

Instructions for Packaging and Labeling Category B Specimens for Shipment Using Cold Packs

The shipping name "diagnostic specimen" has been replaced with "Biological Substance, Category B". Use only a UN Certified 6.2 Mailing System Labeled UN 3373.

1. A shipper should consist of three containers:
 - Primary receptacle (ex. specimen tube, vacutainer, blood culture bottle)
 - Secondary container (inner mailing container)
 - Outer mailing container
2. Wrap the primary receptacle with a cushioning and absorbent packing material. There must be enough absorbent material to contain the entire liquid contents if the specimens are broken. Specimens should be packed securely but not so tightly that they are difficult to remove from the container.
3. Place the specimen(s) into the secondary container.
4. Ensure that secondary container has a gasket or ring-seal in the lid before placing the lid on the secondary container securely.
5. Place a Biohazard label on the outside of the secondary container. This is required by OSHA. **DO NOT PUT THIS LABEL ON THE OUTER CONTAINER. The specimen MAY NOT be accepted or may be returned to you if the biohazard label is on the outer container.**
6. Place the secondary container in the outer mailing container.
7. Place the specimen request form in a sealable plastic bag and into the outer mailing container.
8. Place cold packs around the specimen. Do not use wet ice.
9. Close the outer mailing container, following the manufacturer's instruction for secure closure.
10. Place a **UN3373, Biological Substance Category B** label on the outer mailing container.
11. Write the return address and the consignee address on the outside of the outer mailing container.
12. Place a name and telephone number of a responsible person on the outer container below the return mailing address.

Markings for UN3373 Biological Substance, Category B

DOT Transporting Infectious Substances Safely

