Environmental Health and Safety

Exempt Animal or Human Specimens Shipping Instructions

Animal or human specimens that do not contain infectious agents or are unlikely to contain infectious agents based on knowledge of the source are not subject to all aspects of the dangerous goods shipping regulations. Packaging must prevent any leakage.

This document provides guidance in the proper identification and packaging of Exempt Human Specimens and Exempt Animal Specimens. Completing the self-certification test and submitting the completed document to Tufts EHS will provide a record of your training and decision making process.

If your material is being shipped on dry ice, you must complete the dry ice shipping self-training and certification. Contact x6-2919 or x6-3615 for assistance. The presence of other secondary hazards, including preservatives or fixatives, may also require additional training.

Shipping regulations change frequently, so it is necessary to renew your certification every two years.

Hazard Identification
The determination that a specimen is unlikely to contain pathogens requires medical judgment. This judgment should be based on the known medical history, symptoms and circumstances of the source and local conditions.

These exempt specimens are materials collected directly from humans or animals, including, but not limited to, excreta, secreta, blood and its components, tissue and tissue fluid swabs, body parts, tissues, etc. being transported for research, diagnosis, investigational activities, noninfectious disease treatment and prevention.

Packaging Patient Specimens
1. **Triple packaging is required:**
   a. A leak proof primary container with a secure top; preferably screw-cap or Parafilm sealed.
   b. A leak proof secondary container such a larger tube or a sealed plastic bag
   c. An outer package measuring at least 4inches x 4 inches x 4 inches of adequate strength for the intended contents and able to withstand shipping. Styrofoam is not adequate by itself.

2. **Absorbent Material** capable of absorbing the entire contents of the sample. This material should be placed between the primary and secondary containers so that, should a leak occur, it would not compromise any cushioning material or reach the outer packaging.

3. **Cushioning Material** to prevent multiple inner containers from contact with each other.
4. If the material is of human origin, a biohazard symbol can be placed on the secondary container.

5. Place a detailed list and description of the contents with shipper and recipient names, addresses and phone numbers between the secondary and outer package.

6. Make arrangements with the receiving lab to make sure your package can be delivered on the intended date. Take into account local holidays or closings that might delay package receipt.

**Paperwork for Patient Specimens**
None for domestic shipments but be sure to include the packaging list with the number and size of primary containers.

**Package Markings for Patient Specimens**

**Labeling:** The outermost container must be marked with the words:

- “Exempt human specimen”
- “Exempt animal specimen”

as appropriate.

The complete shipping and/or contact information, including a telephone number, should be on the box.