

This communique is to advise NATA Members and Technical Assessors that a new version of AS 3864 *Medical refrigeration equipment - For the storage of blood and blood products* has recently been published by Standards Australia.

AS 3864-2012 has been modified extensively and is now split into two distinct parts.

AS 3864.1 is intended for manufacturers of medical refrigeration equipment and AS 3864.2 contains user-related requirements and is intended for facilities using medical refrigeration equipment to store blood and blood products.

Laboratories should therefore be aware of the requirements contained within Part 2 of the Standard.

NATA will implement the use of the new version of AS 3864 at assessment from 1 March 2013.

The requirements of 3864.2-2012 supersede those in the Medical Testing Field Application document (FAD) published in July 2012. Reference to the new version of AS 3864 will be included in the next full review of the Medical Testing FAD.

The main differences between the current FAD requirements and AS 3864.2-2012 are as follows:

- A spatial temperature check is required at installation (or when equipment is moved or receives significant repair) (Reference AS 3864.2 3.8.3);
- A check of the alarm system function and back up battery (if appropriate) is required monthly (Reference AS 3864.2 3.5.1);
- An accuracy check of the temperature monitoring system is now 6 monthly (Reference AS 3864.2 3.6.1);
- An accuracy check of the alarm sensor and activation temperatures (High and Low alarm check) is now 6 monthly (Reference AS 3864.2 3.6.1);
- A power failure test and alarm activation is required 6 monthly (Reference AS 3864.2 3.6.3)
- Check alarm re-activation annually (Reference AS 3864.2 3.7.3)

Should you require any further advice please contact Andrew Griffin, Deputy Sector Manager - Life Sciences in the Melbourne office.

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