Packaging and Shipping Evaluation Tool



Purpose

The purpose of this *Packaging & Shipping Evaluation Tool* is to provide a standardized resource for public health laboratories to assess shipments received. This tool is primarily intended to be used by LRN reference laboratories to assess the proper packaging and shipping of select agent rule-out samples sent from clinical sentinel laboratories and may also be utilized for general Category A and B packaging and shipment assessments for other samples received besides select agent rule-outs.

Instructions for Use

- 1. Use either the Category A or Category B checklist(s) below depending on the type of shipment(s) received to conduct the evaluation.
- 2. Use the labeled Dangerous Goods Shipper's Declaration Form (<u>Diagram 1</u>) to assist with Category A shipments as needed with the Category A Comprehensive Evaluation Form.
- 3. Inspect the package upon receipt and mark each item accordingly with the evaluation checklist(s).
- 4. Use the completed form(s) to assist with any needed follow up with the shipping laboratory as needed.

Category A infectious material must be characterized as one of the following:

- UN 2814 Infectious Substances, Affecting Humans
- UN 2900 Infectious Substance, Affecting Animals
- Suspected Category A (suspected Category A, infectious substance)

Category A shipments must be triple packaged in a UN certified package with appropriate and accompanying documentation. Category A shipments must be compliant in accordance with the applicable and current IATA Dangerous Goods Requirements following Packing Instruction 620, if transported by air by an IATA member carrier (e.g., FedEx), and the U.S. DOT Hazardous Material Regulations as listed in Title 49 of the CFR, Parts 100 – 185 if transported by ground.

Category B biological material must be classified as:

- UN 3373 Biological Substance, Category B
 - Note: technical name of the organism not required to appear

Category B shipments must be triple packaged, and a UN certified package is not required. Category B shipments must be compliant in accordance with the applicable and current IATA Dangerous Goods Requirements following Packing Instruction 650, if transported by air by an IATA member carrier (e.g., FedEx), and the U.S. DOT Hazardous Material Regulations as listed in Title 49 of the CFR, Parts 100 – 185 if transported by ground.

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IATA and DOT Indicative Category A List

CATEGORY A PATHOGENS, INDICATIVE OF INFECTIOUS SUBSTANCES, AFFECTING HUMANS (UN2814) WHEN TRANSPORTED IN ANY FORM UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED:

Bacillus anthracis (cultures only)

Brucella abortus, Brucella melitensis, Brucella suis (cultures only)

Burkholderia mallei, Burkholderia pseudomallei (cultures only)

Chlamydia psittaci avian strains (cultures only)

Clostridium botulinum (cultures only) Coccidioides immitis (cultures only) Coxiella burnetii (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

Hantavirus causing hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome

Hendra virus

Hepatitis B virus (cultures only) Herpes B virus (cultures only)

Highly pathogenic avian influenza virus (cultures only) Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) (cultures only)

Japanese encephalitis virus (cultures only)

Junin virus

Kyasanur Forest disease virus

Lassa virus Machupo virus Marburg virus Monkeypox virus

Mycobacterium tuberculosis (cultures only)

Nipah virus

Omsk hemorrhagic fever virus Polio virus (cultures only) Rabies virus (cultures only)

Rickettsia prowazekii, Rickettsia rickettsii (cultures only)

Rift Valley fever virus (cultures only)

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 (cultures only)

West Nile virus (cultures only)
Yellow fever virus (cultures only)
Yersinia pestis (cultures only)

CATEGORY A PATHOGENS INDICATIVE OF INFECTIOUS SUBSTANCES, AFFECTING ANIMALS (UN2900) WHEN TRANSPORTED IN ANY FORM UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED:

African swine fever virus (cultures only)

Avian paramyxovirus Type 1-Velogenic Newcastle disease

virus (cultures only)
Classical swine fever virus
Foot and mouth disease virus

Goatpox virus

Lumpy skin disease virus

Mycoplasma mycoides - Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia

Peste des petits ruminants virus

Rinderpest virus Sheep-pox virus

Swine vesicular disease virus Vesicular stomatitis virus

Note: This is an indicative list and not an all-inclusive list. New and emerging pathogens meeting the inclusion criteria, or organisms closely resembling the criteria of microorganisms on this list (e.g., Select Agents), and microorganisms for which there may be a professional doubt concerning pathogenic criteria should also be considered for inclusion and classified as a Category A microorganisms, or a Suspected Category A. This list is subject to change and has changed periodically. Please note that at times, the names of new and emerging pathogens may not always be included and published immediately on regulatory lists.

