

## ***In-use Storage of mastdiscs<sup>™</sup> for antibiotic susceptibility testing***

Mast Group Limited has undertaken validation studies on representative samples of Mast manufactured antimicrobial susceptibility test discs (**mastdiscs<sup>™</sup>**) to establish in-use storage recommendations for the product range.

Based on usage of Mast DiscMaster<sup>™</sup> dispensers (MDD62/MDD63) with a correctly maintained and charged desiccant, **mastdiscs<sup>™</sup>** will maintain their viability for the recommended period of time, 28 days for standard antibiotics and 17 days for the Carbapenem group. This is constantly under review and customers will be advised of any changes to this information.

Indicating desiccant should be recharged before first use, thereafter once it has lost its dry state colouration and on at least a weekly basis. (Please refer to the MDD63 dispenser Instructions for Use document (IFU808) at [www.mastgrp.com](http://www.mastgrp.com)).

Certain methods, including those issued by BSAC/EUCAST/CLSI specify the maximum period of time that working stocks of **mastdiscs<sup>™</sup>** can be used and these must be adhered to in order to maintain compliance to those methods.

Loss of potency of antimicrobial agents is a common source of test error. Laboratories should observe best practice when using and handling susceptibility test discs to ensure correct results are obtained. The following are essential:-

- Stocks of **mastdiscs<sup>™</sup>** must be stored between -20°C and +8°C.
- Working stocks of **mastdiscs<sup>™</sup>** must be stored between +2°C and +8°C.
- Ensure the dispenser's canister has the correct number of desiccant capsules (4) *in situ*
- Before opening and to prevent condensation, the container and its contents must be allowed to reach room temperature (18-30°C). Moisture and temperature variation will cause the products to degrade. Cartridges containing  $\beta$ -lactamase inhibitors and carbapenems are particularly susceptible to degradation by moisture.
- After application of **mastdiscs<sup>™</sup>**, the in-use cartridges must be returned immediately to a sealed dispenser canister with a desiccant at a temperature between +2°C and +8°C.
- Do not continue to use any **mastdiscs<sup>™</sup>** that have been left open and unprotected by desiccant, at room temperature, for long periods of time without first verifying an acceptable level of performance.
- Discard any **mastdiscs<sup>™</sup>** still in primary packaging on the expiry date shown on the container
- Use specified control strains, according to schedules contained within the standardised susceptibility method followed, to monitor the performance of the test.
- Quality Control checks should be carried out on a regular basis to monitor all aspects of antibiotic susceptibility testing to comply with BSAC/EUCAST/CLSI standards.

We can only guarantee the performance of **mastdiscs<sup>™</sup>** in cartridges when they are used in conjunction with Mast DiscMaster<sup>™</sup> Dispensers (MDD62/MDD63) as they are designed to be used as a composite system.

It is essential these guidelines are adhered to ensure reproducible and accurate results.