

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PACKAGING AND SHIPPING DIAGNOSTIC SPECIMENS

F.C. BLODI EYE PATHOLOGY LABORATORY
UNIVERSITY OF IOWA, 233 MRC, IOWA CITY, IA 52242-1182
PHONE: 319-335-7095 FAX: 319-335-7193

A neutralized or inactivated diagnostic specimen is not regulated as a dangerous good. The U.S. Dept. of Transportation and the International Air Transport Association regulate the packaging and shipping of Diagnostic Specimens as "Exempt Human Specimens".

The following TRIPLE PACKAGING SYSTEM is required for Diagnostic Specimens:

1. Place sample in a watertight PRIMARY RECEPTACLE. The volume of the container must be no more than 500 ml. The primary receptacle may be plastic, metal, or glass with a positive closure (screw-on, snap-on, or push-on lid). Lids must be taped shut. LABEL the primary receptacle with the patient's identification and fixative information.
2. Place the primary receptacle containing the specimen in a watertight SECONDARY PACKAGE. Examples of secondary packaging include plastic container with watertight lid, sealed plastic bag, screw cap can. Multiple primary containers should be wrapped separately to prevent contact between containers. ABSORBENT MATERIAL should be used between the primary and secondary packaging. Examples of absorbent material include cellulose wadding, cotton balls, paper towels, commercial absorbent packets. LABEL secondary package with biohazard sticker.*

NOTE: Diagnostic specimens shipped by air must have a primary or secondary receptacle capable of withstanding an internal pressure differential of 95 kPa, 14 psi.

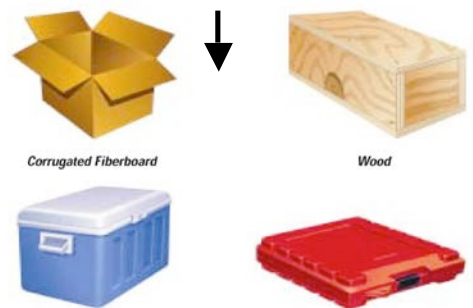
3. Place the secondary package in an OUTER PACKAGE. The outer package must be rigid with one side measuring at least 4" x 4" in smallest dimension. The outer package must not exceed 4 liters (~ 1 gallon) in volume. Enclose an itemized LIST OF CONTENTS and any other paperwork between the secondary package and the outer package. CUSHIONING MATERIAL should be used between the secondary and outer packages. Cushioning material should be of a type that is not compromised by leakage of inner package contents.
4. LABEL outer package with "Exempt Human Specimen".
5. SHIP specimen package via a method that allows for package TRACKING and that has shipping personnel trained in handling of hazardous material. Examples of shippers meeting these criteria include: Federal Express, United Parcel Service, United States Postal Service (delivery confirmation methods only)



PRIMARY RECEPTACLE



ABSORBENT MATERIAL



STURDY OUTER PACKAGE

*For more information on Diagnostic Specimen packaging and shipping and to download shipping labels, see our website:
<http://www.medicine.uiowa.edu/eye/path-transport/>