Shippers should also consult the HHS/USDA Select Biological Agents and Toxins list available at www.selectagents.gov for the shipment of any potential select agent organism or toxin. Confirmed Select Agents must always be shipped as Category A, and potential or suspect Select Agents as "Suspected Category A". Always refer to public health authorities (e.g., CDC, WHO, or other state or local public health agencies) for guidance when transporting a new or emerging pathogen.

<u>Category A, Infectious Substance – Quick Evaluation Form</u>

Shipping Laboratory:									
Shipp	ed Date:	Rece	ived D	ate:					
Shipment Method (carrier or courier):									
Organism(s) Shipped:									
Was sample classified appropriately (Y/N)?:									
Did sh	nipment arrive satisfactorily (Y/N)?:								
	ltem		resent nclude	-	Acceptable / Appropriate	Item(s) in Need of			
		Yes	No	N/A	(Y/N)	Follow Up / Notes			
		er Con	tainer	T					
1	UN certified package marking								
	Total quantity of hazardous material listed in								
2	volume (mL) or weight (g) • Cannot exceed 50mL or 50g if shipped in passenger aircraft								
_	Cannot exceed 50ff2 of 30g if shipped in passenger and all that Cannot exceed 4L or 4kg if shipped in cargo aircraft								
	Orientation marks (Up Arrows) on two								
3	opposite sides								
	• If shipping liquids greater than 50mL by air								
4	Responsible Person listed								
5	Full name, complete address and telephone number of the shipper								
6	Full name, complete address and telephone								
	number of the recipient								
	Marked with the appropriate UN hazard								
	identification number and proper shipping								
7	name:								
	UN 2814 Infectious Substances, Affecting Humans								
	UN 2900 Infectious Substance, Affecting								
	Animals								
8	Class 6 label								
9	24 Hour Emergency Contact listed								
	Required for air transport								
	Dimension of outer package meets the								
10	minimum requirements for regulatory								
11	markings and FedEx label Dimensions of hazard labels meets the								
11	minimum requirements								
12	Irrelevant markings or labels covered or								
_	removed								
13	Packaging system clean and undamaged								

