

**Centrifuge Requirements in Non-Laboratory Areas****Requirements**

- Centrifuges must be CE compliant.
- Centrifuges must have 'swing out' rotors and not be fixed. Fixed rotors cause the gel within the SSTS tubes to move at an angle through the tube during centrifugation which prevents accurate analysis within the laboratory.
- All centrifuge buckets must have the appropriate inserts for the size of tubes being centrifuged.
- All centrifuge buckets must have lids, preferably screw on lids.
- When in use the centrifuge buckets must be sealed using the lids.
- Patient specimens must be allowed to stand for 20 minutes prior to centrifugation, to allow clotting to take place.
- Patient specimens must be centrifuged for 10 minutes at a RFG of 1800g.
- Following centrifugation the patient specimens must remain in the sealed buckets for 10 minutes, to allow any aerosols generated during centrifugation to settle.
- Before removing the bucket lid perform a visual inspection to check for breakages.
- If a patient specimen is broken within the bucket DO NOT remove the lid. Where breakage is discovered after the centrifuge has stopped, and there is visible contamination, the centrifuge lid must be re-closed to minimise aerosol risk. Once closed, the centrifuge should be switched off at the mains, and left for 30 minutes. A notice should be placed on the centrifuge to make staff aware of the incident, and to prevent premature opening.
- The centrifuge must be cleaned as defined in the manufacturer guidelines.
- Biochemistry specimens may be stored in a fridge only if they are centrifuged and there is a delay in specimen transport. Biochemistry specimens must not be refrigerated if they have not been centrifuged.
- There is no requirement for temperature controlled centrifuge in non-laboratory areas.
- Ensure manufacturer/supplier training is offered and records kept.
- Ensure a safe location for the centrifuge with sufficient ventilation.

**Health and Safety**

Suitable PPE must be worn when handling patient specimens. Centrifuges can be dangerous if used improperly and the following procedures must be followed:

- The centrifuge should be cleaned daily with a non-corrosive cleaning agent. Specific requirements should be highlighted by the manufacturer/supplier.
- The centrifuge must be operated according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Tubes must be capped prior to centrifugation.
- Centrifuge buckets require to be balanced when tubes are in place.
- Centrifuge buckets should be sealed prior to use.
- The interior of the centrifuge bowls must be inspected daily for evidence of contamination.

**Considerations:**

- Service contract. This should include an annual calibration.
- Local instruction for operation is recommended and should include regular cleaning regimes and logs.