

## METEOROLOGICAL BALLOON STORAGE GUIDELINES

- Balloons should be stored away from direct sunlight and, if possible, in the dark.
- Balloons should be kept away from any source of heat.
- Wherever possible, balloons should be stored in a room at temperatures between 20°C to 25°C.
- Balloons that have been stored for a long period at temperatures below 10°C should be brought to room temperature before use.
- All balloons should be kept in their original packing until required for preflight preparations.
- Care should be taken to see that they do not come into contact with oil or any other substance that may penetrate the wrapping and damage the balloons.
- When stored under above mentioned ideal conditions, the shelf-life of balloons is more than 12 months.

## METEOROLOGICAL BALLOON HANDLING GUIDELINES

- No part of the balloon except the neck should be touched with bare hands. Balloons should be handled at all times with, soft rubber gloves, latex gloves, soft cotton gloves or the plastic bag in which the balloon was wrapped. If handled with bare hands the film may get contaminated and affect balloon performance.
- Care should be taken to avoid contact of the balloon with the ground. There should ideally be a protective sheet of plastic or rubber film between the balloon and the ground.
- The balloon should be kept under a shelter until everything is ready for its launch.
- Prolonged exposure to bright sunlight while inflated and prior to launch should be avoided as this may affect the balloon material and may even result in its bursting before leaving the ground.
- Inflate the balloon a maximum of 45 minutes before the actual flight.
- Balloons should be inflated slowly because sudden expansion may cause weak spots in the balloon film. It is desirable to provide a fine adjustment valve for regulating the gas flow.