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Case Study

On the Edge. Zero Tolerance. Critical Conditions.



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Blood plasma care is a specialized, high-risk environment where the temperature and storage of plasma is vital to its many potential uses in the medical industry.

A zero tolerance for error under critical conditions is the perfect description for blood plasma and its storage. Blood plasma care is a specialized, high-risk environment where the temperature and storage of plasma is vital to its many potential uses in the medical industry. So specialized that the proper maintenance and repair of plasma walk-in freezer units directly affects the safe uses for which this plasma may be utilized. VASEY has developed the superior service and expertise required within this industry to meet both the needs of public health and actual value of the plasma.

What Exactly is Plasma?

Blood plasma is a dark yellow liquid making up approximately 55% of the total volume of your blood. Its primary purpose is to transport proteins, hormones, and nutrients throughout your body. It also contains important components such as antibodies, the proteins albumin and fibrinogen, and clotting factors. Isolated from the plasma, these components are used to treat severe burns, shock, trauma, autoimmune disorders, and hemophilia.

Plasma donation centers temporarily remove your blood, send it through a small centrifuge to separate the plasma, and send the remaining components back into your bloodstream. These centers are audited by the government and operate under strict government regulations. Once separated, the plasma must be brought down below critical temperature within a regulated time period, then stored and maintained at that temperature. If there is a freezer issue, the center has a specific and very short amount of time to get it repaired before it becomes critical and they have to relocate the inventory.

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Challenges with Blood Plasma Walk-in Freezers

Different temperatures. The allowable temperature window for storage is different for different facilities. It depends on where the plasma is going and how it is going to be used. Plasma shipped within the U.S. often has different regulations than that shipped outside the country.

Monitoring Systems. Federally regulated plasma donation centers have their own required monitoring systems to prevent reaching critical conditions. If they see a temperature increase, VASEY is called prior to the freezer reaching a critical state.



Unique equipment requirements. Walk-in plasma freezers are sized differently, operate differently, and have unique control systems due to the exceptionally cold temperatures required. They use specially designed defrost systems and require constant temperatures before, during and after doors are opened or closed.

Validation of the Boxes. If a plasma walk-in freezer reaches critical conditions and exceeds FDA protocol, the box (a.k.a. walk-in freezer) has to be revalidated or re-certified. This means an FDA certified team is required to inspect the box, post-repair, over a specific period of time before it can be used again for storage. This can potentially mean seven to 14 days of potential downtime caused by the outage.

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TODAY!

About VASEY:

With a laser-like focus, VASEY is committed to helping our clients optimize their buildings and budgets. We build value by reducing operating expenses while keeping properties safe, clean, comfortable and energy efficient.

We help clients determine their owning and operating costs related to their largest investment, the building they operate.

We achieve savings for clients in many ways such as comprehensive preventive maintenance programs, retro commissioning, control enhancements, financial analysis regarding operational costs compared to discovered deficiencies, along with many more avenues for lost opportunities.

We want to help you improve your ROI on every dollar you invest in your operation. For more information, call us at (317) 875-2512.

VASEY has been voted one of Indianapolis' Top Work Places every year from 2013 through 2016. Expertise includes but is not limited to not-for-profits, medical clean room/surgery centers, retail malls, office buildings, warehouse and distribution centers, industrial manufacturing facilities, and server/data centers.

"These procedures are very specific and highly regulated. It is important to follow superior refrigeration practices in order to maintain the delicate balance required. On these specialized systems, it's more than just looking at a set of gauges."

- Tom Slagle, Vice President, VASEY

Why Choose VASEY?

Highly trained. At VASEY our team is highly trained and experienced with the care and maintenance of walk-in plasma freezers. Technicians have an average tenure of 10 plus years which equates to a detailed understanding of the operations and no loss of experience due to employee turnover.

Personalized attention. One of the primary reasons VASEY is successful in high-risk environments is due to our attention to detail and highly personalized care. With a thorough understanding of plasma walk-in freezers, VASEY closely monitors and effectively services this type of environment.

Proactive maintenance. Due to the volatility and nature of blood plasma, proactive maintenance and knowing first-hand how to operate the systems is imperative. Due to the walk-in plasma freezers' delicate balance and system intricacies, it's essential to know how NOT TO CREATE PROBLEMS during servicing to avoid catastrophic failures.

"It's a critical operating system. It runs on the 'edge' – just by nature – it's very, very sensitive and if there's anything that's not set up correctly or adjusted properly, it shows quickly. Every system is finely tuned. If it's not, problems start to snowball and that's what we're here to prevent."

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