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]
Food and Drug Administration, HHS

878.4610 Laser surgical instrument for use in general and plastic surgery and in dermatology.
878.4820 Surgical instrument motors and accessories/attachments.
878.4840 Absorbable polydioxanone surgical suture.
878.4810 Laser surgical instrument for use in general and plastic surgery and in dermatology.
878.4830 Absorbable surgical gut suture.
878.5000 Nonabsorbable poly(ethylene terephthalate) surgical suture.
878.5020 Nonabsorbable polyamide surgical suture.
878.5030 Natural nonabsorbable silk surgical suture.
878.5035 Nonabsorbable expanded polytetrafluoroethylene surgical suture.
878.5040 Suction lipoplasty system.

Subpart F—Therapeutic Devices
878.5070 Air-handling apparatus for a surgical operating room.
878.5360 Needle-type epilator.
878.5390 Tweezer-type epilator.
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.

Subpart A—General Provisions

§ 878.3 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 will be, subject to the regulation. A manufacturer who submits a premarket notification submission for a device under part 807 cannot show merely that the device is accurately described by the section title and identification provision of a regulation in this part, but shall state why the device is substantially equivalent to other devices, as required by § 807.87 of this chapter.
(c) To avoid duplicative listings, a general and plastic surgery device that has two or more types of uses (e.g., used both as a diagnostic device and as a therapeutic device) is listed in one subpart only.
(d) References in this part to regulatory sections of the Code of Federal Regulations are to chapter I of title 21 unless otherwise noted.
(e) Guidance documents referenced in this part are available on the Internet at http://www.fda.gov/cdrh/guidance.html.
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 subpart E of part 807 of this chapter subject to §878.9.


§ 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 polysiloxane(s), such as polydimethylsiloxane and polydiphenylsiloxane, that is inflated to the desired size with sterile isotonic saline before or after 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 November 17, 1999, for any silicone inflatable breast prosthesis that was in commercial distribution before May 28, 1976, or that has, on or before November 17, 1999, been found to be substantially equivalent to a silicone inflatable breast prosthesis that was in commercial distribution before May 28, 1976. Any other silicone inflatable breast prosthesis shall have an approved PMA or a declared completed PDP in effect before being placed in commercial distribution.

[53 FR 23872, June 24, 1988, as amended at 64 FR 45161, Aug. 19, 1999]
§ 878.3540 Silicone gel-filled breast prosthesis.

(a) Identification—(1) Single-lumen silicone gel-filled breast prosthesis. A single-lumen silicone gel-filled breast prosthesis is a silicone rubber shell made of polysiloxane(s), such as poly(dimethyl)siloxane and poly(diphenyl)siloxane. The shell either contains a fixed amount 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.

(2) Double-lumen silicone gel-filled breast prosthesis. A double lumen silicone gel-filled breast prosthesis is a silicone rubber inner shell and a silicone rubber outer shell, both shells made of polysiloxane(s), such as poly(dimethyl)siloxane and poly(diphenyl)siloxane. The inner shell contains fixed amounts of cross-linked polymerized silicone gel, fillers, and stabilizers. The outer shell is inflated to the desired size with sterile isotonic saline before or after implantation. The device is intended to be implanted to augment or reconstruct the female breast.

(3) Polyurethane covered silicone gel-filled breast prosthesis. A polyurethane covered silicone gel-filled breast prosthesis is an inner silicone rubber shell made of polysiloxane(s), such as poly(dimethyl)siloxane and poly(diphenyl)siloxane, with an outer silicone adhesive layer and an outer covering of polyurethane; contained within the inner shell is a fixed amount of cross-linked polymerized silicone gel, fillers, and stabilizers. The device is intended to be implanted to augment or reconstruct the female breast.

(b) Classification. Class III.

