

Evidence of Monitoring and Controlling the Museum Environment (Interim)

3.10 ■ Please describe the environmental conditions in the museum with regard to the following: heat, relative humidity, and light. Explain how these conditions are measured and recorded.

Include the following information:

Temperature

- Type of heating system in the museum.
- Equipment used to measure temperature.
- Details of records kept and how this information is used.
- Details of frequency of readings.
- Details on how fluctuations in temperature and RH are minimised.

Relative Humidity

- Details of equipment used to control relative humidity.
- Equipment used to measure relative humidity.
- Details of frequency of readings.
- Details of records kept and how this information is used.

Light

- Detail on how your collections on display are lit
- Details of how light levels in the museum are measured and recorded.
- Details of the amount of light and the length of time to which objects are exposed.
- Details of steps taken to exclude ultraviolet light.

Pollutants

- Details of steps taken to protect objects from gaseous pollutants.
- Details of steps taken to minimise dust and particulate dirt.
- Details of the cleaning regimen in place to remove dust and dirt from the museum.

■ This is a Minimum Standard for Interim Accreditation (Evidence of Monitoring and Controlling the Museum Environment).

Please enclose the relevant additional documents along with your Application Form.

■ Requirements (temperature)

- (i) Applicants must be able to measure and record temperature regularly.
- (ii) Applicants must keep consistent records and submit a sample of the completed records.
- (iii) Applicants must submit evidence that efforts are made to maintain a stable environment. Extremes of temperature must be avoided.

Requirements (relative humidity)

- (i) Applicants must be able to measure and record the level of relative humidity regularly.
- (ii) Applicants must keep consistent records and submit a sample of the completed records.
- (iii) Applicants must submit evidence that efforts are made to maintain a stable environment. Large fluctuations in relative humidity should be avoided.

Requirements (light)

- (i) Every effort should be made to minimise the exposure of the artefacts on display and in storage to light.
- (ii) Applicants must be able to measure and record light and Ultraviolet levels (access to a light meter is required).
- (iii) Ultraviolet (UV) radiation must be minimised or eliminated.
- (iv) Applicants must submit a sample of the records kept.

Requirements (pollutants)

- (i) Sources of dust, dirt and gaseous pollutants should be minimised.

■ Guidelines

- A. This standard focuses on basic practice which is essentially a good housekeeping routine. A regular walkabout of all areas (at least once a week), especially storage (on-site and off-site), and display areas should be undertaken and anything amiss noted. It is not essential to have elaborate equipment to measure environmental conditions. What is required is that there is an understanding of the environmental conditions and their impact on the collection, and evidence that, in so far as funds are available, measures are in hand to improve any conditions that might be impacting unfavourably on the collection.
- B. Frequency will be dictated by the funding available to the museum. The options are: inexpensive equipment which does not record temperature and humidity on a continuous basis; expensive equipment that records continuously and may be capable of sending signals back to a remote data-logger; or thermohygrographs that record continuously using a weekly or monthly chart. In the absence of instruments that record continuously, it is recommended that readings should be taken every day if possible or at least once weekly.
- C. Please see Section 1.4 of *Caring for Collections: A Manual of Preventative Conservation* for further details.

When submitting your application the following detail is required:

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- Details of steps taken to exclude ultraviolet light.

Pollutants

- Details of steps taken to protect objects from gaseous pollutants.
- Details of steps taken to minimise dust and particulate dirt.
- Details of the cleaning regimen in place to remove dust and dirt from the museum.

Note: For Accreditation Purposes this Standard is considered with standard 3.3 Pest Control Measures under the heading: **Evidence of Monitoring and Controlling the Museum Environment**