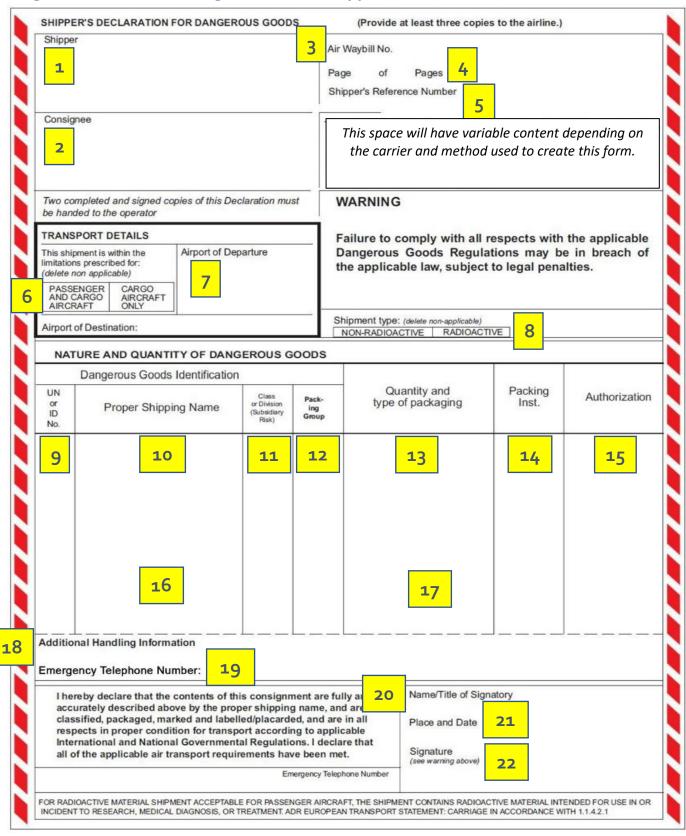
	Item		resent nclude	_	Acceptable / Appropriate	Item(s) in Need of
		Yes	No	N/A	(Y/N)	Follow Up / Notes
	Shipping papers, dangerous goods					
14	declaration or airway bill in adhesive plastic					
	sleeve on top of box (can be on the side as					
	long as no pertinent markings are covered)					
4-		dary Co	ontain	er		
15	Sealed and leak proof					
16	Primary OR secondary container is pressure					
16	resistant (95kPa compatible)					
17	Required if transported by air Richard ayrabal process					
17	Biohazard symbol present					
18	Itemized list of contents (e.g., test request form) located outside the secondary					
10	container					
	Sufficient absorbent material for entire					
19	hazardous quantity included within secondary					
	container					
	(Optional) Additional cushioning material					
20	placed between primary and secondary as					
	needed, or between secondary and outer					
	container					
	Prim	ary Coi	ntaine	r		
21	Sealed and leak proof					
	Primary OR secondary container is pressure					
22	resistant (95kPa compatible)					
	Required if transported by air					
	Contains appropriate specimen/material					
23	identifying information such as a patient					
	identification number					
24	Sufficient absorbent material present for					
24	entire contents of hazardous material and					
	type (liquid or solid) Wrapped in cushioning material as needed to					
	provide structural integrity support. If					
25	multiple primary containers are included,					
	individually wrap each one. Note: Absorbent					
	material can also be used as cushioning					
	material.					
	Dry Io	e (If In	cluded	d)		
26	Properly ventilated outer package					
27	Net quantity of dry ice included listed on					
	outer package (e.g., 3 kg)					
28	Marked with dry ice hazard identification					
	number UN 1845					
29	Miscellaneous Hazard Class 9 label					
30	Dry ice information listed correctly on					
	Dangerous Goods Shipper's Declaration					
31	Sufficient amount included					

	ltem		resent nclude		Acceptable / Appropriate	Item(s) in Need of				
		Yes	No	N/A	(Y/N)	Follow Up / Notes				
Overpack (If Used)										
32	Overpack label on outer box									
33	Inner packages are each properly packed and labeled									
34	Outermost packaging labeled with the highest hazard level of the inner contents									
35	Quantity of total included hazardous contents listed on outer packaging									
36	"Overpack" listed on Dangerous Goods Shipper's Declaration									
		Othe	r							
37	Multiple signed copies (at least 3) of Shipper's Declaration included									
38	Any permit(s) that may be required									
39	Any chain of custody form that may be required									
40	A completed Form 2 for any confirmed select agent shipment									
41	Is the box insulated if it is to contain refrigerants?									
42	Is the package prepared and closed according to the manufacturer's packaging instructions?									
Item(follov	s) in Need of Follow Up or Other Notes (Include v up)	any ph	otos c	f actua	al shipment recei	ved that may assist with				

Evaluated By:_____

Date: _____

Diagram 1: Numbered Dangerous Goods Shipper's Declaration Form



Note: There are several variations of the Dangerous Good Shipper's Declaration Form depending on carrier.

