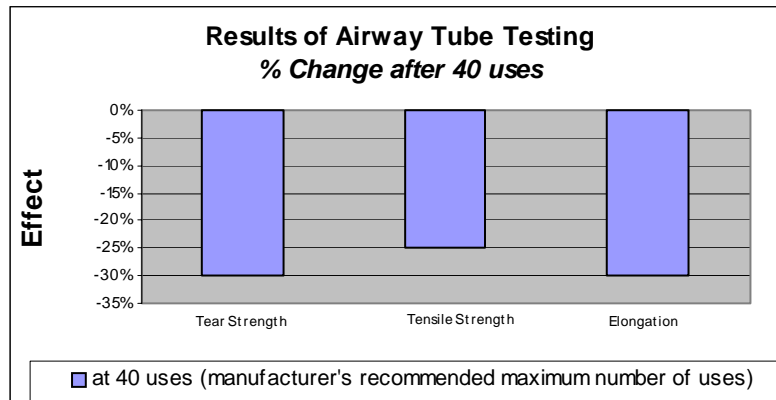
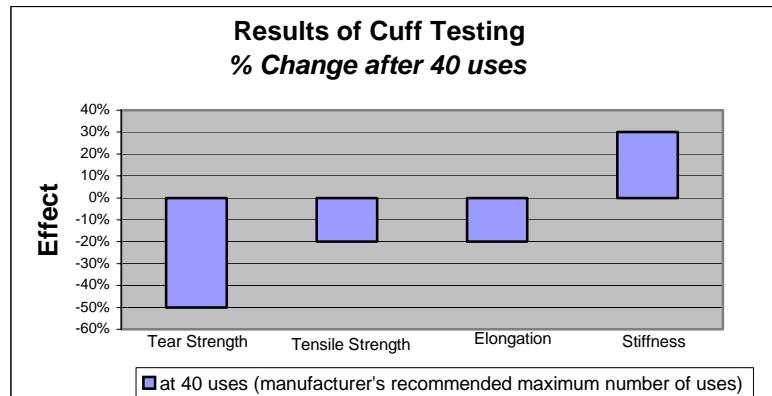


Our Position on 40 Uses

The 40-use specification is to alert the practitioner that although the reusable LMA™ airway is very durable, like all materials, it degrades with use and should not be re-used to the point of abrupt failure. Over the past several years, there has been an increased amount of data available regarding the possible ways that LMA™ airways may fail, and the average number of uses to reach failure. Mechanical testing of LMA™ airway components found that as the number of uses increased, there were reductions in tear strength, tensile strength, and elongation, and an increase in stiffness (see charts below). Due to this material degradation, the manufacturer recommends that an LMA™ airway be used up to 40 times and only if the device passes the pre-use performance checks specified in the instructions before each use.

The following charts illustrate the degradation of materials associated with LMA™ airways after 40 uses.



Consistent with this data, the product warranty states that LMA™ airways are warranted against faulty materials or manufacturing defects for forty uses or a period of one year from date of invoice, whichever comes first. It is not the intention of the warranty statement that LMA™ airways that have been used fewer than 40 times be discarded after one year. Such devices should be discarded if they fail the performance tests.

We hope this explanation will be of help. As a valued LMA North America customer, your input is important. If you have additional questions or comments regarding LMA™ airways, please contact us at (800) 788-7999.