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Shipping and Storage

Where can I find information on labeling and storage of USP Reference Standards?

USP's policy is to include proper storage conditions for unopened Reference Standards on the container label. Storage conditions are lot-specific. USP generally provides enough material for multiple preparations. Any unused portions remaining after the container has been opened should be carefully stored in accordance with prudent laboratory procedures. Many variables are outside of the control of USP. Therefore, USP makes no warranties concerning the continued suitability of previously opened Reference Standards. Decisions concerning the proper use of previously opened Reference Standards are the responsibility of the purchaser. (View USP's policy statement on the [\(3\)storage and usage of USP Reference Standards](#)  (61KB).)

Labeling and storage information for USP Reference Standards is also provided in USP 26–NF 21 General Chapter <11> USP Reference Standards. If the specific label instructions differ from the instructions in USP–NF (this may happen if the labels are updated before a new edition of USP–NF is published), the instructions on the label take precedence. See [\(5\)Use and Storage](#) for more details.

Do USP Reference Standards require special shipping?

USP Reference Standards are not customarily shipped on ice or under refrigerated conditions. The storage conditions noted on the Reference Standard vial or packaging are intended to preserve the integrity of the Reference Standard during long-term storage. Normal shipping conditions and transit times, including international shipping of Reference Standards, have not been demonstrated to affect their suitability for use. If scientific evidence suggests the need to ship a Reference Standard on ice, USP will do so. (View USP's policy statement on [\(7\)shipping of USP Reference Standards](#)  (64KB).) Shipping on ice or dry ice for all Reference Standards is available on request at an extra charge—call USP Customer Service at 1–800–227–8772 (U.S. and Canada), +1–301–881–0666, or 00–800–4875–5555 (Select Europe) for details.