Category A, Infectious Substance – Comprehensive Evaluation Form

<u> </u>	LCS	UI	A, infectious substance	CU	пірі	CIIC	1131VC LVai	uation roini			
Sh	Shipping Laboratory:										
Sh	ippe	d Dat	te:	Rece	ived D	ate:					
Sh	ipme	ent N	lethod (carrier or courier):	1							
Organism(s) Shipped:											
Was sample classified appropriately (Y/N)?:											
Di	Did shipment arrive undamaged (Y/N)?:										
			Doc (The numbered items in <mark>yell</mark>	ument low box		rrespor	nd to Diagram 1)				
Fo Pa Pa is	Notes: * = Required only for Dangerous Goods Shipper's Declaration form. A Dangerous Goods Shipper's Declaration Form is required by IATA/ICAO for all Category A samples transported by air by IATA member air carriers. Shipping Papers are required by DOT for all Category A samples transported by ground. Information on the DOT Shipping Papers do not need to be in the same format as a Dangerous Goods Shipper's Declaration, but the required content is extremely similar. A Dangerous Goods Shipper's Declaration may be used to satisfy the DOT Shipping Papers requirement. A completed CDC/APHIS Form 2 is required for any confirmed select agent shipment.										
ltem		Present / Included			Acceptable / Appropriate	Item(s) in Need of Follow Up / Notes					
				Yes	No	N/A	(Y/N)	τοποιι οργ ποιοσ			
	1		Itemized list of contents included (e.g., test request form)								
	2		*Dangerous Goods Shipper's								
STREET, STREET,	And the contract of the contra	-	Declaration or Shipping Papers included								
Long to	100 000 000 000 000 000 000 000 000 000	Tentral comme	Any amendments or alterations made								
T nature	O Z Jos	. 10"	after printing must be signed by								
		_	shipper								
Marie Spiller	3	araman ara	*Multiple copies of Dangerous Coods								
	3		*Multiple copies of Dangerous Goods Shipper's Declaration provided								
			Completed Shipper info (Full name,								
	1		complete address and phone number)								
			Completed Recipient info (Full name,								
	2		complete address and phone number)								
	3		If used, Airway Bill number listed on Shipper's Declaration								
	4		*Page 1 of 1 completed								
	_					ļ					
	_		(Optional) Sample/Specimen number								
	5		(Optional) Sample/Specimen number listed as "Specimen Reference Number"								
	5 6 argo aircraonly										

Item			resent nclude	-	Acceptable / Appropriate	Item(s) in Need of	
			Yes	No	N/A	(Y/N)	Follow Up / Notes
_	,	Airport of departure and airport of					
7		destination listed (OK to leave blank)					
8	2	*Radioactive vs. non-radioactive					
	<u></u>	selected					
		UN hazard identification(s) listed					
9)	• UN 2814 or UN 2900 (Category A)					
		UN 1845 (if dry ice included)					
		UN 3373 (if Category B included)					
1	0	Proper shipping name listed (either)					
	^	UN2814 Category A Infectious					
INFECTIOUS:	E	Substance, Affecting Humans					
INFECTIOUS NAMED	S SUBSTANCE	UN2900 Category A, Infectious					
1	6/	Substance, Affecting Animals					
		Technical name of organism(s) listed					
10	0	after proper shipping name. Can be					
		either the actual organism name, or					
		"Suspected Category A, Infectious					
		Substance"					
1	1	Class or Division listed (6.2 for Category					
	_	A and B, 9 for dry ice)					
1	2	Packing group (Leave blank for 6.2					
		material, and for dry ice)					
1	3	Quantity and type of packaging listed (e.g., 5mL solid).					
		*Packing Instruction (PI) listed					
	_	• Category A = PI 620					
1	4	 Category A = P1020 Dry ice = PI 954 					
		• Category B = PI 650					
		Authorization code listed (OK to leave					
1	5	blank for routine Category A and dry ice					
		shipments)					
		If more than one organism or dry ice is					
1	6	included, they are each listed here					
		Type of packaging listed (e.g., "All					
1	7	packed in one fiberboard box" or					
	-	"Overpack used" if overpack)					
		Additional handling information					
1	8	provided (e.g., "Attention to" or list the					
		Responsible Person info)					
		24-hour emergency contact listed					
1	.9	(name and number)					
		Name/Title of signatory listed					
2	20						
		Place and date listed					
2	.1						
		Signed by a currently trained personnel					
2	22						

