D&S Dental Becomes an Accredited DAMAS Laboratory

DAMAS stands for Dental Appliance Manufacturers Audit System, which is a quality management system designed specifically for the manufacture of custom made dental appliances. DAMAS is the most commonly used, annually inspected quality system within the industry that enables dental laboratories to prove to their clients that they are operating within the law (Medical Devices Regulation MDR). DAMAS is more than just a quality control mechanism. It encompasses control beyond just inspection and testing and requires a structured approach to presentation of quality problems through planned activities that include reviews, monitoring and documentation.

DAMAS provides laboratories with a set of processes that ensure a common sense approach to the management of the organization. The system ensures consistency and improvement of working practices, which should provide products and services that meet clients’ requirements.

So what does DAMAS accreditations mean to dental clients? It means that DAMAS laboratories are responsible laboratories. For our lab it also means that D&S can provide a means of publicly demonstrating this capability to supply MDD and MDR conforming appliances and that the lab complies with the MDD standards. It also limits the risk of litigation for both the laboratory and the dental office.

For D&S Dental Laboratory it provides a powerful marketing tool as well as a base for continuous process improvement. It also improves and develops the image of the entire dental laboratory industry.

This was almost a three-year process for our laboratory to become accredited, and annual inspections are necessary to retain the accreditation.

Many thanks to all of our staff, technicians and administration for spending time and a great deal of effort in obtaining this achievement. Also, special thanks to Maddy Werner, now a dental student, who spent one summer writing our Standard Operating Procedure Manual from information obtained by the staff and technicians.

Record keeping is now a huge part of being able to continue our accreditation. We now record training activities (continued education), purchases, equipment maintenance, cleaning, remakes, complaints, material and quality control records.

As of this time, there are still just under 350 DAMAS Laboratories throughout the world. On March 17, 2015, we became one of those laboratories. Our folks here at the lab are very proud of this accomplishment.
CUSTOM IMPRINTS ON CROWNS

Over the past years our laboratory has had requests on authorization forms that the patient would like the lab to place a “tattoo” or “imprints” on their posterior crowns.

Technician Brian Sperry’s artwork on ceramic crowns is increasingly becoming well known. His skill of blending colors, sometimes using a single haired brush, to achieve the outcome of the design is simply amazing.

Brian has been with D&S as a ceramic technician for 21 years, and whenever he finishes a crown most of us at the lab want to see it and take a picture of it before it goes out to the dental office. Here are some of those pictures.

TECHNICIAN’S TIP OF THE MONTH

Pontic Contour

When restoring multiple unit cases, please complete the prescription information for pontic design. Cases restoring recent extractions often benefit from tissue contouring. Any details added with the original prescription expedite the process. Please call if input from our experienced technicians would help.
Madison College Lab Named in Honor of D&S Dental Laboratory, Inc.

D&S Dental Laboratory, Inc. recently donated funds for Madison College’s Dental Program. In return, the college dedicated the Dental Materials Laboratory in honor of D&S on April 8, 2015.

D&S Business Manager Don Statz is shown in this photo at the room dedication with (left to right) Marsha Tweedy, Dental Assistant Program Director; Don Statz, D&S Dental Laboratory, Inc. Business Manager; Sandy Madelung, Dental Assistant Program Instructor; and Antonio Re, School of Health Education Associate Dean.

“D&S is an important partner for the college and the impact of our dental program,” said Madison College Foundation Director of Development David Koehler. “We are grateful for your help to Madison College and our dental students!”

The dedication plaque in the Dental Materials Lab reads:

“D&S Dental Laboratory, Inc. is a full-service, Certified Dental Laboratory headquartered in Waunakee, WI. Founded in 1972, D&S focuses on providing dentists and patients with high quality restorations and outstanding service. The laboratory is a resource to the dental community, providing information, tools, products, and support to deliver successful results that satisfy patients. To accomplish its mission, D&S combines state of the art technology and production techniques with an experienced staff of technicians, including multiple Certified Dental Technicians. This Dental Materials Laboratory is dedicated in honor of a generous gift from D&S Dental Laboratory, Inc.”
Six D&S Technicians
Advance by Becoming Certified Dental Technicians

David Johnson, Annalea Zabit, Carlos Barberena, David Koeferl, Kate Seidel and Lindsey Kallstrom have passed the Comprehensive and the Speciality exam in implants, crowns and bridges, ceramics and partial dentures. The third and final phase toward certification is a practical exam in the laboratory. The goal of all CDT examinations is to measure competency of a predetermined body of knowledge and the skills deemed to represent the successful, professional-level practice of dental technology. Once one is certified there are continued education requirements of the technician. Here at D&S Dental Laboratory, we encourage our employees that after five years at the lab they apply to the Board of Certification for enrollment in the study program, which eventually leads to certification. At present the laboratory has 11 Certified Dental Technicians and has long been a Certified Dental Laboratory.