



NHS Blood and Transplant - Safety, Health and Environment Risk and Inspections

Actions and documents sections will show after saving. For assistance with completing this form, please email [DATIX Administrator](#).

Location

Centre	National (for Risk Assessment use only)
Directorate	Blood Supply
Dept/Area	Hospital Services
On/Off Site	On-site NHSBT Property
Location	Laboratory

Type of Form Required and its Purpose

Form Required Manual Handling Risk Assessment

Select the correct form for your needs.
For risk assessments this should be in accordance with your training.

Title Use of Transport Containers

Reference Number HSD/NAT/MHA/071

E.g. BD/RA/Gen/001 or D-HR-01

Identifier

This should summarise what you are assessing e.g. activity, process, workplace.
If there are reference documents such as MPDs and SOPs then include the titles and numbers here.

Identifier Handling of Transport Containers in Hospital Services.

What might occur?

Transport Containers used are:-
Long journey containers (Va-Q-tec)
Short journey containers (Va-Q-tec)
Session containers (Polar bags)

The Va-Q-tec containers are used with the appropriate temperature stabilisation materials for the transport of blood and blood products to hospitals and NHSBT centres nationally.

The temperature stabilisation materials are
- Phase Change Materials (PCM's).
- Bags of dry ice pellets.

The handling of the Va-Q-tec boxes is driven by hospital requests and may occur at various stages in the process.

The session containers (Polar bags) are used to return product from sessions for bonding at SHU's or manufacture at larger sites; they require no temperature stabilisation material.

DAT48 – Capacity and Transportation Time Limits for Transport Boxes

MPD47 – Centre Stock Management

SOP4147 – Request Management – Component Issue

DAT1550 – Instructions for Maintenance and Cleaning of Blood Transport Boxes

SPN796 – Maintenance of the va-Q-tec Long Journey Transport Container and the Replacement of the Outer Covers

DAT1598 – SSW- Handling of Va-Q-Tec Blood Component Transfer Boxes

SOP526 - Request Management - Stock Movements of Blood Components and non-blood emergency products between NHSBT sites

DAT2057 - Guidance for the Container Type to be used for Deliveries

MPD1090 - Health and Safety Risk Management

MPD1055 - Management of session output at a Stock Holding Unit

SOP361 - Session receipt for Manufacturing and Hospital Services on a Manufacturing Site

SOP4221 - Managing session output at a Stock Holding Unit

Documents

No documents.

Who is affected and how?

Who is affected ? Agency Worker
Employee
New and expectant mother
Young Person

How are they affected ? Employee/Agency - All HS staff would be expected to handle transport containers.

Best practice is to link with the specific hazards if all are not applicable. New and expectant mother - see HSD/NAT/PEO/131


























Young person - see HSD/NAT/PEO/130

Inherent Risk Grading

Inherent risk is an evaluation of the damage that could occur assuming there are no controls are in place or there is catastrophic failure of the controls. It is completed for the activity / assessment as a whole.

Inherent Risk

Red-Extreme
Orange-High
Yellow-Moderate
Green-Low

Likelihood	Impact				
	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major	Catastrophic
Almost Certain					
Likely					
Possible					
Unlikely					
Rare					
Rating (initial): 9			Risk level (initial):		
High					

TILE Review and Evaluation of Activity

Please insert a brief description, associated hazards and risk evaluation in the section below

