FUNCTIONS OF SURFACTANT

Reduce the surface tension of the alveoli

Increase lung compliance

Stabilise the alveolus and prevent alveolar collapse and atelectasis

Maintain an effective residual volume

Facilitate expansion during inspiration

Facilitate ventilation/perfusion

Keeping the alveolar surface free of fluid (decreases protein and water filtration)

Modulate some mediators of the inflammatory response, improving antimicrobial activity

Enhance mucociliary clearance, facilitating the removal of particles from the alveolus during expiration

