapped around a patient’s limb and tightened to reduce circulation.

(b) Classification. Class I (general controls). The device is exempt from the premarket notification procedures in subpart E of part 807 of this chapter, subject to the limitations in §878.9.

§ 878.5910 Pneumatic tourniquet.

(a) Identification. A pneumatic tourniquet is an air-powered device consisting of a pressure-regulating unit, connecting tubing, and an inflatable cuff. The cuff is intended to be wrapped around a patient’s limb and inflated to reduce or totally occlude circulation during surgery.

(b) Classification. Class I (general controls). The device is exempt from the premarket notification procedures in subpart E of part 807 of this chapter, subject to the limitations in §878.9.