



# CATS Environmental Temperature Monitoring on Transport

## Document Control Information

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<b>Document Version</b>	Version 1	<b>Replaces Version</b>	N/A
<b>First Introduced</b>	2014	<b>Review Schedule</b>	Every 3 years
<b>Active Date</b>	January 2016	<b>Next Review</b>	January 2018
<b>CATS Document Number</b>	19092014-V1		
<b>Applicable to</b>	All CATS employees		

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## **Environmental Temperature Monitoring on Transport**

### **United Kingdom Law**

Temperatures in the workplace are covered by the Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992, which place a legal obligation on employers to provide a “reasonable” temperature in the workplace. The Approved Code of Practice suggests a minimum temperature in workrooms should normally be at least 16 degrees Celsius – or 13 degrees Celsius if much of the work indoors involves severe physical effort. These temperatures are not absolute legal requirements; the employer’s essential duty is to determine what reasonable comfort will be in the particular circumstances.

A meaningful figure cannot be given at the upper end of the scale. This is because the factors, other than air temperature which determine thermal comfort, i.e. radiant temperature, humidity and air velocity become more significant and the interplay between them more complex as temperatures rise. In addition to the Workplace Regulations, the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 require employers to make a suitable assessment of the risks to the health and safety of their workers, and take action where necessary and where reasonably practicable.

Employers and employees should note that where HSE does not have specific guidance i.e. working in temperatures below 12°C, compliance with British/European Standards ensures you are working to the minimum standard expected. As a first point of reference in these circumstances

### **Recommendations for Temperature Control during Road & Flight Transport.**

#### **Ground Transport**

**The range of 20-25.5 degrees centigrade for ground vehicles is recommended.**

Fortunately our ground transport vehicles are fitted with climate control in the cabin so can be regulated according to the outside temperature. All of the temperature monitoring devices have their high and low alarm range set in accordance with the National/European recommendations (+1/-1 degree centigrade).



## **Flight Transport**

The interior of the fixed wing aircraft are climate controlled to avoid adverse effects on patients and personnel on-board.

Good practice is to ensure that we take accurate measurement of the cabin temperature as a continuum during a patient transport (Environmental thermometers are kept in kits 3/4/5 and should be used for any air transports).

The aim is to maintain an environmental temperature range of 10 - 35 degrees C for aircraft.

The challenge lies when travelling with the RAF and the recommendation is that staff should wear the all-weather jackets provided in each ground transport vehicle as the cabin temperature will vary due to the nature of their workload.

However once the patient is on board the RAF will ensure that the cabin temperature is warmed for the transfer.

Please ensure all children whom we transfer by air have core temperature monitoring (oesophageal) unless awake. All neonates regardless of mode of transport will always have core temperature measurement (standard practice).

## **Review of Environmental Temperature Monitoring on Transport**

- 1) The expectation is that staff will report back on whether there were problems with maintaining a reasonable environmental temperature so that action can be taken immediately to address any concerns for both ground and air transport modes. (Morning Debrief)
- 2) From a flight transfer perspective the environmental temperature monitoring data will be downloaded post flight retrieval to review compliance and address where possible any issues with the environmental temperature.
- 3) The monitoring of cabin temperatures that are less than 10 degrees C or greater than 35.5 degrees will be flagged and discussed at RAG to evaluate what measures were taken to mitigate adverse effects on the patient and crew and what outcomes resulted.

