



EN- English

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE – LMA Flexible™ Single Use

CAUTION: Federal (USA) law restricts this device to sale by or on the order of a physician.

WARNING: LMA Flexible™ Single Use (LMA Flexible™ SU) is supplied sterile for single use, should be used straight from the pack and should be discarded after use. It must not be re-used. Reuse may cause cross infection and reduce product reliability and functionality.

WARNING: Re-processing of LMA Flexible™ SU intended for single use only may result in degraded performance or loss of functionality. Re-use of single use only products may result in exposure to viral, bacterial, fungal, or prionic pathogens. Validated cleaning and sterilisation methods and instructions for reprocessing to original specifications are not available for this product. LMA Flexible™ SU is not designed to be cleaned, disinfected, or re-sterilised.

DEVICE DESCRIPTION:

LMA Flexible™ SU is differentiated from other LMA airways by having a flexible wire-reinforced airway tube that allows it to be positioned away from the surgical field. It may be particularly useful in procedures where the surgeon and anesthesiologist are working in the same area, such as procedures involving the head or neck.

The flexibility of the airway tube provides an easy connection at any angle from the mouth and allows the tube to be repositioned from the side during the surgical procedure without loss of seal of the cuff against the larynx.

LMA Flexible™ SU is made primarily of medical grade polyvinylchloride (PVC) and is supplied sterile (sterilized by Ethylene Oxide) for single use only. It is not made with natural rubber latex.

The device is only for use by medical professionals trained in airway management.

INDICATIONS FOR USE:

It is indicated for use in achieving and maintaining control of the airway during routine and emergency anaesthetic procedures in fasted patients using either spontaneous or Positive Pressure Ventilation (PPV).

It is also indicated for securing the immediate airway in known or unexpected difficult airway situations. It is best suited for use in elective surgical procedures where tracheal intubation is not necessary.

It may be used to establish an immediate, clear airway during cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) in the profoundly unconscious patient with absent glossopharyngeal and laryngeal reflexes requiring artificial ventilation. In these cases, LMA Flexible™ SU should be used only when tracheal intubation is not possible.

RISK-BENEFIT INFORMATION:

When used in the profoundly unresponsive patient in need of resuscitation or in a difficult airway patient on an emergency pathway (i.e., “cannot intubate, cannot ventilate”), the risk of regurgitation and

aspiration must be weighed against the potential benefit of establishing an airway.

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

Due to the potential risk of regurgitation and aspiration, do not use the LMA Flexible™ SU as a substitute for an endotracheal tube in the following elective or difficult airway patients on a non-emergency pathway:

1. Patients who have not fasted, including patients whose fasting cannot be confirmed.
2. Patients who are grossly or morbidly obese, more than 14 weeks pregnant or emergency and resuscitation situations or any condition associated with delayed gastric emptying, or using opiate medication prior to fasting.

The LMA Flexible™ SU is also contraindicated in:

3. Patients with fixed decreased pulmonary compliance, or peak inspiratory pressure anticipated to exceed 20 cm H₂O, because the device forms a low-pressure seal (approximately 20 cm H₂O) around the larynx.
4. Adult patients who are unable to understand instructions or cannot adequately answer questions regarding their medical history, since such patients may be contraindicated for LMA Flexible™ SU use.
5. The LMA Flexible™ SU should not be used in the resuscitation or emergency situation in patients who are not profoundly unconscious and who may resist device insertion.

ADVERSE EFFECTS:

There are reported adverse reactions associated with the use of laryngeal mask airways. Standard textbooks and published literature should be consulted for specific information.

WARNINGS:

