

## FAQs

**Q: At what temperature should blood (or the temperature-sensitive product being monitored) be prior to attaching Safe-T-Vue?**

Blood temperature should be as cold (between 2° C and 4.0°C) as possible. A low start temperature is critical to delivery of blood/components/products within compliance temperature.

**Q: How long can the blood bag, or temperature-sensitive product being monitored, be out of the refrigerator (to avoid unnecessary warming during handling, labeling, and packing)?**

Based on field experience, RBCs and most temperature-sensitive products may be out of refrigeration no more than 10 minutes before issuing. If RBCs and temperature-sensitive products are out of refrigeration for more than 10 minutes they should be re-refrigerated for a minimum of 90 minutes before issuing.

Use of a cold pack will help maintain temperature of blood during dispensing process by placing cold pack under bag. Keep multiple cold packs in blood refrigerator to assure cold pack temperature to be same as blood bag.

**Q: Does the temperature of the room have any effect on Safe-T-Vue?**

Room temperature will affect heat transfer of anything in it. Therefore, a cooler room temperature may slow down the warming rate of blood bags or temperature-sensitive products once they are removed from the refrigerator.

**Q: Cold bags sometimes condense moisture on them after removal from the blood refrigerator. Do I need to remove it before applying a Safe-T-Vue to the bag?**

Just before applying Safe-T-Vue, remove excess moisture by using a dry wipe on the surface where Safe-T-Vue is to be applied.

**Q: Do busy blood refrigerators affect blood temperature?**

Refrigerators with high door counts should be high recovery <sup>(1)</sup> units to assure maintenance of blood at required safe temperature. An increase of 3 to 4°C can take place in air temperature of a blood refrigerator held open for 30 seconds.

**Q: Do you have any protocols for packing blood products being sent to the OR or being transported to another location?**

When packing with wet ice or reusable cold packs, follow the packing instructions provided with your validated shipping container. The top-most layer should always be wet ice or cold packs to keep warm air from the blood bags and/or temperature-sensitive products being monitored—the air above the cold packs is close to room temperature and remains that way during shipment. Avoid direct contact between wet ice packing and blood or temperature-sensitive products being monitored unless specified by your packing protocol. Use an adsorbent pad to control moisture condensation, and to act as an insulator between the blood bags or temperature-sensitive products and your wet ice or cold pack.

The American Red Cross provides a packing protocol for transport of 350 mL and larger bags of WHOLE and RBCs in one of their JOB AID bulletins, which can be found at [www.williamlabs.com/support](http://www.williamlabs.com/support).

*Reference: American Red Cross JOB AID, BSD73.200M\JA02 (8/04).*

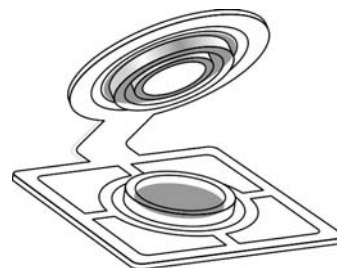
**Q: How long can the indicators remain on stored units once applied?**

Safe-T-Vue indicators may remain on units as long as the red color has not been observed. The indicator should always be on an area of the bag where there is the greatest mass of blood component during storage and transport.

**Q: How can I be certain our blood bags are uniformly the same temperature in our refrigerator?**

Uniform temperature of all blood bags in any given refrigerator depends on the recovery rate of the refrigerator and air circulation. One way to assist a refrigerator with cooling of blood bags is to be certain the bags are stored in a vertical position with air space around them. Bags lying on top of each other require longer times to reach refrigerator temperature.

(1) Helmer brand blood refrigerators



## Instructions & FAQs

### Safe-T-Vue® 6

## BEGIN HERE

### Storage:

- Safe-T-Vue® 6 must be **refrigerated at same temperature as blood for a minimum of 24 hours prior to use**. It is suggested that box (es) of Safe-T-Vue indicators be kept in the blood bank refrigerator.
- Inventory may be stored or shipped at room temperature.
- Safe-T-Vue® 6 may be kept in blood bank refrigerator for up to 3 months. At end of 3 month period, remove Safe-T-Vue 6 from the refrigerator for 24-48 hours, and then return to blood bank refrigerator. This cycling may be repeated every 3 months.



