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GX Solutions Pass-Thru Refrigerators Offer Clinical Pharmacy Workflow Efficiency

Helmer Scientific offers the only medical-grade pass-thru refrigerator that meets the proposed changes to USP <797> for use in cleanroom applications while ensuring the safe storage and efficacy of temperature-sensitive medications and vaccines.

President: Bruce King

Vice President of Sales & Marketing: Lori Gabrek

Founded: 1977

Employees: 500

Toll-Free Phone: (800) 743-5637

Phone: (317) 773-9073

Address: 14400 Bergen Boulevard, Noblesville, IN 46060

Website: www.helmerinc.com



Company Background

Helmer Scientific is a U.S.-based manufacturer and worldwide distributor of medical-grade cold storage and laboratory processing equipment. We have over 45 years of experience in providing high-quality temperature-controlled environments, with our products used in over 125 countries throughout the world. Precise temperature performance and control are essential to the successful storage of pharmaceuticals and Helmer cold storage products have been designed and developed with these principles.

Product Overview

Pass-thru refrigerators play a key role in providing workflow efficiency and regulatory compliance in clinical pharmacies. With staff shortages and supply chain issues creating challenges across the healthcare continuum, it's critical to use effective cold storage units that support productivity while still ensuring valuable medications, vaccines, patient samples, and lab media are protected.

Best practices recommend using purpose-built or pharmacy-grade units with forced-air circulation, microprocessor-based controls, and alarms, as well as necessary regulatory and compliance requirements based on application.

GX Solutions Pass-Thru Refrigerators are the only medical-grade pass-thru refrigerators that include innovative technology to support environmental sustainability initiatives and evolving regulatory requirements while maintaining the unique temperature performance requirements required in pass-thru refrigerator applications to reduce the risk of damaging valuable medications and vaccines.

GX Solutions support the clinical pharmacy with enhanced workflow efficiency, allowing access from both sides of the unit for more convenient access to stored products. This is particularly useful when increased efficiency is desired when transferring contents between locations.

GX Solutions Pass-Thru Refrigerators are specifically designed to provide safe and effective storage in three ways:

■ OptiCool™ Refrigeration Technology

GX Solutions are powered by OptiCool technology which pairs a variable capacity compressor (VCC) and natural refrigerants to:

- Ensure optimal temperature uniformity, recovery, and stability. Temperature is maintained within $\pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ throughout the unit, quickly recovers after prolonged door openings, and creates fewer deviations from the set point avoiding rapid, significant changes in temperature which could put items stored at risk of temperature excursion.
- Efficiently manage energy consumption (up to 50% reduction over traditional medical-grade pass-thru units).
- Reduce noise output from the system (up to three times quieter than traditional medical-grade pass-thru units).
- Meet SNAP, GWP, and EU F-Gas initiatives for sustainability.

■ Extended Testing Protocols

In addition to Accelerated Life Testing, GX Solutions Pass-Thru Refrigerators also undergo heavy-use testing to ensure they meet the rigorous daily use cases in the pharmacy. This includes testing ambient temperature loads, frequent door openings, and extended door openings to ensure temperature performance is not compromised while avoiding nuisance alarms.

■ USP <797> Sterile Compounding Pharmacy Support

GX Solutions Pass-Thru Refrigerators support compliance requirements related to proposed changes to USP General Chapter <797>.

- Pass-thru refrigerators used in cleanroom applications must be able to prevent cleanroom-side and anteroom-side doors from being opened simultaneously.

GX Solutions Pass-Thru Refrigerators are the only pass-thru refrigerators available with optional iLock™ Interlock Door Technology which electronically locks doors on one side of the unit when the other side is opened. This is especially useful when placed between a cleanroom and an anteroom, limiting access to sterile environments.

Professional, Medical-Grade Performance

- Best-in-class temperature management, including uniformity, recovery, and stability, to safeguard medications and vaccines and supply confidence that contents are stored at the precise temperature regardless of where they are placed within the unit.
- Only pass-thru refrigerator with available electronic interlocking doors to meet proposed USP <797> requirements.
- Avoids rapid, significant changes in temperature to ensure that medications and vaccines are always in an optimal storage environment.
- Designed for noise-sensitive areas such as retail and specialty pharmacies, GX Professional Medical-Grade Refrigerators are quieter than traditional models leading to fewer distractions for healthcare personnel.
- Energy management reduces operating costs and supports sustainability initiatives by utilizing a variable capacity compressor (VCC) system and natural refrigerants to create a highly efficient cooling system.
- i.C3® Information Center provides constant temperature monitoring, multiple information logs which can be exported for regulatory compliance, and security features to protect crucial refrigerator settings.