

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

A. GENERAL PRODUCT INFORMATION

COLORFIT® NS is a low temperature thermoplastic sheet material for the manufacture of orthoses, external immobilisation devices and rehabilitation aids.
COLORFIT® NS is applied directly to the patient once it is activated.

! *COLORFIT® NS is not suitable for internal use. It may not be used on open wounds or in the mouth.*

B. PRODUCT RANGE

COLORFIT® NS is available in sheets of 450 x 600 mm, in different colours, thicknesses and perforation types.

Art. no.	Colour	Thickness in mm	Perforation type
8333N.2/NS 8334N.1/NS	natural	2.0 3.2	micro non perforated
8333PB.1/NS 8333PB.2/NS 8334PB.1/NS	soft blue	2.0 3.2	non perforated micro non perforated
8333B.1/NS 8333B.2/NS 8334B.1/NS	ocean blue	2.0 3.2	non perforated micro non perforated
8333Z.1/NS 8333Z.2/NS 8334Z.1/NS	dominant black	2.0 3.2	non perforated micro non perforated
8333R.1/NS 8333R.2/NS 8334R.1/NS	dynamic red	2.0 3.2	non perforated micro non perforated
8333FP.1/NS 8333FP.2/NS 8334FP.1/NS	active pink	2.0 3.2	non perforated micro non perforated
8333PU.1/NS 8333PU.2/NS 8334PU.1/NS	violet	2.0 3.2	non perforated micro non perforated

C. PRECAUTIONS BEFORE USE

1. The workplace must be well-ventilated to avoid overheating.
2. The necessary tools should in no way put the patient at risk.
3. Encourage the patient to assume a comfortable position and ensure that you yourself are in an easy working position.

D. TECHNICAL ACTIVATION

1. COLORFIT® NS is softened by heating at a minimum temperature of 60°C (140°F). Possible activation sources are: Suspan water bath no. 1 (art. no. 35096), Suspan water bath no. 2 (art. no. 32500), heat gun (art. no. 35351), heating plate, hot air oven. The activation time depends on the heat source and varies from 2 to 5 minutes.
2. When using a Suspan water bath, it is recommended to soften the water by adding a spoonful of liquid soap.
When using a heat gun, do not exceed 250°C (482°F) to avoid breakdown of the material.
When using a heating plate or an oven, the hot surface must be covered with a Teflon film.

! **3. Please note: temperatures of 60°C (140°F) or more can also be reached in the patient's daily life. Think of a closed car in the summer, the surface of a hot radiator, a sauna or the proximity of an open fireplace.**

4. High temperatures up to a maximum of 120°C (248°F) do not damage COLORFIT® NS, but are not user-friendly. High temperatures are allowed provided that the activation time is reduced accordingly and that the product is sufficiently rubbed with talcum powder. Wear gloves and do not apply COLORFIT® NS directly to the patient at these high activation temperatures.

! **5. Never use an open flame to activate COLORFIT® NS.**

E. WORKING PROPERTIES

Cutting

1. Draw the splint pattern on the COLORFIT® NS sheet using an ORFIT® marker (art. no. 35003W (white) or 35003Z (black)).
2. Cut the pattern out roughly with a suitable pair of scissors (art. no. 35065 or 35064), or use a cutter. When using a cutter, carve a straight line and break the sheet in two.

! **Be careful of possible cuts when using a cutter; always keep the assisting hand away from the cutting line.**

3. Heat the COLORFIT® NS sheet until it is formable but not yet stretchable and cut the precise splint pattern with a pair of scissors.

Applying

1. Activate the COLORFIT® NS pattern until it is completely soft. Take it out of the water and let its surface cool or dry on a towel for a few seconds.

Make sure that the temperature of the activated material will not burn the patient.

