



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL COMMAND
FORT SAM HOUSTON, TEXAS 78234-6008


MCLO

05 MAR 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR Commanders, MEDCOM Major Subordinate Commands

SUBJECT: Safeguarding Temperature Sensitive Medical Products (TSMP)

1. Commanders are responsible for preventing the unnecessary loss of government resources; this includes the safeguarding of vaccines and TSMP from avoidable loss. In FY09, medical treatment facilities recorded over \$1.2M in TSMP losses. This is an increase of over 400 percent from the previous two fiscal years and is due to both mechanical and human process failures.
2. Mechanical failures, such as alarm system and power supply malfunctions, accounted for 23 percent of the FY09 losses. Human process failures such as poor cold chain management techniques accounted for 20 percent of the losses. Failure to follow policies, procedures and local regulations accounted for the remaining 57 percent of losses in FY09. We must reverse this trend.
3. I expect each Commander to review routine and emergency TSMP management plans to ensure internal controls are in place. I also urge commands to institute a formal cold chain management training program with periodic refresher training in TSMP management. A TSMP risk assessment should be conducted to identify and prudently mitigate unacceptable risks.
4. The Assistant Chief of Staff for Logistics has published specific guidance for TSMP in Supply Management Bulletin, SB 8-75-11. This guidance covers storage, temperature alarm system monitoring and recording, physical checks and notification requirements. Review this guidance and ensure that processes are established to eliminate potential future TSMP losses.
5. My POC is COL William E. Ackerman at 210-221-6225 (DSN 471) or at email: william.ackerman@us.army.mil.


ERIC B. SCHOOMAKER
Lieutenant General
The Surgeon General and
Commanding General, USAMEDCOM