



Position Statement on Intraoperative Activation of Power Equipment and Electrosurgery by CST and CFA

The Association of Surgical Technologists recognizes that the Certified Surgical Technologist (CST) and Certified First Assistant (CFA) are called upon to perform intraoperative tasks under the direction of the surgeon that contribute to the efficient and safe care of the surgical patient. In order to continue to provide quality patient care, the role and duties of the CST and CFA have progressed and expanded in order to meet the needs of the surgeon and patient. These duties may include the intraoperative activation of power equipment and the electrosurgery unit by the CST and CFA under the broad delegatory authority of the physician, as defined by the American College of Surgeons, the provisions for which vary from state to state and according to state law and health care facility policy.

Therefore, it is the position of AST that the individual who has attained the credential of CST or CFA has the knowledge and experience to perform tasks related to the intraoperative activation of power equipment and electrosurgery unit as necessary to contribute to quality surgical patient outcomes.