



Kept cool instead of caught out cold

Cold chain breakdowns when storing and transporting drugs and blood products can have life-threatening consequences. PFB therefore now offers the healthcare sector a solution from Zebra Technologies that makes cooler validation simple and efficient.



PRECISELY DOCUMENTED: The Val-A-Sure kit from Zebra Technologies contains everything needed for precise temperature validation.

Knowledge relating to how medication should be optimally cooled has also found its way into the consciousness of the wider public following the coronavirus pandemic. When people discovered that the temperature in the transport containers had to be maintained as low as minus 80 degrees Celsius for some coronavirus vaccines, it became the subject of many a conversation the length and breadth of the country.

In the healthcare sector, meanwhile, the fact that numerous drugs and blood products must be refrigerated during transportation and storage is hardly a revelation. According to calculations by the German Institute for Drug Use Evaluation (DAPI), almost 30 million particularly temperature-sensitive drugs are dispensed in Germany every year. This represents around five per cent of the more than 660 million medicines prescribed by doctors each year, including vaccines against measles and inhalers for asthma. Blood products, such as erythrocyte concentrates, also require storage at temperatures between two and six degrees Celsius.

In order to be able to document patient safety as accurately as possible – the keyword here is cooler validation – the system house PFB, strongly positioned in the healthcare sec-

tor, now offers a new solution from its partner Zebra Technologies. It is called Val-A-Sure, a practical kit containing all of the instructions, documentation and devices needed for precise and consistent cooler validation. Additional three-minute instructional videos for validation procedures involving different coolers make it easy for laboratory and blood bank employees to get started.

INCORRUPTIBLE ASSISTANTS

Everything needed for documentation tasks is included in the Zebra kit. Software for temperature recording generates diagrams as well as individual time and temperature readings. Printing the temperature validation data for your own documents is then straightforward. With the aid of the editable validation procedures (standard procedures) on the website, the right documents can also be created to meet every need.

The Val-A-Sure kit can also be used to accurately and easily validate coolers for transporting all kinds of biological products. With the aid of several temperature data loggers featuring internal sensors or using the optional probe, measurements can be taken at different positions of any cooler.



'We can help our customers to optimally protect and use their resources.'

EMILIA BOOS,
Inside Sales Manager PFB GmbH

To perfectly complement the kit, PFB also offers the equally new Safe-T-Vue 6 and Safe-T-Vue 10 temperature indicators from Zebra. For blood products that need to be kept constantly cool, they serve as kind of 'incorruptible assistants'. Once stuck to a blood bag, the temperature indicators show by their colouring whether a storage temperature of six or ten degrees Celsius has been constantly maintained or not. The red warning colour is irreversible. Even if a blood product that has been heated too high for a short period of time and cools down again, the indicator continues to show that the temperature limit has been exceeded.

Feedback from blood banks and laboratories has been incorporated into the development of the Val-A-Sure kit. As a result, a sin-

gle integrated kit ensures standardisation and high processing speed combined with accuracy. Potential sources of error are thus reduced to a minimum. All components have been tested to make sure they interact efficiently and precisely.

DISPELLING CONCERNS

With this solution, Zebra is not only responding to the demands of clinics, blood banks and the pharmaceutical sector, but also addressing the patients' particular concerns or even mistrust with regard to contaminated and expired drugs. This is revealed by the findings of the 'Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Vision' study initiated by Zebra Technologies itself.

These findings show that three out of four patients have doubts as to whether prescribed drugs effectively treat their disease. Seven out of ten patients fear that they will receive the wrong dose due to labelling errors and could be harmed as a result. There is also concern about receiving drugs that have been improperly handled or stored during transportation and may therefore be damaged and less effective.

Sebastian Rethage, senior business development manager for healthcare at Zebra Technologies, regards the new solutions as milestones for easy and complete monitoring of vital blood products and drugs: 'Every blood bag can save lives. With the Safe T-Vue solution from Zebra Technologies, the temperature of blood, for example, can be easily and conveniently monitored.' Emilia Boos, inside sales manager at PFB GmbH, also views the new product range as a real step forward for hospitals and blood banks: 'We support our customers at all times with the right, reliable solutions in the field of Auto-ID and provide a comprehensive service. By doing so, we guarantee the safety of patient treatment and simplify the work of the healthcare staff.' With new solutions like the Safe-T-Vue from Zebra Technologies, users in the healthcare sector can optimally protect and use their resources, says a convinced Boos.

Folker Lück ■

info

Patient trust

More than 3,500 patients and decision-makers in the pharmaceutical industry were surveyed worldwide as part of Zebra's 'Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Vision'. The focus was on assessing stability and responsibility in the supply chain and gauging people's views in relation to trust in the relevant players and greater transparency in the supply chain. The data was collected by Azure Knowledge Corporation.

'With the Safe-T-Vue solution, the temperature can be easily and conveniently monitored.'

SEBASTIAN RETHAGE,
Senior Business Development Manager for Healthcare, Zebra Technologies

