



Designation: D 4774 – 94 (Reapproved 2000)

Standard Specification for User Applied Drug Labels in Anesthesiology¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D 4774; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last approval. A superscript epsilon (ε) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers the size, color and pattern, and type used on labels applied to unlabeled syringes filled by the users or their agents to identify the drug content. This specification is not intended to cover labels applied by the drug manufacturer.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

D 996 Terminology of Packaging and Distribution Environments

2.2 *Other Standard:*

Pantone Matching System³

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—General definitions for packaging and distribution environments are found in Terminology D 996.

4. Size and Background Color Requirements

4.1 *Label Size*—The labels shall have a nominal length of 25 to 35 mm and a width of 10 to 13 mm.

4.2 *Label Background Color*—The colors and patterns given in Table 1 shall be used to distinguish these groups of drugs. The background color shall not interfere with the ability of the user to write information on the label.

4.2.1 *Antagonists*— To denote an antagonist, 1-mm wide diagonal stripes of the agonist color alternating with a 1-mm wide white stripe shall be used. The stripes shall run from the lower left to the upper right at an angle of approximately 45° to the long axis of the label. The name of an antagonist drug shall appear in the center of the label and the striping shall be omitted behind and below the name (see Fig. 1).

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D10 on Packaging and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D10.32 on Consumer Packages.

Current edition approved Nov. 15, 1994. Published January 1995. Originally published as D 4774 – 88. Last previous edition D 4774 – 93.

² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

³ Available from Pantone, Inc., 55 Knickerbocker Rd., Moonachie, NJ 07074.

TABLE 1 Standard Background Colors for User Applied Syringe Drug Labels^A

	Drug Class	Examples	Pantone Color, All Uncoated
1	Induction agents	thiopental, methohexital thiamylal, etomidate ketamine	yellow
2	Tranquilizers	diazepam, midazolam	orange 151
3	Muscle relaxants	succinylcholine, ^B curare mivacurium, vecuromum pancuronium, atracurium	fluorescent red 805
3a	Relaxant antagonists	neostigmine, endrophonium pyridostigmine	fluorescent red 805 or warm red ^C and white diagonal stripes
4	Narcotics	morphine, fentanyl, meperidine	blue 297
4a	Narcotic antagonists	levallorphan, naloxone	blue 297 and white diagonal stripes
5	Major tranquilizers	droperidol, chlorpromazine	salmon 156
5b	Combinations of narcotics and major tranquilizers	innovar, fentanyl-droperidol combination	blue 297 and salmon 156 longitudinal stripes
6	Vasopressors	epinephrine, ^B ephedrine phenylephrine	violet 256
6a	Hypotensive agents	trimethaphan, nitroprusside, nitroglycerine, phenolamine	violet 256 and white diagonal stripes
7	Local anesthetics	bupivacaine, lidocaine	gray 401
8	Anticholinergic agents	atropine, glycopyrrolate	green 367

^A Drugs that do not fit into the above classes should be labeled with black printing on a white background. The examples shown are representative, not restrictive.

^B All printing is to be in black boldtype, with the exception that "succinylcholine" and "epinephrine" shall be printed against the background color as reversed plate letters within a black bar running from edge to edge of the label.

^C Warm red may be used if the printing of 805 fluorescent red stripes presents insurmountable difficulties.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 The objective of this specification is to facilitate identification of drugs in syringes filled by the user. The use of



FIG. 1 Label for an Antagonist Drug