



Long-Term Storage Program Q&A

2020

How does it work?

1. IFs and NADOs shall instruct WADA-accredited laboratories, in writing which samples must not be discarded after their initial analysis and the minimum mandatory storage time has expired (3 months) as required by the ISL (Ref. Art 4.6.5.2.3).
2. IFs and NADOs shall inform the ITA that they wish to store their samples in the ITA Centralized Long-Term Storage Facility (CLTSF). They shall contact the ITA by sending an email to: storage@ita.sport to indicate their interest in taking part in this program.
3. The ITA will then provide IFs and NADOs with access to a secured IT platform to inform the ITA in which WADA-accredited laboratory the samples are currently located, and which samples shall be sent for long-term storage in the ITA CLTSF.
4. The ITA will send the appropriate shipping material (boxes, seals, watertight bags, etc.) to each WADA-accredited laboratory to ensure that the shipping process to transfer the sample is standardised and highly secure.
5. The ITA will contact the relevant WADA-accredited laboratory through a dedicated and secure mobile application which the ITA has developed to organize, document and track the shipment of the sample to the ITA CLTSF and to make sure that all steps and chain of custody are properly recorded and fulfill the ISL 2021 requirements (Ref. Art 5.3.11.3).
6. The ITA coordinates the shipping of the box(es) to the Centralized Long-Term Storage Facility.
7. The ITA stores the samples for an extended period of up to 10 years.
8. Whenever the ADO (IF or NADO) who is the TA (or alternatively WADA as need be) wishes to conduct further analysis on samples, the TA is to request the ITA to ship the samples to the WADA-accredited laboratory of their choice.

Does WADA support this LTS program?

Yes. WADA fully supports this important LTS initiative and encourages IFs and NADOs to participate in this program to further protect clean sport.

Who will pay for the shipment (from the WADA-accredited laboratory to the Centralized Long-Term Storage Facility) and for the Long-Term Storage costs (security, conservation, administration, etc.)?

The IOC is financing the project for all samples collected on athletes likely to participate in the Olympic Games based on the respective IFs and NADOs decision or the Tokyo 2020 Pre-Games Expert Group recommendations. Accordingly, all the following steps will be free of charge for the IFs and NADOs opting to store their pre-Games samples in the ITA CLTSF:

- ✓ shipping of pre-Games samples from any WADA-accredited laboratory to the ITA CLTSF;
- ✓ cost of storage for up to 10 years;
- ✓ shipping from the ITA CLTSF to a WADA-accredited laboratory (in Europe) for further analysis. The shipping of samples to a WADA-accredited laboratory outside Europe is possible but the additional costs shall be borne by the TA
- ✓ cost for the disposal of samples.

For the sake of clarity, please note that the cost of further analysis by a WADA-accredited laboratory and results management will be borne exclusively by the TA/Result Management Authority (RMA).

Who is managing the Centralized Long-Term Storage Facility?

The ITA manages the facility in full independence from the IOC, WADA, ADOs and any WADA-accredited laboratory. The ITA is working with a professional ISO-certified partner which has more than 20 years expertise in the physical archiving of highly sensitive material (samples, banking and government documents, works of art, jewellery, etc.). The facility is highly secure and the ITA has implemented contingency plans to ensure that any power shortage or other unforeseen events will protect the integrity of the samples at all times.

If a sample is stored in ITA's Centralized Long-Term Storage Facility, who owns the sample?

The ADO who authorised the collection of the sample i.e. the Testing Authority retains ownership of the sample regardless of whether the sample is stored in the ITA CLTSF. Consequently, notwithstanding WADA's right to request that a sample be further analysed, the ADO who initiated and directed sample collection as per Article 6.6 of the Code retains full authority to decide if the sample shall be stored and/or further analysed. The ITA is not permitted to access a sample stored in the CLTSF for further analysis (or any other action) without approval by the TA or RMA.

