



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL COMMAND  
2050 WORTH ROAD  
FORT SAM HOUSTON, TEXAS 78234-6000

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

Operations Management Bulletin  
No. 01-05

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We prepare and distribute materiel management policy and guidance information to staff elements and units throughout the command. These bulletins provide management policy or guidance of current interest to Commanders, Regional Medical Commands, Directors of Logistics, Chiefs of Logistics Divisions, and Chiefs of Materiel Management. We authorize local reproduction.

Army Medical Department Logistics  
**Monitoring Temperatures on Refrigerator/Freezer Units Storing  
Temperature Sensitive Medical Products**  
Valid Until Rescinded

1. This bulletin was coordinated with Facilities Management and Health Policy and Services directorates. It supplements policy established in AR 40-61, Medical Logistics Policies and Procedures, and Department of the Army Supply Bulletin SB 8-75-11 regarding monitoring medical materiel stored in refrigerator/freezer units at medical treatment facilities (MTFs).
2. Proper temperature monitoring is paramount to cold chain management. The majority of commonly stored vaccines and other Temperature Sensitive Medical Products (TSMP) require thermostatically controlled storage temperatures of 2°C to 8°C (36°F to 46°F) while others must remain frozen at -20°C to -10°C (-4°F to 14°F). Additionally, some vaccines are sensitive to sunlight, moisture, and excessive heat and require special equipment to protect them from deterioration during storage and distribution. Vaccines must be carefully transported and stored within the storage range approved by the manufacturer to ensure their potency, purity, and chemical composition.
3. Each MTF will develop and maintain a Standing Operating Procedure (SOP) for monitoring refrigerators/freezers storing vaccine and other TSMP. The information below is provided as a guideline.
  - a. A temperature alarm system will be installed on bulk storage refrigerators/freezers in Logistics and Pharmacy areas storing significant amount of medical supplies. The alarms will be monitored electronically and physically on a 24-hour basis. The optimal choice is a system that will both monitor and record temperatures for easy retrieval on a frequent basis and possess the capability to alert individuals (telephonically, pager etc.) who will take appropriate action to safeguard the vaccine should storage conditions become compromised.
  - b. The entire alarm system from the refrigerator/freezer unit to the remote monitoring station will be tested monthly at a minimum. Documentation of the test will be kept on file at the Logistics Division and available for inspection. The alarm system on all units will be hardwired to sound at the Administrative Office of the Day (AOD), installation Fire Station, Provost

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Marshal Office, or other location that is monitored 24-hours/seven days a week. Storage areas with restricted access will have a device installed (light indicator/audible alarm) indicating when the storage unit temperature is out of range and can be checked without physically entering the restricted area.

c. Local policy will include the requirement for the AOD and/or other designated individual to physically check all refrigerator/freezer units storing bulk TSMP on a routine basis (at least two times per shift).

d. Activities will identify an alternate storage facility (Clinic, Laboratory, Pharmacy, external storage facility, etc.) with back-up power (generator) and storage capacity where vaccines can be temporarily relocated and monitored if necessary. Additionally, identify proper handling procedures and the means of transport to the secure storage location.

e. The SOP as a minimum must include emergency contact/notification information for the following:

- (1) Logistics, Pharmacy, Provost Marshal, and Medical Maintenance personnel
- (2) Refrigeration repair technician
- (3) Temperature alarm repair technician
- (4) Back-up storage areas
- (5) Dry ice vendors
- (6) Emergency repair companies

(7) Vaccine manufacturers (e.g. Merck Sharpe & Dohme: 800-672-6372; Aventis Pasteur: 800-VACCINE (800-822-2463); GlaxoSmith Kline: 888-825-5249; Wyeth Lederle Labs: 800-666-7248)

f. The SOP must include methods to determine if the vaccine is still viable.

g. Activities maintaining vaccines outside of bulk storage areas such as an SRP site or clinics should maintain minimal on-hand stock to minimize potential losses. These sites will post temperature logs in their refrigerator/freezer unit that must be filled in at least twice daily. If this is not feasible, alternative monitoring procedures are required and must be included in the SOP.

h. Any loss of significant amounts vaccines due to out-of-range temperatures will be documented with the precise date and time sequence. The Logistics Chief will prepare a Commander's Critical Information Requirement (CCIR) to document the loss and forward to the proper notification authority immediately.

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4. Our point of contact is Mr. Mike David, Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Logistics,  
(210) 221-7995, DSN 471.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael G. Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

MICHAEL G. JOHNSON  
COL, MS  
Assistant Chief of Staff  
for Logistics