TASK Include related steps and process	Moving transport containers within the Hospital Services department, including selection of appropriate transport container, packing/unpacking of transport container, storage or immediate despatch of transport container, cleaning and maintenance of transport containers, storage of empty transport containers. The moving of transport containers includes picking up and putting down from bench to floor or trolley heights, lifting from bench to bench or trolley, carrying transport containers between areas.
Associated Hazards Include any existing control measures which mitigate these hazards.	Multiple handling, WRULD from - loading/unloading transport containers from trolleys. - moving/stacking transport containers from storage areas/bench areas/trolleys - prevention of transport containers overbalancing/falling from storage/trolleys/benches Existing control measures - Trolleys - Adjustable height benches (in some centres) - General Manual Handling Training and Ergonomics Awareness - SSW - User operations manuals - Supervision during normal working hours - PPE available - lab coats/gloves - Accident/near miss reporting procedure - Va-Q-tec boxes are stackable
INDIVIDUAL CAPABILITY Include related steps and process	Load and task are suitable for all staff but where individual risk assessments are required further controls will be considered. All staff are individuals, some staff may not be able to do all aspects of this task and may need individual risk assessments. Pre-existing conditions may be made worse.
Associated Hazards Include any existing control measures which mitigate these hazards.	Multiple handling, WRULD from - loading/unloading transport containers from trolleys. - moving/stacking transport containers from storage areas/bench areas/trolleys - prevention of transport containers overbalancing/falling from storage/trolleys/benches Existing control measures - Trolleys - Adjustable height benches (in some centres) - General Manual Handling Training and Ergonomics Awareness - SSW - User operations manuals - Supervision during normal working hours - PPE available - lab coats/gloves - Accident/near miss reporting procedure - Va-Q-tec boxes are stackable
LOAD Include related steps and process	Long journey Va-Q-Tec transport containers:- Box weighs 4.4kgs empty. Box + 4 Phase Change Materials (PCMs) will weigh approximately 8.45kgs when not loaded with blood 12.3kgs when fully loaded with maximum 12 units of blood. Each box measures 300mm x400mm x330mm externally (WxLxD) Each transport container has 2 ergonomically designed handles on opposite sides which allow a correct handling technique to be used. The handles are quite short to prevent the transport container from being carried over the shoulder. Lids on this transport container are snug but will wear in as the box is used. Short journey Va-Q-tec transport containers:- Medium box weighs 2.2kgs empty. Small box weighs 1.7kgs empty. Medium Box + 4 Phase Change Materials (PCMs) will weigh approximately 7kgs when not loaded with product Maximum weight of 12kgs when fully loaded with 4 PCMs and a maximum 15 units of blood or 11kgs with 4 PCMs and a maximum of 15 units of platelets. Medium box measures 350mm x420mm x350mm externally (WxLxD) Small box measures 310mm x410mm x270mm externally (WxLxD) Each transport container has 2 ergonomically designed handles on opposite sides which allow a correct handling technique to be used. The handles are quite short to prevent the transport containers from being carried over the shoulder. Lids on this transport container are snug but will wear in as the box is used, there is a notch in the base of the transport container to aid opening of the lids. Session Containers, red whole blood (Polartherm bags):- Maximum 10 blood packs per container is permitted, giving a maximum mass of 11.5Kg - this is 1.5Kg less than the 13Kg identified as guidance for maximum mass to be lifted close to the body from lower leg level by individuals of small stature Session Containers, blue platelets and plasma (Polartherm bags):- Maximum 10 donations per container is permitted, giving a maximum mass of approximately 9Kg, less than the 13Kg as above. Bag measures max when zipped up 48cm(W) x 32cm(H) x 42cm(D). This equals a cubic volume of 0.0645 m3 (Cubic meters). Each transport container has 2 ergonomically designed handles on opposite sides which allow a correct handling technique to be used. The handles are quite short to prevent the transport container from being carried over the shoulder. There is velcro on the handles to enable them to be fastened together when stacked.
Associated Hazards Include any existing control measures which mitigate these hazards.	Multiple handling, WRULD from - loading/unloading boxes from trolleys. - moving/stacking boxes from storage areas/bench areas/trolleys - prevention of boxes overbalancing/falling from storage/trolleys/benches Existing control measures - Trolleys - Adjustable height benches (in some centres) - General Manual Handling Training and Ergonomics Awareness - SSW - User operations manuals - Supervision during normal working hours - PPE available - lab coats/gloves - Accident/near miss reporting procedure - Va-Q-tec boxes are stackable
WORKING ENVIRONMENT Include related steps and process	This may vary across centres, variations in flooring and lighting for example are considered locally. Temperature controlled laboratory work areas at ambient temperatures. Coldrooms at 4 C. Ambient temperature storage, despatch areas and session bonding areas.
Associated Hazards Include any existing control measures which mitigate these hazards.	Space constraints. Manual handling within a cold environment (coldrooms) Existing control measures - Management Inspection Checklists are done regularly. - General Manual Handling Training and Ergonomics Awareness - SSW - Supervision during normal working hours

