



# Best Practices Guide: Selecting Platelet Incubators & Agitators



Important guidelines to consider when purchasing platelet storage equipment.

# Important Guidelines to Consider

In order to meet [AABB Standards](#) and to implement best practices for platelet storage, there are important considerations for the design and features of Platelet Incubators and Agitators. The following checklist can help ensure all critical aspects are considered when selecting equipment for storing platelet products.

Storage devices shall have the capacity and design to ensure that the proper temperature is maintained. (AABB Standard 3.6.1) Platelet components should be stored from 20°C to 24°C with continuous gentle agitation (AABB Reference Standard 5.1.8A).

- The platelet incubator is designed to support a set point of 22°C
- The temperature uniformity of the platelet incubator is +/-1°C
- Platelet agitators should be designed for continuous operation

Storage temperatures of refrigerators, freezers, and platelet incubators shall be monitored. (AABB Standard 3.6.2)

- The platelet incubator monitors the temperature inside the cabinet, and high or low temperature alarms activate if the temperature exceeds or falls below the alarm limits
- The platelet incubator monitors and activates alarms for other factors that could impact the temperature, such as door openings and power failure

For storage of blood or blood components, the temperature shall be monitored continuously and recorded at least every 4 hours. (AABB Standard 5.1.8.1.3)

- The platelet incubator constantly monitors the temperature inside the cabinet
- The platelet incubator has a chart recorder that records the temperature inside the cabinet.
- The platelet incubator should be designed with remote alarm contacts and a probe port to enable monitoring and recording with 3<sup>rd</sup> party systems

# Additional Considerations for Best Practices

- The platelet incubator and agitator are designed so that agitation pauses when the incubator door is opened and automatically resumes when the door is closed
- Platelet agitator has a motion alarm so that users are alerted if the agitator has malfunctioned or does not resume motion for any reason
- Platelet agitators are monitored by the incubator with a motion alarm that emits from the incubator's user interface rather than inside the enclosed storage space.

Platelet Incubators and Agitators from Helmer Scientific are designed for the critical demands of platelet storage. The use of Helmer incubators and agitators supports hospitals and blood centers in their efforts to meet regulatory requirements. They are also designed to facilitate best practices for platelet storage.

Reference: AABB, Standards for Blood Banks and Transfusion Services, 30<sup>th</sup> edition





# Need incubators and agitators for platelet storage?

Whether it's a countertop or floor model platelet storage system, Helmer Scientific is ready to provide you with the right solution for your blood bank.

Contact a Sales Representative