1. To avoid trauma, excessive force should not be used at any time when using the devices. Excessive force must be avoided at all times.
2. LMA Flexible™ SU contains Di (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP). The results of certain animal experiments have shown phthalates to be potentially toxic to reproduction. Proceeding from the present state of scientific knowledge, risks for male premature infants cannot be excluded in the case of long-term exposure or application. Medical products containing phthalates should be used only temporarily with pregnant women, nursing mothers, babies and infants.
3. Do not use if the device is damaged or the unit packaging is damaged or opened.
4. Never over-inflate the cuff of the device over 60cm H₂O. Excessive intra-cuff pressure can result in malposition and pharyngo-laryngeal morbidity, including sore throat, dysphagia and nerve injury.
5. Do not immerse or soak the device in liquid prior to use.
6. It is most important that pre-use checks are carried out on the device prior to use, in order to establish whether it is safe for use. Failure of any one test indicates the device should not be used.
7. When applying lubricant avoid blockage of the airway aperture with the lubricant.
8. A water-soluble lubricant, such as K-Y Jelly®, should be used. Do not use silicone-based lubricants as they degrade LMA Flexible™ SU components. Lubricants containing Lidocaine are not recommended for use with the device. Lidocaine can delay the return of the patient’s protective reflexes expected prior to removal of the device, may possibly provoke an allergic reaction, or may affect the surrounding structures, including the vocal cords.
9. Diffusion of nitrous oxide, oxygen, or air may increase or decrease cuff volume and pressure. In order to ensure that cuff pressures do not become

excessive, cuff pressure should be measured regularly during a case with a cuff pressure monitor.

10. The LMA Flexible™ SU does not prevent regurgitation or aspiration. Its use in anaesthetised patients should be restricted to fasting patients. A number of conditions predispose to regurgitation under anaesthesia. Do not use the device without taking appropriate precautions to ensure the stomach is empty.

11. When using the device in special environmental conditions, such as enriched oxygen, ensure that all necessary preparation and precautions have been taken, especially with regard to fire hazards and prevention. The device may be flammable in the presence of lasers and electrocautery equipment.

12. Refer to MRI information section prior to using the devices in MRI environment.

CAUTIONS:

1. Laryngeal spasm may occur if the patient becomes too lightly anaesthetized during surgical stimulation or if bronchial secretions irritate the vocal cords during emergence from anaesthesia. If laryngeal spasm occurs, treat the cause. Only remove the device when airway protective reflexes are fully competent.
2. Do not pull or use undue force when handling the inflation line or try to remove the device from patient by the inflation tube as it may detach from the cuff spigot.
3. Only use a syringe with standard luer taper tip for inflation or deflation.
4. Careful handling is essential. Avoid contact with sharp or pointed objects at all times to prevent tearing or perforation of the device. Do not insert the device unless the cuffs are fully deflated as described in the instructions for insertion.
5. If airway problems persist or ventilation is inadequate, the device should be removed and an airway established by some other means.
6. Store the device in a dark cool environment, avoiding direct sunlight or extremes of temperatures.
7. Used device shall follow a handling and elimination process for bio-hazard products, in accordance with all local and national regulations.
8. Ensure all removable denture work is removed before inserting the device.
9. Gloves should be worn during preparation and insertion to minimize contamination of the device.
10. An unreliable or obstructed airway may result in cases where the device has been incorrectly inserted.
11. Only use with the recommended manoeuvres described in the instructions for use.

PREPARATION FOR USE:

Choose the correct size of LMA Flexible™ SU

Patient Weight/Size

2 : 10k-20kg paediatric	4: 50kg-70kg adult
2½: 20kg-30kg paediatric	5: 70kg-100kg adult
3 : 30kg-50kg paediatric	

Keep a clearly marked syringe for inflation and deflation of the cuff.

PRE-USE CHECKS:

Warning: It is most important that pre-use checks are carried out on LMA Flexible™ SU prior to use, in order to establish whether it is safe for use.

Warning: Failure of any one test indicates the device should not be used.

These tests should be carried out as follows:

1. **Examine the interior of the airway tube** to ensure it is free from blockage or loose particles. Examine the tube throughout its length. Should any cuts or indentations be found, discard the device.

2. **Holding at each end flex the airway tube** to increase its curvature up to but not beyond 180°. Should the tube kink during this procedure, discard the device.

3. **Deflate the cuff fully.** Reinflate the device with a volume of air 50% greater than the maximum inflation value for each size.

Size 2	15ml	Size 4	45ml
Size 2½	21ml	Size 5	60ml
Size 3	30ml		

Examine the cuff for leaks, herniations and uneven bulging. If any indication of these, discard the device. A herniating mask may cause obstruction during use. Then deflate the mask again. While the device remains 50% over-inflated, examine the blue inflation pilot balloon. The balloon shape should be elliptical, not spherical.

