## **Checking temperatures of fridges & freezers**

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Reference	Safety policies • Risk assessment manual • DMLB SOP K0010 - Dealing with a fridge/freezer breakdown SOP K0021 - Cleaning and use of service fridges & freezers SOP K0021a - Cleaning and use of walk-in fridges & freezers SOP K0055 - Dealing with a spillage SOP K0100 - Chill well management
Equipment	Fridge freezer thermometer for every fridge and freezer Fridge and freezer vinyl number labels

## • All fridges and freezers must operate at the correct temperature. Step The safe temperature ranges are: • Freezers - between -15°C and -23°C (with a target of -18°C). • Fridges - between +1°C and +8°C (with a target of +5°C). • For ROI, the safe temperature range for fridges is between +1°C and +5°C. • Do not take the temperature reading from the digital display. Use an internal thermometer. • There is no requirement to record the temperature of any chill well. Food stored in a chill well is subject to 4-hour time controls. Refer to SOP K0100 -Chill well management. Fridge freezer thermometers: Step • Check that fridge freezer thermometers are in place in all fridges and freezers, 2 including bar fridges used for food items. • Check the thermometer is in good working condition prior to taking a reading. • If a fridge or freezer is missing a thermometer or the thermometer is damaged, and there are no spares available, transfer a thermometer from another fridge/ freezer. Close the door and allow 15 minutes prior to taking the reading. Fridges and freezers must be numbered in a logical sequence using the vinyl Step number labels. 3 • Apply the numbers onto the front of the fridge or freezer door in the top right hand corner. Blue number labels for freezers (FREEZERSTK1). Black number labels for fridges (FRIDGESTK1). Replacement labels can be ordered via the POS order. • Fridge and freezer temperatures must be checked 4 times a day and recorded in Step the DMLB. Check 1 - First task of the kitchen opening procedures. • Check 2 - 12 noon. • Check 3 - 6pm. • Check 4 - As part of the kitchen close down procedures. To take a fridge/freezer temperature: Step Locate the internal thermometer. • Take the temperature reading. Record the reading in the DMLB. • If any fridge is warmer than +8°C (+5°C in ROI) or any freezer warmer than -15°C, close the door and do not re-open for 15 minutes. • Check the temperature again after 15 minutes.

with a fridge/freezer breakdown.

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• If after 15 minutes the temperature does not return to the safe range, record the temperature in the notes section of the DMLB and refer to SOP K0010 - Dealing

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## Step 6



To help maintain temperatures of the fridges and freezers:

- Limit the use of the walk-in fridge and freezer during service by ensuring all required products are available in service fridges and freezers.
- Put deliveries away as quickly as possible chilled first, frozen next and finally ambient.
- For items to be stored in the fridge, remove external cardboard packaging where possible.
- Do not overfill any fridge or freezer.
- Never put hot food into a fridge.
- Do not store products directly in front of fans.
- Check all fridge & freezer seals are clean and in good condition. Replace any that are split.
- Refer to SOP K0021 Cleaning and use of service fridges & freezers and SOP K0021a - Cleaning and use of walk-in fridges & freezers.





- Temperature checks must be completed on any bar fridge used to store food items eg, milk.
- Follow Steps 4 and 5.
- If more than one fridge is in use to store food items, number these refer to Step 3.
- Temperature checks must be recorded in the DMLB.

Step 8



- If freezers are noted with heavy frost build up, arrange to transfer all stock to another freezer and complete a defrost.
- Ensure water from a defrosting freezer is cleaned up immediately. Refer to SOP K0055 Dealing with a spillage.
- Where possible, leave the thermometer in place when taking a reading.
- Report all maintenance issues via the property maintenance system.