

**Risk Assessment: Safe Use of -80 freezers**

The -80 freezer can pose a number of hazards in the laboratory. These include:

- ✓ Inhalation of cold vapours which can cause lung damage and asthma attacks in asthma sufferers
- ✓ Cold burns from direct contact
- ✓ The temperature will be lower when the door is open, therefore hypothermia could be a hazard

This risk assessment aims to outline the hazards and precautions that must be adhered to when using the RMU -80 freezers.

Carried out by: Samantha Thulborn	Date carried out: April 2014	Review Date: April 2015 Reviewed – No changes made
		Review Date: April 2016

Hazard (Cause and consequence)	Affected Group	Existing controls	Risk	Further Action Required
Inhalation of cold vapours which can cause lung damage and asthma attacks in asthma sufferers		- Work in a well-ventilated area and avoid breathing vapours and gases	Medium	
Cold burns from direct contact with the dry ice or equipment cooled by the material		- Ensure that lab coat, glasses and insulated gloves are worn at all times when using dry ice.	Medium	None
Temperatures in the proximity of the freezer may be lower than the general temperature, therefore hypothermia could be a hazard.		- Ensure that users take regular breaks (every 15 mins) whilst using	Medium	None



Risk Assessment – RMU-RA-012

		dry ice, move completely away from area		
--	--	--	--	--