- ! **COLORFIT® NS is:**
- ***not adhesive when wet heated, or when dry heated and powdered with talcum.***
 - ***slightly adhesive when dry heated at a low temperature.***
 - ***fully adhesive when dry heated at a high temperature. However the bonding is never permanent and will pop apart once hardened.***

2. Several application techniques are possible:
- gravity technique: the material forms itself under gravity.
 - closed technique: mould the material around the limb and overlap the edges.
 - bandaging technique: secure the splint by means of a bandage.

- ! ***As with all thermoplastics, take advantage of the stretch and the elasticity of COLORFIT® NS while moulding but be aware that it may tear if overstretched.***

3. In case of accidental bonding, let COLORFIT® NS harden completely so that parts that are stuck can be separated. Reactivation in hot water is then safe again.
4. Remove the splint from the patient when COLORFIT® NS is sufficiently hard. Excessive material can be trimmed before complete hardening. To do so, use a suitable pair of bandage scissors (art. no. 35063). The cooling time can be shortened by means of cold air, a cold bandage or a cold spray.
5. To attach fastening straps and secure hinges, outriggers or other accessories to the splint, the NS film must be REMOVED locally. It can be scratched off with a knife using rough sandpaper or with a grinding tool. Do not encrust the film into the splinting material by back and forth movements. The film can also be softened using acetone or rubbing alcohol and then wiped off. Use hot dry heat to make the spots sticky.

F. FINISHING

There are several ways to give the edges of a COLORFIT® NS splint a smooth and even finish:

- local reheating and rubbing with a wet finger,
- after hardening, edge finishing can be done by means of a deburring knife (art. no. 35307),
- grinding by using a suitable polishing wheel at a low speed.

G. MAINTENANCE AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

Orthoses made of COLORFIT® NS should be cleaned daily. Use lukewarm water and liquid soap, biological detergent or toothpaste, and rinse well.

- ! ***Never use solvents. Avoid acid detergents.***

Sterilisation of COLORFIT® NS orthoses in an autoclave is impossible. Sterilisation by means of gas treatment is possible.

Disinfection is possible with alcohol, quaternary ammonium or a solution of commercial disinfecting soaps (HAC®, Sterilium®, etc.).

- ! ***Avoid prolonged contact with detergents and acids which may affect the NS film.***

After use, an orthosis can be disposed of with normal household waste without harming the environment. COLORFIT® NS is biodegradable.

H. ADVICE FOR THE PATIENT

- ! **Give the patient sufficient information about the exact use of the orthosis and about the possible constraints of the splint.**

I. STORAGE

- COLORFIT® NS should be stored vertically, if supported and horizontally if not.
- Stock should be kept in a dark, cool, dry place at a temperature of min. 10°C (50°F) and max. 30°C (86°F) and in the original packaging.
- Once removed from the packaging, left-overs should be placed back in the packaging for storage to avoid adhesion of the NS film and biodegradation.

Low temperature thermoplastics can only be kept for a limited period of time and must be protected as much as possible from light, heat and humidity. The material ages in relation to storage circumstances. When aged, it becomes brittle and often very stretchy when activated.

J. GENERAL SAFETY ADVICE

- ! * **COLORFIT® NS is not suitable for internal use. It may not be used on open wounds or in the mouth.**
- ! * **Never use an open flame to activate COLORFIT® NS.**
- ! * **To make orthoses and rehabilitation aids, COLORFIT® NS may only be used by qualified health professionals.**

K. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- * Brochure "Splint applications used in physical rehabilitation" (ref. no. 35038E).
- * Splinting guide (ref. no. 35011E).
- * Information sheet "Environmental Aspects of Low Temperature Thermoplastics from ORFIT Industries" (ref. no. 35092ORF/E).
- * COLORFIT® NS Material Safety Data Sheet (ref. no. MSDS012E).

These instructions are written in accordance with the European Directive 93/42/EEC for Medical Devices. It is prohibited to make alterations to this text without prior approval from ORFIT Industries.

For additional copies, please contact your local distributor or send a fax to (+32) (0)3 326 14 15 or an e-mail to welcome@orfit.com.

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