



Standard Operational Guidance

CATS Environmental Temperature Monitoring on Transport

Document Control Information

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United Kingdom Law (Background)

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.

Recommendations for temperature control during road & flight transport

- Please ensure all PIC patients have core temperature monitoring (oesophageal) unless awake.
- All neonates regardless of mode of transport will always have core temperature measurement (standard practice).
- Ground Transport - Use vehicle climate control to meet this standard.
- Flight Transport - Use vehicle climate control to meet this standard.
- Minimise loading and unloading time as this may impact the patient’s thermal stability

Transport cabin temperatures should be maintained within 20-25.5 degrees centigrade for ground and 10 – 35 degrees centigrade for air transport vehicles is recommended.

- Measurements of cabin temperature during transport should be recorded on the CATS transport observations record every 15 mins.
- Please report temperature exceptions (less than 10 degrees centigrade and greater than 35 degrees centigrade) at the CATS morning meeting.

Review of Environmental Temperature Monitoring on Transport

- The expectation is that staff will report back on whether there were problems with maintaining a reasonable environmental temperature or exceptions (as described above) so that action can be taken immediately to address any concerns for both ground and air transport modes.
- Compliance and exception reporting will be reviewed at the CATS morning meeting and CATS Risk Action Group (RAG).

