

Information about the storage of samples by Wholesale Representatives

This circular provides supplementary information to holders of a wholesale representative licence under the *Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996 (the Regulation)* regarding their obligations for the storage of samples.

Introduction

Conditions on an individual wholesale representatives licence stipulate that a wholesale representative must only be in possession, at any one time, of not more than a combined total of twelve hundred packs of either restricted drugs (schedule 4), schedule 2 or schedule 3 poisons, which have been supplied to the licence holder by his/her employer for the purpose of display and/or supply to medical, veterinary, pharmacy and/or dental practitioners.

Further, the packs supplied to doctors, veterinary surgeons, pharmacists and/or dentists are only to be packs considered as 'starter' packs or packs that contain restricted drugs or Schedule 2 or 3 poisons in quantities to facilitate not more than three (3) days supply.

Guidance

It is the wholesale representatives' responsibility to ensure that:

- The quantity of restricted drug/poison starter packs stored at any premises, including a storage facility, will be as per the conditions set down in a wholesale representative's licence. This means that if more than one wholesale representative uses or shares a storage facility or other premises for the storage of samples, then a mechanism must be in place to separate each representative's quantities of samples. As such, each wholesale representative will be accountable for his or her own stock of drug samples.
- The storage of such restricted drug/poison starter packs must be kept locked in a secure place out of public view.
- Unauthorised persons cannot be in possession of these samples at any time, including persons associated with the storage facility or any other premises such as a residential address, a vehicle or an employers premises that does not hold a licence to sell restricted drugs by wholesale. This means that when starter packs are delivered to these premises, only the wholesale representative is authorised to be in possession of them. They cannot be left with any other person including a storage facility employee, a householder from a residential premises or another employee of the wholesale representatives company (other than employees at premises where the company holds a Queensland restricted drug wholesale licence).
- All drugs and poisons are stored in accordance with the instructions stated on their label, for example those relating to temperature control. This means that appropriate temperature control mechanisms such as air conditioning must be used if necessary to meet the label storage requirements.

Further Information

1. Information about medicines and poisons, as it applies to health practitioners, industry and the public can be found on Queensland Health webpages detailed below:
 - Pharmaceutical and Medicines
www.health.qld.gov.au/health_professionals/medicines
 - Poisons and Pest Management
www.health.qld.gov.au/industry/poisons_pest
 - Pharmacy Ownership
www.health.qld.gov.au/health_professionals/pharmacyownership.asp
2. The legislation governing the regulation of drugs and poisons in Queensland is the *Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996* and is located on the Queensland legislation webpage at:
www.legislation.qld.gov.au/LEGISLTN/CURRENT/H/HealDrAPoR96.pdf



3. Contact your local Queensland Health Public Health Unit (PHU) if you have any further questions regarding legislative requirements (PHU contact details below or visit www.health.qld.gov.au/cho).

Queensland Health Public Health Units – Environmental Health

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Longreach – Central West QLD	4652 6000	EH_CentralQueensland@health.qld.gov.au
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Drugs and Poisons Policy and Regulation Unit

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Website www.health.qld.gov.au/ph/ehu/drugs_poisons.asp