Canadian Blood Services
BLOOD PLASMA STEM CELLS ORGANS & TISSUES

1800 Alta Vista Drive
Ottawa ON
K1G 4J5
Canada

INFORMATION ONLY

New Shipping Containers to be Phased In

Customer Letter # 2024-35

2024-12-10

Dear Colleagues:

On January 13, 2025, Canadian Blood Services will begin using a new type of insulated shipping container (please see Attachment 1). This new insulated shipping container was chosen for improvements in the allowable transportation times for various end labelled components and Plasma Protein and Related Products (please see Attachment 2). These transportation times were determined using industry-standard rigorous laboratory testing that validates their use across all types of Canadian weather.

The new shipping container was designed to fit into the corrugated plastic shell that is currently in use and is compatible with the existing phase change material plates. The new shipping containers will be phased in slowly until existing containers are completely replaced. During the transition, customers may receive a combination of white and black shipping containers in their shipments.

There are no changes to the packing configurations container dimensions, or the shipping container return process. The new container is less than 1 lb heavier than the existing container. The only changes customers may notice are:

- The insert of the new shipping container has a different appearance and colour (please see Attachment 1)
- The packing slip will include the documentation of the type of container used to identify the correct allowable shipping time.

Please share a copy of this customer letter with healthcare professionals at your hospital who might be interested in this information.

This customer letter can also be viewed at www.blood.ca in the “Hospital Services” section. If you have questions about this letter, or if you require it in an accessible format, please contact your local hospital liaison specialist.

Sincerely,

Wanda Lefresne
Director, Process Management

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Attachment 1: New Shipping Containers Visual Guide

The new Shipping Containers consists of a vacuum insulated panel surrounded by an expanded polypropylene foam. The black expanded polypropylene foam is the distinguishing feature of the new shipping container as it contrasts with the existing shipping containers which have a white interior.

Pictured above: A new black Expanded Polypropylene Shipping Container on the left and an existing white shipping container on the right with covers in place.

Pictured above: A new Black Expanded Polypropylene Shipping container with 1 phase change material plate inside on the left, and an existing white shipping container on the right with 1 phase change material plate inside.

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Attachment 2: Summary of Qualification Data[1]

Component/Product	Packing Configuration	Packing Time to Time of Receipt
RBC – Short Journey[2]	8 Liter Polyurethane (PUR) with Two Series 4 PCM Plates	≤ 17 hours
	8 Liter **black Expanded Polypropylene (EPP)** with Two Series 4 PCM Plates	≤24 hours
RBC – Long Journey	8 Liter Polyurethane (PUR) with Six Series 4 PCM Plates	≤ 27 hours
	8 Liter **black Expanded Polypropylene (EPP)** with Six Series 4 PCM Plates	≤46 Hours
Platelet	Vacuum Insulated Panel (VIP) container with Six Series 22 PCM Plates	≤ 24 hours
Frozen Components	8 Liter Polyurethane (PUR) with Six Series 20M PCM Plates Or Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) with Six Series 20M PCM Plates	≤ 27 hours
	8 Liter **black Expanded Polypropylene (EPP)** with Six Series 20M PCM Plates	≤76 hours
SD Plasma (Frozen)	8 Liter black Expanded Polypropylene (EPP) with Six Series 20M PCM Plates	≤43 hours
Plasma Protein and Related Products – Room Temperature	16 Liter Polyurethane (PUR) with Two Series 4 PCM Plates Or 8 Liter Polyurethane (PUR) with Six Series 4 PCM Plates	≤ 27 hours
	16 Liter **black Expanded Polypropylene (EPP)** with Two Series 4 PCM Plates	≤47 hours

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	8 Litre **black Expanded Polypropylene (EPP)** with Six Series 4 PCM Plates	≤47 hours
Plasma Protein and Related Products - Refrigerated	16 Litre Polyurethane (PUR) with Three Series 4 PCM Plates Or 8 Litre Polyurethane (PUR) with Six Series 4 PCM Plates	≤ 27 hours
	16 Litre **black Expanded Polypropylene (EPP)** with Three Series 4 PCM Plates	≤33 hours
	8 Litre **black Expanded Polypropylene (EPP)** with Six Series 4 PCM Plates	≤47 hours

Note: [1] Depending on the scenario, there may be additional validation data that may be able to be referenced to confirm suitability of component/product temperatures beyond the allowable times listed within the table. Please contact your local Canadian Blood Services site for more information when the packing time to receipt time extends beyond the allowable times.

[2] As per Attachment 1, CL 2017-03, when red cells are packed in a PUR for short journey using 2 Series 4 plates, the product must be below the red line found within the container. This does not apply to new black EPP containers.

[3] As per Attachment 2, CL 2018-21, previous packing time to time of receipt was redefined from ≤ 24 hours to ≤ 27 hours for several packing configurations