

# Temperature Monitoring & Reagent Storage

## What Inspectors Look For

Prevent one of the most common CLIA citations

Article 18 of 22

5-minute read

### Daily

Temperature logs required on every day of use

### 2-8°C

Standard refrigerator acceptable range

### NIST

Traceable thermometers required annually

*Temperature monitoring is one of the most frequently cited areas in CLIA inspections, yet it is entirely preventable. Inspectors have a specific checklist. Knowing what they look for lets you address gaps before they become citations.*

## 1 Daily Temperature Logs Are Non-Negotiable

Every storage unit holding reagents, controls, or patient samples needs daily temperature recording: date, time, reading, initials, acceptable range. Out-of-range requires documented corrective action.

## 2 Acceptable Temperature Ranges

Refrigerators: 2–8°C, freezers: -20°C or below, ambient: 15–30°C. Always defer to manufacturer specs—if insert says 2–6°C, your range is 2–6, not 2–8.

**QUICK TIP:** Manufacturer specs override general guidelines.

## 3 Thermometer Calibration

Use NIST-traceable thermometers or digital loggers with calibration certificates. Verify against a calibrated reference at least annually. Keep certificates on file.

## 4 Handling Temperature Excursions

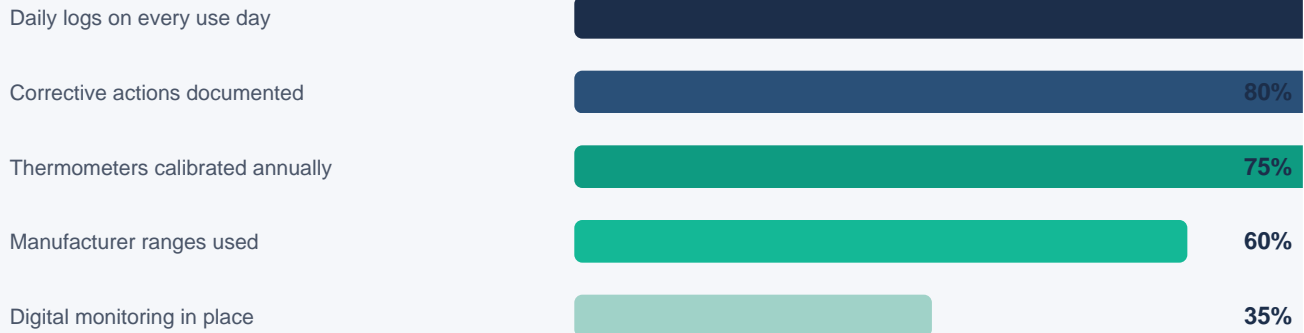
Document the excursion, corrective action, and assessment of whether stored materials were affected. Contact manufacturers for stability data. If compromised, discard and document.

## 5 Digital Monitoring: Worth the Investment

Continuous monitoring with alarms eliminates missed readings, provides complete audit trails, and alerts to excursions in real time including nights and weekends.

**QUICK TIP:** Walk through your lab now and check every storage unit.

## TEMPERATURE MONITORING COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST



*Compliance rate benchmarks for independent labs*

**BOTTOM LINE:** Walk through your lab right now. Is there a temperature log on every storage unit? Is it current? Is the thermometer calibrated? Fix any gaps today.

### FREE TOOLS TO GET STARTED

Template	What It Does
<a href="#">Daily Temperature Monitoring Log</a>	Record temps for all storage units with range validation

### Download the complete JIT4LABS Templates Toolkit

23 ready-to-use Excel templates covering inventory, financials, compliance, and more.

Visit: [jit4you.myshopify.com/resources](https://jit4you.myshopify.com/resources)

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