



INFECTIOUS SPECIMENS, CATEGORY A

Packing and Transport Policy

Responsibilities of the Sender

All specimens transported to EMH Reference Laboratory that are suspected of containing a Category A Infectious Substance must be packed in accordance with Federal Regulations (49 CFR part 171-178).

Specimens are classified as Category A Infectious Substances when transported in a form that, when exposure to it occurs, is capable of causing permanent disability, life-threatening or fatal disease to humans or animals. See reverse side of this policy for a list of examples of Category A Infectious pathogens.

The Sender is responsible for following all applicable regulations regarding the packaging and transport of Hazardous Materials. *This policy may not be used to substitute for the knowledge, training and/or regulatory compliance responsibilities of the sender when offering hazardous materials for transport.*

Infectious Specimens for Courier Transport must comply with IATA packing instruction 602

1. Primary Specimen Container

- Leak-proof; Screw top tubes must be taped. Culture plates must be sealed.
- No more than 500 mL or 500 gms per container.

2. Secondary Packaging

- Leak-proof and securely sealed. If multiple fragile primary containers are placed in a single secondary packaging, they must be wrapped or separated to prevent contact between them.
- An absorbent material must be placed between the primary container and the secondary packaging, sufficient to absorb the entire contents of the primary container(s) if released.
- Either the primary or secondary container must be capable of withstanding without leakage an internal pressure of 95kPa in the range of -40C to +55C.
- Either the primary or secondary container must bear a biohazard marking.
- Secondary container packed inside the outer container in such a way so that it does not shift during transit.
- Requisition is packaged between secondary and outer container.

3. Shipping Paper Must Include:

- Shipper's name and address.
- Date shipment was picked up.
- Name or initials of person who packaged the specimens for shipment.
- Quantity and type of outer package used to transport the infectious substance.
- Proper shipping name of hazardous material being transported.
- Name of the infectious organism (pathogen), if known.
- Quantity of infectious substance contained in package.
- 24-hour emergency response phone number of person with knowledge of shipment contents.
- Shippers certification (signature and printed name).

4. Outer package

- Must be labeled with proper shipping name and ID (UN 2814-Infectious Substance affecting humans).
- Must be UN certified and approved.
- Must bear the Hazard Class label (diamond shaped 'Infectious Substance' label)
- Must be accompanied by 2 copies of shipping paper at time of pickup.

**COURIER WILL NOT ACCEPT HAZARDOUS MATERIAL WITHOUT PROPER PACKAGING
AND TWO (2) COPIES OF PROPERLY CERTIFIED SHIPPING PAPER**

Examples of Specimens that must be shipped “Infectious Substance, Category A”

Bacillus anthracis (cultures only)
Brucella abortus (cultures only)
Brucella melitensis (cultures only)
Brucella suis (cultures only)
Burkholderia pseudomallei n Pseudomonas pseudomallei (cultures only)
Burkholderia mallei-Pseudomonas allei n
Chlamydia pisttaci-avia strains (cultures only)
Clostridium botulinum (cultures only)
Coccidioides immitis (cultures only)
Coxiella burnetti (cultures only)
Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever virus
Dengue virus (cultures only)
Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus (cultures only)
Ebola virus
Escherichia coli, verotoxigenic (cultures only)
Flexal virus
Francisella tularensis (cultures only)
Guanarito virus
Hantaan virus
Hantaviruses causing hantavirus pulmonary syndrome
Hendra virus (cultures only)
Hepatitis B Virus (cultures only)
Herpes B Virus (cultures only)
Human Immunodeficiency Virus (cultures only)
Highly pathogenic avian influenza virus (cultures only)
Japanese encephalitis virus (cultures only)
Junin virus
Kysanur Forest disease virus
Lassa virus
Machupo virus
Marburg virus
Monkeypox virus
Mycobacterium tuberculosis (cultures only)
Nipah virus
Omsk hemorrhagic fever virus
Poliovirus (cultures only)
Rabies virus
Rickettsia prowazekii (cultures only)
Rickettsia rickettsii (cultures only)
Rift Valley fever virus
Russian spring-summer encephalitis virus (cultures only)
Sabia virus
Shigella dysenteriae type 1 (cultures only)
Tick-borne encephalitis virus (cultures only)
Variola virus
Venezuelan equine encephalitis virus
West Nile virus (cultures only)
Yellow Fever virus (cultures only)
Yersinia pestis (cultures only)