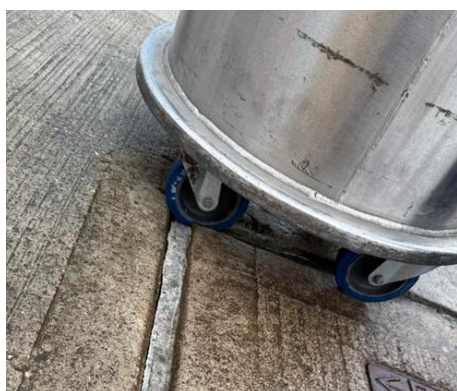


Manual Handling of Dewars

Evotix reference: I13041, I13328, I13462, I14061 & I14746
Date of incident: 6th Dec 2024 – 1st December 2025
Location: RAL
Group involved: Staff

Overview

Within a 12-month period there have been 5 reported incidents involving cryogenic pressure vessels (Dewars) on the RAL site. All of these have **MANUAL HANDLING** in common. Three of the incidents resulted in injuries such as sprains/strains and bruises to backs, hands/arms, knees and feet.



This wheel was caught in a gap causing it to topple over – including the person pushing it!



This wheel came off due to a design flaw which caused it to become unstable and injured the person moving it!

Key learnings from the incidents

- ✓ Do not move a Dewar on your own
- ✓ Check the route beforehand - remove obstacles, open doors, check floor surface
- ✓ Inspect the Dewar before moving it – make sure the wheels are secured and it moves smoothly
- ✓ Only manual handle over the shortest possible distance
- ✓ **Always** let go of a falling dewar and **never** attempt to catch it!
- ✓ Do not lift a Dewar back onto its wheels on your own
- ✓ Dewar parts, such as wheels, must be part of an ongoing maintenance program, as they are not covered by the statutory inspection