# Safe-T-Vue® 6 Instructions

## Preparation:

Safe-T-Vue® 6 must be:

- refrigerated at same temperature as blood for a minimum of 24 hours prior to use.
- applied and refrigerated on blood bag for a minimum of 15 minutes before activating.

## Application:

*Note: In a busy blood bank environment, use of a cold pack will help maintain temperature of blood during the dispensing process. It is recommended that multiple cold packs be kept in the refrigerator, and placed on the surface under bag during application and dispensing.*

### 1. Fifteen minutes prior to use, pre-apply Safe-T-Vue to the blood bag or product.

Peel off the "REMOVE" label to expose adhesive, being careful to handle by color coded end only.

#### Attach Safe-T-Vue directly to the blood bag.

It is recommended to apply it to the lower third of the bag, where there is a large volume of blood product.

Be certain that the Safe-T-Vue Indicator is completely in contact with the blood bag or product being monitored—no air pockets should be under the indicator due to a fold in the bag or other obstruction.

Return the blood bag to refrigerator with Safe-T-Vue attached for a minimum of 15 minutes BEFORE activating.

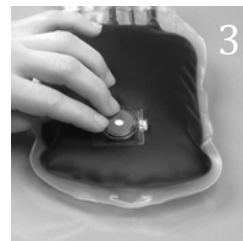
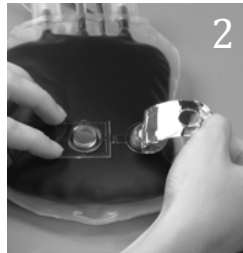


## Activation:

- Since a cold start of less than 3.5°C is optimum, it is preferable to activate Safe-T-Vue in the blood refrigerator.
- Alternatively, Safe-T-Vue can be activated IMMEDIATELY after removing the bag or temperature-sensitive product being monitored (with applied Safe-T-Vue) from the blood refrigerator.
- Use of a cold pack on the surface below the blood bag will help maintain temperature.

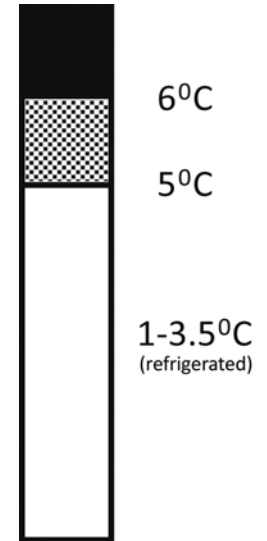
2. Hold Safe-T-Vue against blood bag with finger tips and peel off the foil lid to expose RED DOT and WHITE DOT.

3. Fold the WHITE DOT into RED DOT and press firmly together to activate. Be careful to press ONLY on the color-coded end to activate properly. When WHITE DOT has turned RED, temperature has reached 6°C.



# Color Change Temperature Indication

- The white dot will begin to gradually fill in with red dots at approximately 5°C.
- The temperature-sensitive dot on Safe-T-Vue 6 will turn from white to completely red when the blood product temperature reaches 6 degrees.
- The appearance of small red dots (typically starting around 5°C) is an indication that the blood should be cooled or re-refrigerated immediately, before 6° has been reached.
- Extensive testing has shown that the color change from white to completely red should be clear and unambiguous if Safe-T-Vue has been handled properly.
- If blood product is returned to the blood bank and the indicator has not turned to red, but red dots are present, this may indicate that the management of the blood while out on issue should be questioned.



## Validation

A detailed **Validation Protocol**, is available for download in MSWord format on our website at [www.williamlabs.com/support](http://www.williamlabs.com/support). The document can be edited and modified to meet the validation requirements of your blood bank, hospital, etc.

### Recommended equipment and processes:

- An electronic thermometer and thermister probes ( $\pm 0.1^\circ\text{C}$  stated accuracy) placed inside simulated blood bags are recommended for validation of Safe-T-Vue 6. Avoid surface measurement such as infrared thermometers ( $\pm 1.5^\circ\text{C}$  typical stated accuracy) or a glass thermometer with contact only on the surface of the bag.  
*DigiSense is one source for thermister thermometer and appropriate immersion probes.*
- Simulated blood bags may be prepared using the appropriate volume of water with 10% glycerol by volume or Copper Sulfate-similar solution.

*Reference: Technical Manual, American Association of Blood Banks. Call Customer Service at 800/767-7643.*