Item		Present / Included			Acceptable / Appropriate	Item(s) in Need of
		Yes	No	N/A	(Y/N)	Follow Up / Notes
2016 DAMAGNICY LOCATION ON IN THE THE TOTAL PROPERTY OF THE	Emergency response information (e.g., copy of Guide 158) included					
	(Included ima	Shipme		nles on	lv)	
1	Sealed and leakproof primary container	5				
	 Note: A Petri dish is <u>not</u> an acceptable primary container for DOT transport requirements 					
2	If multiple specimens are shipped, they are individually wrapped and packaged so contact is prevented					
3	Sealed and leakproof secondary container					
4	Secondary container has a biohazard symbol present					
5	Either the primary or secondary container is 95 kPa rated (required for samples transported by air only)					
6	Itemized list of contents (e.g. test request form) outside the secondary container					
7	Sufficient absorbent material for the entire hazardous contents					
8	Absorbent material around primary container and inside secondary container					
9	Sufficient cushioning material presentNote: Absorbent material may also act as cushioning					
10	Insulated shipping container used if refrigerant included					
11	Sufficient refrigerant included to maintain temperature					
12	If dry ice was used, was the total quantity listed on outer package in kg					
13	If dry ice was used, Miscellaneous Class 9 hazard label present on outer box					
DRY ICE UN 1845	If dry ice was used, UN 1845 hazard label present on outer box					

Item			resent nclude	-	Acceptable / Appropriate	Item(s) in Need of
		Yes	No	N/A	(Y/N)	Follow Up / Notes
15	If dry ice was included, the box is not tightly sealed to allow proper					
16	ventilation of dry ice gases Was the complete Category A shipping unit used (opposed to inner components mixed and matched)					
17	Was the box a UN certified container					
(H)	bearing the UN symbol					
18	Complete and correct Shipper infoFull name, complete address and phone number listed					
19	Complete and correct Recipient infoFull name, complete address and phone number listed					
20	Responsible person listed					
21	Category A hazard label present on outer box					
22 Meast a me, comes tide trans.	Category A UN hazard identification number label present on outer box (UN2814 or UN2900)					
23	Orientation marks (Up Arrows) label present on two opposite sides of outer package when >50mL liquids shipped by air					
24	Cargo only label present on outer box if >50mL shipped in primary container by air transport					
25 OVERPACK	Overpack label present on outer box if overpack was used					
26	Labels and markings meeting the minimal dimension requirements					
		Specim	en	ı	1	
27	Specimen arrived sealed, not leaking or damaged					
28	Unique identifier(s) present on primary container(s)					
29	Primary container within hazardous quantity limits (50mL/50g if shipped by passenger aircraft, or 4L/4kg if shipped by cargo air)					
_		isc. / O	ther	I	1	
30 OVERPACK	If overpack was used, was package correctly packed?					

_	_	, ,					
31	If overpack was used, was package						
OVERPACK	labeled correctly?						
OVENFACK							
32	If dry ice was used, was hazardous						
AN)	quantity listed correctly?						
Dry Inc. 1	44,						
33	Test request form completed correctly						
	rest request form completed correctly						
Itom(s) in N	leed of Follow Up or Other Notes (Include	a any nho	atos of a	ctual shipm	ent received	that may a	sciet with
	reed of Follow op of Other Notes (include	e ally plic	טוטאטו פ	ictuai silipili	ient received	i tilat illay a	issist with
follow up)							
Evaluated By	·			_	Date: _		

Diagram 2: Category A Ambient Shipment Example

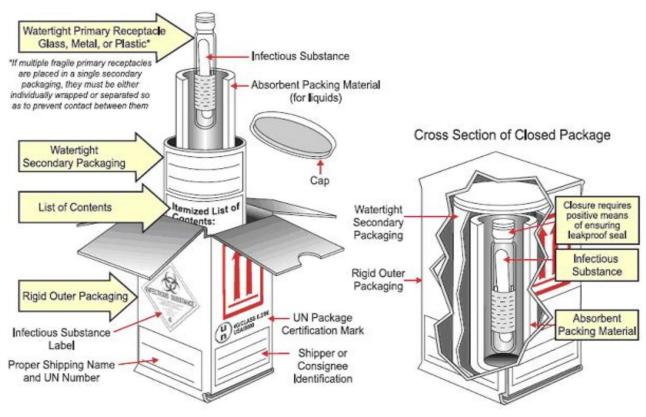
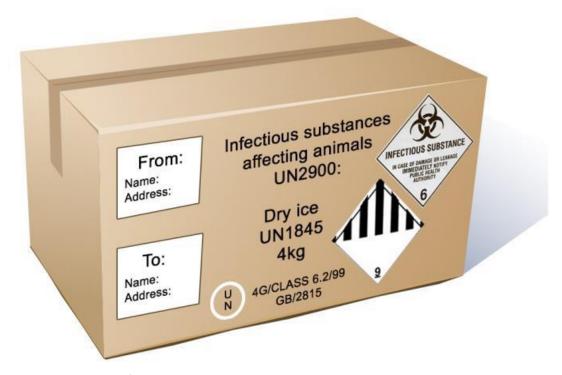