(c) Date premarket approval application (PMA) is required. A PMA is required to be filed with the Food and Drug Administration on or before July 9, 1991 for any silicone gel-filled breast prosthesis that was in commercial distribution before May 28, 1976. Any other silicone gel-filled breast prosthesis shall have an approved PMA in effect before being placed in commercial distribution.

§ 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.”

§ 878.3680 Nose prosthesis.

(a) Identification. A nose prosthesis is a silicone rubber solid device intended to be implanted to augment or reconstruct the nasal dorsum.

(b) Classification. Class III.

(c) Date premarket approval application (PMA) is required. A PMA is required to be filed with the Food and Drug Administration on or before July 9, 1991 for any silicone gel-filled breast prosthesis that was in commercial distribution before May 28, 1976. Any other silicone gel-filled breast prosthesis shall have an approved PMA in effect before being placed in commercial distribution.

§ 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.
Food and Drug Administration, HHS

§ 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.


§ 878.3900 Inflatable extremity splint.

(a) Identification. An inflatable extremity splint is a device intended to be inflated to immobilize a limb or an extremity.

(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.


§ 878.3910 Noninflatable extremity splint.

(a) Identification. A noninflatable extremity splint is a device intended to immobilize a limb or an extremity. It is not inflatable.

(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. If the device is not labeled or otherwise represented as sterile, it 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 of this chapter, with respect to general requirements concerning records, and §820.198 of this chapter, with respect to complaint files.


§ 878.3925 Plastic surgery kit and accessories.

(a) Identification. A plastic surgery kit and accessories is a device intended to be used to reconstruct maxillofacial deficiencies. The kit contains surgical instruments and materials used to make maxillofacial impressions before molding an external prosthesis.

(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.

§ 878.4010 Tissue adhesive.

(a) Tissue adhesive for the topical approximation of skin—(1) Identification. A tissue adhesive for the topical approximation of skin is a device intended for topical closure of surgical incisions, including a laparoscopic incision, and simple traumatic lacerations that have easily approximated skin edges. Tissue adhesives for the topical approximation of skin may be used in conjunction with, but not in place of, deep dermal stitches.

(2) Classification. Class II (special controls). The special control for this device is FDA’s “Class II Special Controls Guidance Document: Tissue Adhesive for the Topical Approximation of Skin.” See §878.1(e) of this chapter for the availability of this guidance document.

(b) Tissue adhesive for non-topical use—(1) Identification. A tissue adhesive for non-topical use, including adhesives intended for use in the embolization of brain arteriovenous malformation or for use in ophthalmic surgery, is a device used for adhesion of internal tissues and vessels.

(2) Classification. Class III (premarket approval). 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 of this chapter.

[73 FR 31033, May 30, 2008]

§ 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. It may be used in conjunction with, but not in place of, deep dermal stitches. Additionally, the adjunct wound closure device component maintains temporary skin edge alignment along the length of wound during application of the liquid adhesive.

(b) Classification. Class II (special controls). The special control for this device is FDA’s “Guidance for Industry and FDA Staff: Class II Special Controls Guidance Document: Tissue Adhesive with Adjunct Wound Closure Device Intended for the Topical Approximation of Skin.” See §878.1(e) for the availability of this guidance document.

[75 FR 68794, Nov. 10, 2010]

§ 878.4014 Nonresorbable gauze/sponge for external use.

(a) Identification. A nonresorbable gauze/sponge for external use is a sterile or nonsterile 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 53167, 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.

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


§ 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 subpart E of part 807 of this chapter subject to §878.9.

[53 FR 23872, June 24, 1988, as amended at 65 FR 2318, Jan. 14, 2000]

§ 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.

[53 FR 23872, June 24, 1988, as amended at 65 FR 2318, Jan. 14, 2000]

§ 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 is 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.

[76 FR 6553, Feb. 7, 2011]

§ 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.

§ 878.4370 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.

[70 FR 67355, Nov. 7, 2005]

§ 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 fluid, 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
§ 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.

(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.

