
INFORMATION ONLY

Qualification Information - New Insulated Shipping Containers for Hospital Deliveries

Customer Letter # 2018- 21

2018-05-28

Dear Customer:

Canadian Blood Services has fully implemented the new insulated shipping containers (ISCs) for all hospital deliveries.

A summary of qualification data has been assembled to clarify the allowable time from packing to the time of receipt. Based on a review of the available ISC testing data, this time has been extended to 27 hours for the following packing configurations:

- RBC (long journey configuration only)
- Frozen Products
- Plasma Protein Products.

For Platelets and the short journey RBC packing configurations, the allowable time from packing to the time of receipt remains the same.

Upon review of available ISC testing data and feedback on the handling of further processed RBC units (e.g., washed, deglycerolized, phenotype tagged and irradiated, where the units would have been exposed to some ambient temperatures), changes have been made to clarify the packing configurations.

Further processed RBC units, if packed **right after** further processing, will be packed with a maximum of three units in the RBC long journey packing configuration (acceptable to 27 hours). Processed units that are stored at refrigerator temperature prior to packing, will have no limit on the number of units in the ISC and the short or long journey RBC configurations will be used depending on shipping route.

These changes are reflected in the following attachments, for reference:

Attachment 1: ISC Packing Configurations

Attachment 2: Summary of Qualification Data

We recommend that you share a copy of this customer letter with physicians at your hospital who should be made aware of this information.

This customer letter can also be viewed at www.blood.ca in the “Hospitals” 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,



Rick Prinzen
Chief Supply Chain Officer & Vice-President, Donor Relations