

# CRYOSERVICE AND MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL DEVELOP DEFINITIVE SAFETY DOCUMENT

CryoService, leading UK provider of cryogenic gases and gas storage solutions and the Medical Research Council (MRC), the world-renowned research organisation dedicated to improving human health, have jointly produced a groundbreaking new publication to improve the safety and operating practices associated with liquid nitrogen.

Liquid nitrogen is widely used across the world for its cryogenic properties, which allows for the long term storage of biological samples. Storage of products such as blood, tissues, stem cells, viruses etc in liquid nitrogen can ensure their long-term viability and supports not only medical research but procedures such as IVF and blood transfusion.

In general, liquid nitrogen is a safe product; however the very nature of its extreme cold properties (it is stored in liquid form at  $-196^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) and the fact that the liquid expands dramatically upon evaporation and can displace air does lead to some unique safety challenges.

With their extensive joint experience in both the supply and use of liquid nitrogen, CryoService and the MRC decided to develop a definitive safety and usage guide that could not only be applied across the MRC as best practice, but could also help general users benefit from their respective levels of expertise. The document references all key industry codes of practice and includes sections on the following:

- Hazards and risks associated with the use of liquid nitrogen
- Risk Assessment including model calculations for oxygen depletion.
- Storage tanks and equipment.
- Best practice for new cryogenic installations.
- The development of safe systems of work.
- Emergency procedures and first aid.

The document will be invaluable for existing users of Liquid Nitrogen, new users, and those designing or planning a new cryostorage facility.

**“Standards for Liquid Nitrogen Supply”** is available for purchase on-line from [www.cryoservice.co.uk](http://www.cryoservice.co.uk) for only £29.95.