

MONTANA VETERINARY DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY SPECIMEN SHIPPING GUIDE

THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DOT), INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION (IATA) & THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE (USPS) PROVIDE UNIFIED RULES THAT GOVERN THE SHIPMENT OF ANIMAL PATIENT SPECIMENS TO & FROM OUR DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY


ANIMAL PATIENT SPECIMEN: ANIMAL MATERIAL COLLECTED DIRECTLY FROM ANIMALS & TRANSPORTED FOR RESEARCH, DIAGNOSIS, INVESTIGATION OR DISEASE TREATMENT OR PREVENTION; INCLUDES EXCRETA, SECRETA, BLOOD & ITS COMPONENTS, TISSUE & TISSUE SWABS, BODY PARTS & SPECIMENS IN TRANSPORT MEDIA

- CULTURES ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE ABOVE DEFINITION – PROFESSIONAL JUDGMENT MUST BE EXERCISED IN SELECTING THE APPROPRIATE CATEGORY FOR SHIPMENT OF CULTURES & ISOLATES – PLEASE CONTACT THE MVDL AT **406-994-4855** AS NEEDED
- USE PACKAGING & LABELING TO PROTECT AGAINST THE HIGHEST ASSUMED RISK IF A PACKAGE CONTAINS DIFFERENT SPECIMEN TYPES
- ALL SHIPPED SUBMISSIONS REQUIRE LEAK PROOF, TRIPLE LAYER PACKAGING, WHICH INCLUDES AN IDENTIFIED PRIMARY SPECIMEN CONTAINER, IDENTIFIED FIXATIVE IF APPLICABLE (E.G. 10% NBF); A BIOHAZARD-LABELED SECONDARY CONTAINER THAT INCLUDES ABSORBENT MATERIAL TO CONTAIN ALL LIQUID IN THE EVENT OF PRIMARY CONTAINER LEAKAGE AND AN OUTER CONTAINER OF ADEQUATE STRENGTH FOR ITS CAPACITY, MASS AND INTENDED USE WITH ONE SURFACE A MINIMUM DIMENSION OF 100 MM X 100MM (~4 X4 INCHES)
- AIR TRANSPORT SHIPMENTS REQUIRE CONTAINERS RATED TO AN INTERNAL PRESSURE OF 95kPA
- CATEGORY A SHIPMENTS REQUIRE DOT-CERTIFIED PACKAGING AND ARE NOT ACCEPTED BY UPS OR THE USPS
- THE SUBMISSION FORM WITH AN ITEMIZED LIST OF CONTENTS SHOULD BE PLACED BETWEEN THE SECONDARY AND OUTER PACKAGING
- **PLEASE DO NOT AFFIX A BIOHAZARD LABEL TO THE OUTER PACKAGE – IT IS NOT REQUIRED AND SLOWS MAIL DELIVERY; THIS LABEL IS REQUIRED ON THE SECONDARY PACKAGING**

EXEMPT ANIMAL SPECIMEN SEE USPS PUBLICATION 52 PACKAGING INSTRUCTIONS 6H EXEMPT ANIMAL SPECIMENS: [HTTP://PE.USPS.GOV/TEXT/PUB52/PUB52APXC_024.HTM](http://pe.usps.gov/text/pub52/pub52apxc_024.htm)

EXAMPLE PACKAGING	EXAMPLE SPECIMENS	OUTER LABEL	EXAMPLE MVDL KIT	ADDED PAPERWORK
	Diagnostic animal patient specimen not expected to contain infectious agents, e.g. serum, fixed tissue; most common submission to MVDL	“Exempt Animal Specimen”	Blood tube/ Slide shipper, Biopsy kit	None

