

BEST PRACTICES GUIDE FOR SELECTING PLASMA THAWING SYSTEMS

Important guidelines to consider when purchasing a plasma thawer.

BY HELMER SCIENTIFIC



IMPORTANT GUIDELINES TO CONSIDER

In order to meet AABB Standards and to implement best practices for thawing plasma, there are important considerations for the design and features of a Plasma Thawing System. The following checklist can help ensure all critical aspects are considered when selecting a unit for thawing frozen plasma.

Plasma components should be thawed at 30-37°C or using an FDA-cleared device (AABB Reference Standard 5.1.8A). Fresh Frozen Plasma (FFP), Plasma Frozen within 24 Hours After Phlebotomy (PF24), and Plasma Frozen within 24 Hours After Phlebotomy Held at Room Temperature up to 24 Hours After Phlebotomy (PF24RT24) must be thawed at 30-37°C using a waterbath or other FDA-approved device. (AABB Technical Manual, Thawing Plasma and Cryoprecipitate)

- The thawing system is designed to maintain a temperature between 30-37°C
- The thawing system monitors the temperature during thawing
- The thawing system has a high temperature alarm to alert users to overtemperature conditions

Thawing in a waterbath requires the frozen component to be in a plastic overwrap before insertion into the water to prevent contamination of the container entry ports. (AABB Technical Manual, Thawing Plasma and Cryoprecipitate)

- The thawing system is designed to facilitate the use of a plastic overwrap
- The overwrap and system are designed to prevent water from coming into contact with the container entry ports

Additional Considerations for Best Practices

- The system is suitable for thawing cryoprecipitate in addition to plasma
- The plasma thawing system is able to thaw bags of different sizes and configurations (such as flat or folded)
- The thawing system is designed to remove the plasma from the thawing environment in the event of a high temperature alarm
- The thawing system has adequate capacity to meet the facility's thawing needs
- For optimal throughput, a design that enables separate batches to be started independently should be considered

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Plasma Thawing Systems from Helmer Scientific are designed for the critical demands of thawing frozen blood products. The use of Helmer thawers supports hospitals and blood centers in their efforts to meet regulatory requirements. They are also designed to facilitate best practices for thawing frozen plasma.

Need a plasma thawing system?

With several thawing capacities to choose from, Helmer Scientific is ready to provide you with the right solution for your blood bank.

Contact a Sales Representative

Reference: AABB, Standards for Blood Banks and Transfusion Services, 31st edition
AABB, Technical Manual, 19th Edition

About the Author:



Helmer designs, manufactures, and markets specialized medical and laboratory equipment to customers in more than 125 countries. With an extensive background in Helmer products, Colleen's focus is on the Clinical Laboratory and Blood Bank segments.