Diagram 3: Category A Shipment with Dry Ice Examples



Note: Diagram 3 shows an example of UN2900, not UN2814

<u>Category B, Biological Substance – Evaluation Form</u>

Shipping Laboratory:								
Shipp	ed Date:	Rece	ived D	Date:				
Shipment Method (carrier or courier):								
Organ	nism(s) Shipped:							
was s	ample classified appropriately (Y/N)?:							
Did sh	nipment arrive satisfactorily (Y/N)?:							
	ltem		resent nclude	•	Acceptable / Appropriate	Item(s) in Need of		
		Yes	No	N/A	(Y/N)	Follow Up / Notes		
	Out	er Con	tainer	•	1			
1	Package is rigid and of good quality							
2	Must not contain more than 4L or 4kg							
	Orientation marks (Up Arrows) on two							
3	opposite sides							
	If shipping liquids greater than 50mL by air							
4	UN 3373 Biological Substances, Category B							
5	diamond shaped hazard label							
3	Full name, complete address and telephone number of the shipper							
6	Full name, complete address and telephone							
	number of the recipient							
	Dimension of outer package meets the							
7	minimum requirements for regulatory							
	markings and FedEx label							
8	Dimensions of hazard labels meets the							
	minimum requirements							
9	Irrelevant markings or labels covered or							
10	removed Packaging system clean and undamaged							
10	Courier packing label or airway bill in an							
11	adhesive plastic sleeve on top of box (can be							
	on the side as long as no pertinent markings							
	are covered)							
	Secon	dary Co	ontain	er				
12	Sealed and leak proof							
	Primary OR secondary container is pressure							
13	resistant (95kPa compatible)							
	Required if transported by air							
14	Biohazard symbol present on secondary							
	container	1	1	1	1			

	Item		resent nclude	-	Acceptable / Appropriate	Item(s) in Need of
		Yes	No	N/A	(Y/N)	Follow Up / Notes
15	Itemized list of contents (e.g., test request form) located outside the secondary container					
16	Sufficient absorbent material for entire hazardous quantity included within secondary container					
17	(Optional) Additional cushioning material placed between primary and secondary as needed, or between secondary and outer container					
		ary Coi	ntaine	r		
18	Sealed and leak proof					
19	Primary OR secondary container is pressure resistant (95kPa compatible) Required if transported by air					
20	Contains appropriate specimen/material identifying information such as a patient identification number					
21	Sufficient absorbent material present for entire contents of hazardous material and type (liquid or solid)					
22	Wrapped in cushioning material as needed to provide structural integrity support. If multiple primary containers are included, individually wrap each one. Note: Absorbent material can also be used as cushioning material.					
	Dry lo	e (If In	cluded	d)		
23	Properly ventilated outer package					
24	Net quantity of dry ice included listed on outer package (e.g., 3 kg)					
25	Marked with dry ice hazard identification number UN 1845					
26 27	Miscellaneous Hazard Class 9 label Sufficient amount included					
	Over	pack (I	fllsad	<u> </u>		
28	Overpack label on outer box	Pack (I	. 0360			
29	Inner packages are each properly packed and labeled					
30	Outermost packaging labeled with the highest hazard level of the inner contents					
31	Quantity of total included hazardous contents listed on outer packaging					

Item			resent nclude		Acceptable / Appropriate	Item(s) in Need of
			No	N/A	(Y/N)	Follow Up / Notes
		Othe	r			
32	Any permit(s) that may be required					
33	Any chain of custody form that may be					
	required					
34	Is the box insulated if it is to contain					
	refrigerants?					
35	Is the package prepared and closed according					
	to the manufacturer's packaging instructions? (s) in Need of Follow Up or Other Notes (Include					
Evaluat	ted By:				Date	: :

