



November 12, 2017

Effective: November 12, 2017, until superseded

Subject: Shipping and Storage Conditions of USP Reference Standards

Dear Valued USP Customer,

USP Reference Standards are not customarily shipped on ice or under refrigerated conditions, despite their labeled storage condition. Shipping conditions are determined based on the stability information for individual USP Reference Standards and transit times. If scientific evidence suggests the need to ship a USP Reference Standard on cold packs or dry ice, USP will do so. For these products, a statement that a cold shipment is required will be included in the Product Description [e.g., Endotoxin (10,000 USP Endotoxin Units) (COLD SHIPMENT REQUIRED)].

Storage conditions are intended to preserve the integrity of the material for the duration of its use as a USP Reference Standard. The storage condition for an unopened USP Reference Standard can typically be found on the container label. Storage conditions are no longer provided in the Safety Data Sheets (SDSs). Instead, the SDS refers users to the USP Reference Standard label. Storage conditions are lot-specific and may change from one lot to another. If no specific directions or limitations are provided on the USP Reference Standard label, the conditions of storage shall include storage at room temperature and protection from moisture, light, freezing, and excessive heat. Refer to General Chapter <659> *Packaging and Storage Requirements* in the USP-NF publication for available definitions of storage and handling terms.

USP generally provides enough material for multiple preparations. Any unused portions remaining after the container has been opened should be carefully stored in accordance with prudent laboratory procedures. Many variables are outside of the control of USP. Therefore, USP makes no warranties concerning the continued suitability of previously opened USP Reference Standards. Decisions concerning the proper use of previously opened USP Reference Standards are the responsibility of the user.

Shipping on cold packs or dry ice is available for all USP Reference Standards on request and for an extra charge. Should you have further questions, please contact Customer Service at custsvc@usp.org or call 1-800-227-8772 (U.S. and Canada), +1-301-881-0666 or 00-800-4875-5555 (Select Europe) for details.

Regards,

Teri L. Toth
Vice President, Global Quality Assurance
The United States Pharmacopeial Convention
12601 Twinbrook Parkway
Rockville, MD 20852
USA