4. **Examine the airway connector.** It should fit securely into the airway tube and it should not be possible using reasonable force, to remove. Do not use excessive force or twist the connector as this may break the seal. If the connector is loose, discard the device to avoid the risk of accidental disconnection during use.

5. **Discoloration.** Discoloration affects visibility of fluid in the airway tube.

6. Gently pull the inflation line to ensure it is securely attached to both the cuff and balloon.

7. Examine the aperture in the mask. Gently probe the two flexible bars traversing the mask aperture to ensure they are not broken or otherwise damaged. If the aperture bars are not intact, the epiglottis may obstruct the airway. Do not use if the aperture bar is damaged.

PRE-INSERTION PREPARATION:

Deflate completely using the LMA™ Cuff Deflator in order to create the stiff thin leading edge necessary to wedge the tip behind the cricoid cartilage. The cuff should fold back away from the aperture bars. Lubricate the back of the cuff thoroughly just before insertion. Do not lubricate the front as this may result in blockage of aperture bar or aspiration of lubricant.

Warning: A water-soluble lubricant, such as K-Y Jelly®, should be used. Do not use silicone-based lubricants as they degrade the LMA Flexible™ SU components. Lubricants containing Lidocaine are not recommended for use with the device. Lidocaine can delay the return of the patient's protective reflexes expected prior to removal of the device, may possibly provoke an allergic reaction, or may affect the surrounding structures, including the vocal cords.

Caution: Ensure all removable denture work is removed before inserting the device.

INSERTION:

Caution: Gloves should be worn during preparation and insertion to minimize contamination of the device.

Caution: The patency of the airway should be reconfirmed after any change in the patient's head and neck position.

Standard Insertion Method:

1. **Anaesthesia must be deep enough to permit insertion**

Do not try to insert immediately following barbiturate induction, unless a relaxant drug has been given.

2. Position the head and neck as for normal tracheal intubation.

Keep the neck flexed and the head extended by pushing the head from behind with one hand while

inserting the mask into the mouth with the other hand (Fig.1).

3. When inserting the mask, hold it like a pen with the index finger placed anteriorly at the junction of the cuff and tube (Fig.1). Press the tip up against the hard palate and verify it lies flat against the palate and that the tip is not folded over, before pushing further into the pharynx.

4. Using the index finger, push the mask backwards **still maintaining pressure against the palate** (Fig.2).

5. As the mask moves downwards, the index finger maintains pressure backwards against the posterior pharyngeal wall to avoid collision with the epiglottis. Insert the index finger fully into the mouth to complete insertion (Fig.3). Keep other fingers out of the mouth. As insertion progresses, the flexor surface of the whole index finger should lie along the tube, keeping it firmly in contact with the palate. (Fig.3).

AVOID INSERTING WITH SEVERAL MOVEMENTS OR JERKING UP AND DOWN IN THE PHARYNX AFTER RESISTANCE IS FELT.

When resistance is felt the finger should already have been fully inserted into the mouth. Use the other hand to hold the tube while withdrawing the finger from the mouth (Fig 4).

6. Check that the black line on the tube faces the upper lip.

Now immediately inflate the cuff **without holding the tube.**

Do this BEFORE connection to the gas supply. This will permit the device to position itself correctly. Inflate the cuff with sufficient air to obtain a low pressure seal. During cuff inflation, do not hold the tube as this prevents the device from settling into its correct location.

Warning: NEVER OVERINFLATE THE CUFF.

Maximum inflation volumes (ml)

Size 2	10ml	Size 4	30ml
Size 2½	14ml	Size 5	40ml
Size 3	20ml		

7. Connect to the gas supply, holding the tube, to prevent displacement. **Gently** inflate the lungs to confirm correct placement. Insert a roll of gauze as a bite-block (ensuring adequate thickness), and tape the device into place, ensuring that the proximal end of the airway tube is pointing caudally. When correctly placed, the tube should be pressed back into the palate and posterior pharyngeal wall. When using the device, it is important to remember to insert a bite block at the end of the procedure.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

Thumb Insertion Method:

This technique is suitable for patients in whom access to the head from behind is difficult or impossible and during cardiopulmonary resuscitation. The LMA Flexible™ SU is held with the thumb in the position occupied by the index finger in the standard technique (Fig.5). The tip of the mask is pressed against the front teeth and the mask is pressed

posteriorly along the palate with the thumb. As the thumb nears the mouth, the fingers are stretched forward over the patient's face (Fig.6). Advance the thumb to its fullest extent (Fig.7). The pushing action of the thumb against the hard palate also serves to press the head into extension. Neck flexion may be maintained with a head support. Before removing the thumb, push the tube into its final position using the other hand (Fig.8).



Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7



Figure 8

MAINTAINING THE AIRWAY:

1. Obstruction can occur if the device becomes dislodged or is incorrectly inserted. The epiglottis may be pushed down with poor insertion technique. Check by auscultation of the neck and correct by reinsertion or elevation of the epiglottis using a laryngoscope.

2. Malposition of mask tip into the glottis may mimic bronchospasm.

3. Avoid moving the device about in the pharynx when the patient is at a light plane of anaesthesia.

4. Keep the bite-block in place until the device is removed.

6. Air may be withdrawn from the cuff during anaesthesia to maintain a constant intracuff pressure (always less than 60cm H₂O).

REMOVAL:

1. **The LMA Flexible™ SU, together with the recommended bite-block, should be left in place until the return of consciousness.** Oxygen should be administered using a "T" piece system and standard monitoring should be in place. Before attempting to remove or deflate the device, **it is essential to leave the patient completely undisturbed until protective reflexes have fully returned. Do not remove the device until the patient can open the mouth on command.**

2. Look for the onset of swallowing which indicates reflexes are almost restored. It is usually unnecessary to perform suction because the correctly used LMA Flexible™ SU protects the larynx from oral secretions. Patients will swallow secretions on removal. **Suction equipment should however be available at all times.**

3. Deflate the cuff completely just prior to removal, although partial deflation can be recommended in order to assist in the removal of secretions.

USE WITH MAGNETIC RESONANCE

IMAGING (MRI):



The LMA Flexible™ SU is MR Conditional. Non-clinical testing demonstrated that this product is MR Conditional. A patient with this device can be scanned safely, immediately after placement under the following conditions:

- Before the patient enters the MRI system room, the airway must be fixed properly in place with adhesive tape, cloth tape or other appropriate means to prevent movement or dislodgement.
- Static magnetic field of 3-Tesla or less
- Maximum spatial gradient magnetic field of 720 gauss/cm (7.2T/m) or less
- Maximum MR system reported, whole body averaged specific absorption rate (SAR) of 4-W/kg (First Level Controlled Operating Mode of operation for the MRI system) for 15 min. of scanning (per pulse sequence).

MRI-Related Heating

Under the scan conditions defined above, LMA Flexible™ SU is expected to produce a maximum temperature rise of 2.3°C after 15 minutes of continuous scanning.

Artifact Information

The maximum artifact size as seen on a gradient echo pulse sequence and a 3-Tesla MRI system extends approximately 50-mm relative to the size and shape of the LMA Flexible™, Size 6.

SYMBOL DEFINITION:

	Manufacturer
	Consult IFU on this website: www.LMACO.com
	Air inflation volume
	Patient weight
	Read Instructions before use
	Not made with natural rubber latex
	Fragile, handle with care
	Keep away from sunlight
	Keep dry
	This way up
	Product Code
	Lot Number
	CE Mark
	Do not Re-use
	Do not Re-sterilise
	Contains or Presence of Phthalates: Bis (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP)
	Sterilised by Ethylene Oxide
	Use By
	Do not use if package is damaged
	MR Conditional

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The information given in this document is correct at the time of going to press. The manufacturer reserves the right to improve or modify the products without prior notification.

Manufacturer's Warranty:

The LMA Flexible™ Single Use is designed for single use and warranted against manufacturing defects at the time of delivery.

Warranty is applicable only if purchased from an authorized distributor. TELEFLEX MEDICAL DISCLAIMS ALL OTHER WARRANTIES, WHETHER EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, THE WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE.



Teleflex Medical
IDA Business and Technology Park
Dublin Road, Athlone
Co. Westmeath, Ireland

Contact Information in USA:
International: (919)544-8000
USA: (866) 246-6990

www.LMACO.com



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