Should the Testing Authority (TA) wish to conduct further analysis on a sample, how should the TA proceed?

The TA should advise the ITA to transfer the sample to the WADA-accredited laboratory of their choice. The costs related to the transfer of the sample(s) to any WADA-accredited laboratory located in Europe will be covered by the IOC. Any additional costs for shipment outside Europe shall be borne by the TA.

Who will have access to the samples?

The Centralized Long-Term Storage Facility is located in Switzerland and is equipped with state-of-the-art security installations (barbed wire fence, cameras, armoured fireproof walls and doors, access controls, etc.). Only a very limited number of registered people are authorized to enter the high security area. The ITA will not access the samples without the prior approval of the TA.

Who is responsible for the costs to further analyse the samples?

The TA is responsible for the costs of further analysis, however under Article 6.6 of the 2021 Code another ADO with authority to test the athlete may wish to conduct further analysis on a stored sample and they can do so with the permission of the ADO that initiated and directed sample collection or WADA. Any follow up result management will be the responsibility of the ADO that requested permission to conduct further analysis on the sample.

How long should the samples remain in the Centralized Long-Term Storage Facility?

Samples will remain for a maximum of 10 years in the Centralized Long-Term Storage Facility. After this period expires, the samples will be disposed of; the costs for the disposal of samples will be covered by the IOC.

If an ADO wishes to store the pre-Games sample of one or more athletes at the ITA CLTSF who, ended up not qualifying or participating in the Olympic Games, will the ADO be charged for the shipping/storage costs?

As mentioned above, the ITA is pleased to store samples for all interested ADOs. If a top-level athlete ends up not qualifying for the Olympic Games, then the shipping and storage costs will be covered by the IOC.

Can the ITA store both urine and blood samples?

Yes. Both urine and blood samples can be stored for up to 10 years. When conducting further analysis of samples, the TA must carefully consider the stability of analytes over time and storage temperature conditions.

Can the ITA guarantee that the process fully complies with the Code and its associated International Standards, in particular the ISTI, International Standard for Laboratories (ISL) and the International Standard for the Protection of Privacy and Personal Information (ISPPPI)?

The ITA ensures that the process fully complies with the Code and related International Standards and Technical Documents. WADA will perform an audit visit of the facility as soon as the sanitary conditions allow. The Centralized Long-Term Storage Facility is ISO 9001 certified and a threat and risk assessment has been carried out in December 2020 by a well-known certification company with the support of an independent expert in the anti-doping field.

Should the WADA-accredited laboratory having conducted the initial analysis send the relevant documents (i.e. the Doping Control Form and Chain of Custody) together with the samples to the Centralized Long-Term Storage Facility?

The Centralised Long-Term Storage Facility should not receive the original or copies of the Doping Control Forms and related documents (Supplementary Form, Chain of Custody). These documents remain under the responsibility of the WADA-accredited laboratory and Testing Authority as stated in the ISL 2021 (Ref. Art 5.3.11.3).

Will the ITA have access to the laboratory results and to the identity of the athlete associated with the sample?

No. The ITA does not have access to the laboratory results or the identity of the athlete.

Who will deal with any paperwork and formalities related to Customs Authorities when shipping samples?

The ITA will coordinate this, and the transport company designated by the ITA will be in charge of preparing the documents. The WADA-accredited laboratory may also have to provide information to assist in filling out the necessary paperwork.

Can an ADO store samples in the ITA Centralized Long-Term Storage Facility collected outside the framework of the Olympic Games (ie. on athletes who will not participate in the Olympic Games)?

Yes, the ITA is pleased to offer this service to any interested ADO who wishes to store their samples in the ITA Centralized Long-Term Storage Facility. The ITA can organize the shipment of samples from/to any WADA-accredited laboratory and coordinate the further analysis of the samples as required. Please do not hesitate to contact the ITA at storage@ita.sport should you wish to discuss this matter and receive a quote.