

# SHIPPING BIOLOGICAL SUBSTANCES \*

If shipment recipient is international, notify the Export Control Program: [exportcontrol@louisville.edu](mailto:exportcontrol@louisville.edu)

If material is derived from University research contact Office of Tech Transfer 852-2965

Is the biological substance considered patient specimens<sup>1</sup>?

NO

YES

For substance classification assistance contact DEHS Biosafety at 852-6670

Does the substance contain, or may be reasonably expected to contain, infectious agents which may cause disease in humans or animals?

Is there *minimal likelihood* that pathogens are present?<sup>2</sup>

NO

YES

YES

NO

Is this a substance being transported in a form (for some organisms cultures only, for other organisms both specimens and cultures) capable of causing permanent disability, life threatening, or fatal disease?

Pathogens are expected to be present.

Pathogens are not reasonably expected to be present.

Not Considered Division 6.2 Infectious Substance  
**No special packing or hazardous material training required unless dry ice.**

NO

YES

Biological Substance, Category B UN3373  
Packing Instruction 650  
**Hazardous Material training required.**

Infectious Substance... Affecting humans UN2814 or Affecting animals UN2900  
Packing Instruction 620  
**Hazardous Material training required.**

Material is not considered Division 6.2 Infectious Substance but requires packing that has:  

- 1) A leak-proof primary receptacle
- 2) A leak-proof secondary packing
- 3) For liquid specimens place absorbent material between primary and secondary package
- 4) An outer package with adequate strength of its capacity, mass, and intended use, and with at least one surface having dimensions of 100mmX 100mm
- 5) Mark package "Exempt Human Specimen" or "Exempt Animal Specimen"

**NOTE: No hazardous material training required unless dry ice.**

\* The following substances are exempt from Hazardous Material Regulations; environmental samples (including food and water samples) which are not considered to pose a significant risk of infection, material collected for transplant or transfusion, material that has been neutralized or inactivated to no longer pose a health risk, organisms that are non-pathogenic to humans or animals, dried blood spots, and fecal occult screening tests.

*<sup>1</sup>Patient specimens are material collected directly from humans or animals, including, but not limited to, excreta, secreta, 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 (excluding fixed slides).*

<sup>2</sup> In determining whether a patient specimen has a minimal likelihood that pathogens are present, an element of professional judgment is required to determine if a substance is exempt. That judgment should be based on the known medical history, symptoms and individual circumstances of the source, human or animal, and endemic local conditions. If there is reason to suspect that the specimen contains a pathogen, it cannot be shipped as exempt from Class 6.2. For shipping purposes, patient samples are not assumed to be pathogenic unless there is a specific reason to believe they are.