









## Blood Stocks Management Scheme

PO Box 33910  
Colindale  
London NW9 5YH

Phone: 020 8258 2866  
Fax: 020 8258 2856  
Email: bsms@nbs.nhs.uk

Hospitals and the NBS working together to maximise the use of donated blood by increasing understanding of blood supply management.

[www.bloodstocks.co.uk](http://www.bloodstocks.co.uk)

# THE BSMS FRIDGE & ALARM IPS KEY FACTS

Of 1139 fridges:

- only 35% were covered by a Standard Operating Procedure for alarm testing.
  - 25% were not on a maintained power supply .
  - only 12% had alarms tested out of hours.
- Note: Out of hours alarm testing would alert the on call staff to the necessity to know the procedures for dealing with a fridge failure.**
- 16% were remote fridges whose alarm only sounded locally.
  - 24% of the remote fridges had not had their need reviewed in the last 12 months.
  - 77% conform to (British Standard) BS 4376-1:1991

## Key Learning Points for Compliance with UK Regulations

### Ensure that

- all switches are clearly labelled
- the fridge and the alarm have a maintained power supply
- there is an SOP for testing the alarm system
- there is an SOP for dealing with a fridge failure
- the alarm system is tested regularly both during regular hours and out of hours
- all paperwork is stored for 15 years



## BS 4376-1:1991 Electrically operated blood storage refrigerators. Specification for closed reach-in types.

This document contains important information on blood storage refrigerators, giving detailed specifications for all aspects of blood storage. It also includes two appendices; one giving instructions on testing the recording thermograph and the method for testing the position of the thermograph temperature sensor; and the second on the care and maintenance of fridges.

The full BS 4376-1:1991 document can be purchased online for between £16 and £32 from either [www.bsi-global.com](http://www.bsi-global.com) or [www.brebookshop.com/details.jsp?id=53346so](http://www.brebookshop.com/details.jsp?id=53346so)

## Resources

- Blood Stocks Management Scheme : [www.blood.co.uk/bsms/resources/body.asp](http://www.blood.co.uk/bsms/resources/body.asp)
- Remote temperature monitors : [www.eurotherm.com.au/industry/appl\\_c\\_5.htm](http://www.eurotherm.com.au/industry/appl_c_5.htm)
- Temperature loggers - used for transport validation, monitoring deliveries, fridge/freezer mapping, 'storage at room temperature' mapping  
Tiny tag : [www.tinytag.info](http://www.tinytag.info)  
Abacus instruments : [www.abacusinstruments.com](http://www.abacusinstruments.com)
- Guidelines for the BTS in the UK : [www.transfusionguidelines.org](http://www.transfusionguidelines.org)
- UK Blood and Safety regulations : [www.transfusionguidelines.org.uk/index.asp?publication=regs](http://www.transfusionguidelines.org.uk/index.asp?publication=regs)
- British Standards Institute : [www.bsi-global.com](http://www.bsi-global.com)

**Special thanks to:** Charlotte Alford, Helen Barber, Chris Smith, Jenny Thompson, and Caroline Slopecki for providing the case reports.