



St John Ambulance Australia (NSW)
First Aid Services
Office of the Assistant Commissioner (Operations)

State Operations Instructional Circular

Subject : Cervical Collars

Circular No. : SOIC 2013/04

Date Issued : 20 August 2013

Reference : Dr David FAHEY (State Medical Officer) / Geoff KIEHNE (State Operations Officer)

Consistency across our organisation in equipment used in emergency situations is important. In Clinical Policy 2010-02 (dated 18/10/2010) notice was given of the planned phasing in of a new style of cervical collar for use in FAS. Notice was given of a period of some *two years* for the changeover to occur. That phasing in or warning period has now expired.

The only approved cervical collar for use in St John Ambulance Australia (NSW), First Aid Services is the *Laerdal Stifneck Select™ & Laerdal Stifneck Pedi-Select™ cervical collar. The use of other brands, makes and models are not approved and as such, their use will be considered a breach of FAS clinical policy.*

The use in FAS of the older style, Laerdal Stiff Neck cervical collar (the non adjustable model) is no longer approved. Any of the superseded collars held are to be removed from ALL operational FAS kits and equipment stores. They should be rendered inoperative and placed into the nearest waste bin. The superseded collars are *not* to be used in training. This directive is effectively immediately.

Regions/Divisions are asked to conduct regular equipment audits as part of the normal supervisory procedures to ensure that the correct/approved equipment only is being carried and used.

Colin LOTT
Assistant Commissioner (Operations)