

# Phosphor Storage Plates (PSP): Tips for Proper Handling

## **1. How long is the service life of a Phosphor Storage Plate?**

All Air Techniques PSPs are constructed so they can have a long service life. Although they need to be handled with care.

## **2. How do I best handle a PSP?**

- Avoid touching the phosphor side of the plate (light-colored side) with long fingernails.
- When positioning a plate you may bend and flex accordingly. However, DO NOT FOLD OR CREASE.
- Never drag the plate across any surface with the phosphor side facing down, i.e. do not use a view box to erase plates.
- If using bite tabs, remove bite tabs before opening barrier envelope.
- Remove intensifying screens for pans and cephs.
- Plate holders can damage PSPs. Grind down all sharp edges and be cautious of over clamping.
- Store PSPs in barrier envelopes when not in use to protect them from excess light, cross contamination and potential scratching.

## **3. How do I expose a PSP?**

- Insert the PSP in a Barrier Envelope with the logo facing through the clear side of the envelope. Peel back the white strip on the inside of the envelope and seal the PSP inside.
- When placing the PSP in the holder, position it so the dark side of the envelope is facing the cone of the X-ray (active (light) side of the PSP). The side with the logo visible on the PSP should face the patient.
- Position the X-Ray tube head as close as possible to the patient's cheek.

## **4. How do I handle PSPs after exposure?**

- Open the Transfer Box before putting gloves on.
- Shoot image (one image per plate) and place on countertop or tray with PSP still in the Barrier Envelope.
- With gloves still on in the operatory, tear the Barrier open. Hold the envelope with the active side pointed toward the transfer box and gently let the PSP drop into the box with the active side facing down.
- Remove gloves, close Transfer Box and carry box to scanning area. It is okay for the plates to be on top of each other in the dark box.

## **5. How do I clean a PSP?**

PSPs may be cleaned using Air Techniques PSP Cleaning Wipes, which are specially formulated for use on PSPs.