

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SENDING SAMPLES SAFELY

DIAGNOSTIC SAMPLES

Diagnostic samples, now classified by the United Nations (UN) as Dangerous Goods. The specimens that we deal with are categorised as Infectious substances, Category B and are assigned to *UN 3373*.

UN 3373 includes Patient specimens:

Defined as human or animal materials, collected directly from humans or animals, including, but not limited to, excreta, secretions, blood and its components, tissue and tissue fluid swabs, and body parts being transported for purposes such as research, diagnosis, investigational activities, disease treatment and prevention.

While these specimens have a minimal likelihood of containing infection all human or animal specimens must be packaged for transport following the packaging instructions P650- for diagnostic samples.

Such packaging may be specially purchased for this purpose or constructed from suitable components.

PACKAGING INSTRUCTION P650 FOR DIAGNOSTIC SAMPLES:

Packaging should be strong enough to withstand the shocks and loadings normally encountered during transport, including manual and mechanical handling, and should be constructed and closed so as to prevent any loss of contents in the event of leakage or breakage.

The packaging consists of:

1. Primary receptacle, leak proof and sealed, containing the specimen (e.g., Universal container or blood tube), not exceeding 50 ml or 50 g, individually wrapped with enough absorbent material to absorb all fluid in the event of leakage or breakage.
2. Secondary packaging, durable, and leak proof, to enclose and protect primary receptacle(s).

Multiple individually wrapped primary receptacles may be placed in one secondary packaging.

Sufficient additional absorbent material must be used to cushion multiple primary receptacles and absorb the entire contents of the primary receptacles in the event of leakage or breakage.

3. Outer packaging to protect the secondary packaging and contents from outside influences, such as physical damage and water while in transit.

In addition, the outer packaging used must be marked with "BIOLOGICAL SUBSTANCE, CATEGORY B" in letters at least 6 mm high adjacent to the diamond-shaped mark shown here, the writing in which must also be a minimum of 6mm high.



ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING SAMPLES SENT

Please complete an EM Laboratory Request Form ensuring that all the information requested on the form is provided (These are available to print off the website).

The above instructions were produced in accordance with the WHO guidance on regulations for the transport of infectious substances 2007.