Diagram 4: Category B, Biological Substance Shipment Ambient Example

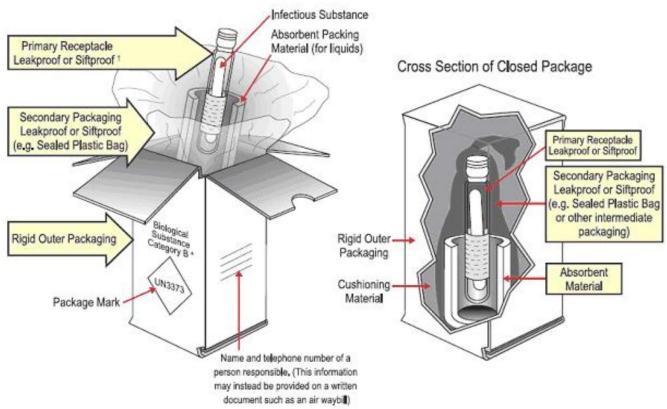


Diagram 5: Category B, Biological Substance With Dry Ice Example



References

- The International Air Transport Association -Dangerous Goods Regulations (DGR)
 - https://www.iata.org/publications/dgr/Pages/index.aspx
- Emergency response requirements 49 CFR § 172, Subpart G.
- Emergency Response Guidebook
 - o https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/hazmat/erg/emergency-response-guidebook-erg
- Incident reporting requirements 49 CFR §171.15 and §171.16.
 - Each notice shall be given telephonically to the DOT at (800) 424-8802. Incidents involving etiologic agents may be made to the CDC at (800) 232-0124. For content of report and additional information, please see § 171.15.
- CDC Permit information
 - o https://www.cdc.gov/cpr/ipp/index.htm
- ASM Sentinel Laboratory Packaging & Shipping Guidance
 - https://www.asm.org/ASM/media/Policy-and-Advocacy/LRN/Sentinel%20Files/PackAndShip.pdf
- CDC Select Agent Form 2 Information
 - o https://www.selectagents.gov/form2.html
 - o https://www.selectagents.gov/tgd-intro.html
- U.S. DOT Hazardous Material Regulations (HMR), Title 49 CFR § 100 185
 - o https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=1d49a3b137cb1b6fc45251074e634b44&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title49/49tab_02.tpl
 - o https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/regulations/hazardous-materials/how-comply-federal-hazardous-materials-regulations
 - o www.phmsa.dot.gov/hazmat
- Hazardous Material Transportation Security Requirements
- FedEx requirements
 - o https://www.fedex.com/en-us/service-guide/dangerous-goods-hazardous-materials.html

Resources

Supplies

- DOT Free Publication Resources
 - o https://hazmatonline.phmsa.dot.gov/services/Pub Free.aspx
- Emergency Response Guidebook
 - o https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/hazmat/erg/emergency-response-guidebook-erg
- Air Sea Containers
 - o https://www.airseacontainers.com/
- Berlin Packaging, LLC
 - o http://www.berlindangerousgoods.com/pages/shop-now
- CARGOpak Corporation
 - o https://cargopak.com/
- Labeline
 - o https://www.labeline.com/
- Inmark, Inc.
 - o http://www.inmarkpackaging.com/
- O'Berk International, Inc. (Elemental Container, Inc.)
 - o https://www.aluminumbottles.com/
- SCA ThermoSafe (formerly Polyfoam Packers Corp.)
 - o http://www.thermosafe.com/
- Saf-T-Pak, Inc., An Inmark Company
 - o http://www.saftpak.com/

Trainings

- WHO Shipping Training
 - o http://www.who.int/ihr/i s shipping training/en/
- OSHA
 - o https://www.osha.gov/dte/edcenters/course description.html
- Iowa Biosecurity Training for the Clinical Laboratory
 - o https://www.training-source.org/training/courses/Biosecurity%20for%20Clinical%20Labs/detail
- CDC Lab Training
 - o https://www.cdc.gov/labtraining/
- Courier credentials
 - o http://safer.fmcsa.dot.gov/CompanySnapshot.aspx

APHL Packaging & Shipping Toolkit

https://www.aphl.org/programs/infectious_disease/Pages/ID-Packaging-and-Shipping-Toolkit.aspx

Acknowledgements

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