[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 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.

[53 FR 23872, June 24, 1988, as amended at 68 FR 32984, June 3, 2003]

§ 878.4493 Absorbable poly(glycolide/L-lactide) surgical suture.

(a) Identification. An absorbable poly(glycolide/L-lactide) surgical suture (PGL suture) is an absorbable sterile, flexible strand as prepared and synthesized from homopolymers of glycolide and copolymers made from 90 percent glycolide and 10 percent L-lactide, and is indicated for use in soft tissue approximation. A PGL suture meets United States Pharmacopeia (U.S.P.) requirements as described in the U.S.P. “Monograph for Absorbable Surgical Sutures;” it may be monofilament or multifilament (braided) in form; it may be uncoated or coated; and it may be undyed or dyed with an FDA-approved 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.


§ 878.4494 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...” See § 878.1(e) for the availability of this guidance document.
§ 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.

[55 FR 19836, Apr. 13, 2000, as amended at 68 FR 32984, June 3, 2003]

§ 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.

[55 FR 19836, Apr. 13, 2000, as amended at 68 FR 32984, June 3, 2003]

§ 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.

§ 878.4630 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 Ultraviolet lamp for tanning.
(a) Identification. An ultraviolet lamp for tanning is a device that is a lamp (including a fixture) intended to provide ultraviolet radiation to tan the skin. See §1040.20 of this chapter.
(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.


§ 878.4660 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.


§ 878.4680 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.

[53 FR 23872, June 24, 1988, as amended at 65 FR 2318, Jan. 14, 2000]
§ 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.

[53 FR 23872, June 24, 1988, as amended at 65 FR 2318, Jan. 14, 2000]

§ 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.

§ 878.4760 Removable skin staple.

(a) Identification. A removable skin staple is a staple-like device intended to connect external 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.

[53 FR 23872, June 24, 1988, as amended at 65 FR 2318, Jan. 14, 2000]

§ 878.4780 Powered suction pump.

(a) Identification. A powered suction pump is a portable, AC-powered or compressed air-powered device intended to be used to remove infectious materials from wounds or fluids from a patient’s airway or respiratory support system. The device may be used during surgery in the operating room or at the patient’s bedside. The device may include a microbial filter.

(b) Classification. Class II.

§ 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 suture needle, osteotome, pliers, rasp, retractor, retractor, saw, scalpel blade, scalpel handle, one-piece scalpel, snare, spatula, stapler, disposable or reusable stripper, stylet, suturing apparatus for
the stomach and intestine, measuring tape, and calipers. A surgical instrument that has specialized uses in a specific medical specialty is classified in separate regulations in parts 808 through 892.

(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.


§ 878.4810 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.

(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.

[55 FR 48440, Nov. 20, 1990, as amended at 65 FR 23284, June 3, 2000]

§ 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 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.


§ 878.4840 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.

[67 FR 77676, Dec. 19, 2002]

§ 878.4930 Suture retention device.

(a) **Identification.** A suture retention device is a device, such as a retention bridge, a surgical button, or a suture bolster, intended to aid wound healing by distributing suture tension over a larger area in the patient.

(b) **Classification.** Class I (general controls). The device is exempt from the premarket notification procedures in
§ 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 nonpowered 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 polymers 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.

[65 FR 20735, Apr. 18, 2000, as amended at 68 FR 32985, June 3, 2003]

§ 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.
§ 878.5360 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 the limitations in § 878.9.


§ 878.5650 Topical oxygen chamber for extremities.
(a) Identification. A topical oxygen chamber for extremities is a device intended to surround hermetically a patient’s limb and apply humidified oxygen topically at a pressure slightly greater than atmospheric pressure to aid healing of chronic skin ulcers or bed sores.
(b) Classification. Class III.
(c) Date PMA or notice of completion of a PDP is required. No effective date has been established of the requirement for premarket approval. See § 878.3.

§ 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.