

SPECIMEN STORAGE TUBES, CRYOBOXES & STICKY LABELS

Specimen Storage Tubes

Sample tubes must be rated for storage at -80°C and centrifugation at 1500 g. Sample tubes for plasma and urine must be large enough to contain at least 2.2 mL of sample, but should not be too large for the Clinical Neurochemistry Laboratory freezer storage system. The tubes must also be of an appropriate size to fit the Laboratories centrifuge tube holders.

The standard specimen tubes used in the Clinical Neurochemistry Laboratory for freezer storage are from Sarstedt (<http://www.sarstedt.com/>). P/N 55.535 for the tubes and P/N 65.809 for the caps. These tubes and their associated caps are inexpensive and hold up well in freezers at -80°C and during centrifugation. However, the tubes should not be filled with more than 3 mL of fluid. Their dimensions (12 mm diameter x 55 mm length) are ideal for the freezer storage system and associated boxes used in the Laboratory. The tubes and their caps are also inexpensive (< €80 per 5,000). These are the preferred tubes for the Laboratory. Should a different type of tube be selected then Laboratory Staff should be contacted ahead of time to ensure that the tube type is suitable for laboratory use.

Freezer boxes

When large numbers of samples are shipped (i.e., more than 50) it is preferable if specimens are shipped to the Laboratory in freezer boxes and positioned within boxes using inserts according to a system detailed in the accompanying sample manifest. Boxes should be rated for freezer storage and should have dimensions (136 x 136 mm with heights of between 32 mm to 75 mm) suitable for the specimen storage tubes and Laboratory Freezer Storage System. There are numerous companies that supply such specimen boxes with such dimensions. Within the Laboratory, the freezer boxes that are routinely used are supplied by VWR (<http://www.vwr.com/>).

The standard cryoboxes boxes from VWR are made of Cryo-resistant cardboard with various combinations of colors and heights and inserts for different types of tubes. The 50 mm height box (P/N 479-0110) with 9x9 insert (P/N 479-0164) is suitable for the 12x55 mm sample tubes described above from Sarstedt. Boxes should be labeled and tubes should ideally be placed in boxes with according to the grid using a coordinate system that is also documented in the sample manifest according to the unique identifiers and sample tags.



Sticky Labels

Sticky labels should be of a size suitable for sample storage tubes and for containing all required information (see example: Sticky-Label Unique Identifier Sample Sheet). Within the Neurochemistry Laboratory, the particular labels that used are “Niceday multifunctional labels” with dimensions of 38.1 x 21.2 mm and supplied in sheets of 100 containing 65 labels per sheet (<http://www.niceday.com> —EU REF. 980459). These sheets fit the label template in use by the Laboratory. If the collaborating center of sample origin does not have a labeling system already in place, then the system in use within the Clinical Neurochemistry Laboratory, including the label template may be adopted at the collaborating center. Label templates in ms word can be supplied on request.

Shipping Containers

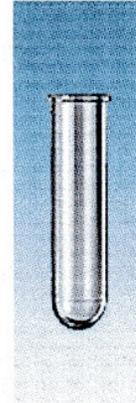
Generally samples should be shipped on dry ice in suitable styrofoam containers approved for shipping and use with dry ice. Beware that containers must be able to breath (otherwise pressure build-up can lead to an explosive event). Containers must be large enough to hold sufficient dry ice to ensure samples arrive frozen. If the sender is inexperienced with dry-ice shipments, then assistance from experienced shippers should be obtained to ensure shipments are safely contained and will clear all formalities.

PREFERRED SPECIMEN STORAGE TUBES

Description

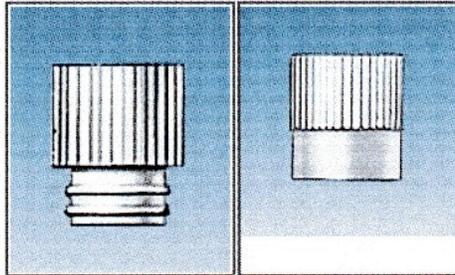
Reagent and centrifuge tube

Art. No.	55.535
Volume	3.5 ml
Diameter	12 mm
Length	55 mm
Base shape	round base
Type of closure	push cap
Material	polypropylene (PP)
Colour	transparent
Max. centrifugation speed	5000 x g
Please refer to our notes on the product characteristics.	
pcs. / sales unit	5000
pcs. / sub-package	1000



- Non-sterile tube
- Autoclavable to 121°C.
- Please note that suitable caps must be ordered separately.

Suitable caps:



Description	Push cap	Skirted push cap
Art. No.	65.809	65.719
Material	LD-PE	LD-PE
Colour	neutral	neutral
pcs. / sales unit	10000	5000
pcs. / sub-package	1000	1000