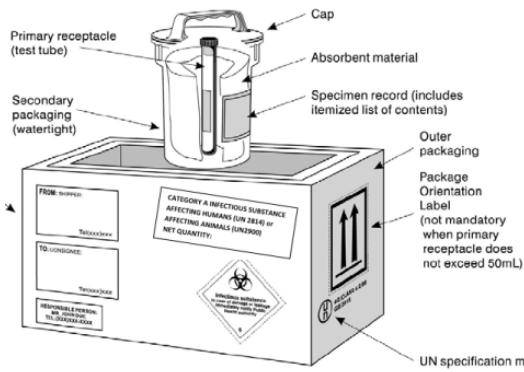
CATEGORY B SPECIMEN SEE USPS PUBLICATION 52 - PACKAGING INSTRUCTIONS 6C CATEGORY B INFECTIOUS SUBSTANCES: [HTTP://PE.USPS.GOV/TEXT/PUB52/PUB52APXC_019.HTM](http://pe.usps.gov/text/pub52/pub52apxc_019.htm) AND IATA PACKING INSTRUCTION 650 FOR CATEGORY B: [HTTP://WWW.IATA.ORG/WHATWEDO/CARGO/DGR/DOCUMENTS/DGR52_PI650_EN.PDF](http://www.iata.org/WHATWEDO/CARGO/DGR/DOCUMENTS/DGR52_PI650_EN.PDF)

EXAMPLE PACKAGING	EXAMPLE SPECIMENS	OUTER LABEL	EXAMPLE MVDL KIT	ADDED PAPERWORK
	Substance that may be or is known to be infectious but does not meet Category A criteria; e.g. fecal samples, excreta & tissue for bacteriological, viral or parasitological work up	“Biological Substance Category B” & “UN 3373”; Name & telephone number of person responsible for sending must be provided on the air waybill or on the package exterior	Abortion kit, Neonatal Diarrhea kit, Necropsy kit, Rabies shipper	None

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CATEGORY A SPECIMEN SEE IATA 3.6.2 FOR A LISTING OF CATEGORY A UN 2814 (INFECTIOUS SUBSTANCES AFFECTING HUMANS AND ANIMALS) AND UN 2900 (INFECTIOUS SUBSTANCES AFFECTING ANIMALS ONLY): [HTTPS://WWW.IATA.ORG/WHATWEDO/CARGO/DGR/DOCUMENTS/INFECTIOUS-SUBSTANCE-CLASSIFICATION-DGR56-EN.PDF](https://www.iata.org/whatwedo/cargo/dgr/documents/infectious-substance-classification-dgr56-en.pdf)

EXAMPLE PACKAGING



EXAMPLE SPECIMENS

Substance transported in a form that, when exposed, is capable of causing permanent disability, life-threatening or fatal disease in otherwise healthy humans or animals; e.g. a **cultured** select agent

OUTER LABEL

“Category A” “UN 2814” (Affects Human) or “UN 2900” (Affects Animals) & “Class 6.2 Infectious Substance”; Name & telephone number of person responsible for sending must be provided on the package exterior

EXAMPLE MVDL KIT

MVDL does not provide Category A shipping kits

ADDED PAPERWORK

Shippers Declaration of Dangerous Goods/ equivalent between secondary & outer container

SHIPMENT CONTAINING DRY ICE

EXAMPLE LABEL



EXAMPLE SPECIMENS

Frozen specimens

OUTER LABEL

“UN 1845 Dry Ice” with dry ice weight in kg

SPECIAL HANDLING

Dry ice placed outside the specimen secondary container & not enclosed in any sealed container from which sublimated CO₂ cannot escape

ADDED PAPERWORK

Contact shipper, e.g. Fed Ex

SHIPMENT CONTAINING 10% FORMALIN/ 10% NON-BUFFERED FORMALIN SEE DOT INTERPRETATION 06-0267:

[HTTP://WWW.PHMSA.DOT.GOV/PORTAL/SITE/PHMSA/MENUITEM.6F23687CF7B00B0F22E4C6962D9C8789/?VGNEXTOID=691DC0515D544110VGNVCM1000009ED07898RCRD&VGNEXTCHANNEL=AA8CD3C1AF814110VGNVCM1000009ED07898RCRD](http://www.phmsa.dot.gov/portal/site/phmsa/menuitem.6f23687cf7b00b0f22e4c6962d9c8789/?vgnnextoid=691dc0515d544110vgnvcm1000009ed07898rcrd&vgnextchannel=aa8cd3c1af814110vgnvcm1000009ed07898rcrd)

EXAMPLE FIXATIVE CONTAINER



EXAMPLE SPECIMENS

Fixed tissue specimens

OUTER LABEL

No special label required on package exterior for 10% Formalin/ 10% NBF

SPECIAL HANDLING

Fixative identity is required on fixative container; make sure absorbent material between fixative container & secondary packaging is sufficient; handle all chemicals according to their Material Safety Data Sheet

ADDED PAPERWORK

None