

How FISSO Arm Boards Meet AORN Patient Positioning Guidelines

A comparison of FISSO articulating arm systems versus traditional bean bags and foam pillow supports.

The 2022 AORN Guideline for Positioning the Patient emphasizes safety, neutral alignment, pressure management, and secure, adjustable support systems. FISSO arm boards meet and exceed these standards through their precision mechanical design, sterile compatibility, and ergonomic benefits for the perioperative team.

AORN Guideline Principle	FISSO Arm Board	Bean Bags / Foam Pillows
Neutral Alignment	Articulated, lockable joints maintain precise alignment without drift.	Passive supports compress or shift, risking rotation or nerve stretch.
Pressure Redistribution	Radiolucent boards with gel pads maintain even pressure across bony prominences.	Foam compresses and loses structure over time, creating pressure points.
Secure Positioning	Rigid locking mechanism prevents sliding or collapse during surgery.	Air and foam-based supports can deflate or shift intraoperatively.
Avoid Shoulder Braces	Eliminates need for shoulder braces; supports limb weight independently.	Often requires additional braces or straps, increasing compression risk.
Intraoperative Reassessment	Allows micro-adjustment without unlocking; stable throughout case.	Repositioning requires manual lifting or resetting patient support.
Ergonomics & Safety	Single-operator control; reduces lifting injuries and staff strain.	Requires multiple staff and awkward repositioning under drapes.
Sterility & Hygiene	Non-porous, sterilizable components and drape compatibility.	Porous surfaces difficult to disinfect; not sterile field compatible.
Documentation & Repeatability	Reproducible setup with defined clamp and arm positions.	Non-standard, subjective positioning, hard to replicate.

Conclusion: FISSO arm boards provide active, precision-controlled fixation that meets or exceeds AORN standards for neutral alignment, pressure redistribution, infection control, and ergonomic safety—offering superior protection for both patients and staff.