

Shipping Regulations for shipping Influenza

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July 19, 2010

Classes of Dangerous Goods

1. Explosives
2. Gases
3. Flammable liquids
4. Flammable solids
5. Oxidizing substances
6. Toxic or infectious
 - 6.1 Toxins
 - 6.2 Infectious substance
7. Radioactive
8. Corrosive
9. Miscellaneous (includes dry ice)



Definitions

- Category A Infectious Substance
 - Is an infectious substance transported in a form capable of causing permanent disability or life threatening or fatal disease to otherwise healthy humans or animals when exposure to it occurs.
 - And exposure occurs when an infectious substance is released outside of its protective packaging, resulting in physical contact with humans or animals.
 - Category A Infectious Substances are assigned to existing identification numbers UN2184 and UN2900.

Examples of Infectious Substances Category A

- Mycobacterium tuberculosis (cultures only)
- Brucella abortus (cultures only)
- Human immunodeficiency virus (cultures only)
- Dengue virus (cultures only)
- Herpes B virus (cultures only)
- Rickettsia rickettsia (cultures only)
- Rabies and other lyssaviruses (cultures only)

Definitions Continued

- Category B Biological Substances
 - Does not meet the criteria for inclusion of a Category A Infectious Substance.
 - Does not cause permanent disability or life threatening or fatal disease to humans or animals when exposed to it.

Examples of Category B Substances

- Human immunodeficiency virus (Clinical specimens)
- Mycobacterium tuberculosis (Clinical specimens)
- Rabies virus (animal heads)
- Arbovirus (serum or CSF specimens)
- Syphilis (serum, blood, CSF)
- Hepatitis A, B, C (serum or blood)
- Influenza Surveillance specimens

Definitions Continued

- Excepted Specimens
 - Human or animal specimen transported for routine testing when the testing is not related to the diagnosis of an infectious disease and when there is no reason to suspect the sample is infectious.

Examples of Excepted Specimens

- Blood and urine not known or expected to have a pathogen
- Dried blood spots
- Routine samples not being tested for pathogens

Who Needs Training?

- 49 CFR defines a hazmat employee as a person who works for a hazmat employer and directly affects hazmat transportation safety.
 - Loads, unloads, or handles hazardous materials.
 - Prepares hazardous materials for transportation.
 - Is responsible for safety of transporting hazardous materials.
 - Operates a vehicle used to transport hazardous materials.

Training Requirements for Ground Transportation

- To ship Category B Biological Substances, the shipper must be familiar with the regulations.
- To Ship Category A infectious substances, the shipper must be trained and tested in CFR 49 regulations

Training Requirements for Air Transportation

- To ship Category A and Category B, the shipper must be trained and tested in I.A.T.A. regulations.

Training Requirements for Excepted Specimens

- Familiar with packaging and labeling regulations

Category B Biological Substance Labeling

- UN3373 sticker
- "Category B Biological Substance"
- Return address with name and phone number
- Shipping address with name and phone number
- Directional indicator arrows



Returning Shipping Packers

- DSHS does not pay to return other lab's shipping packers.
- Postage stamps or a carrier's account number is required before DSHS lab will return empty packers.
- Hazmat labeling must be covered.

Helpful Websites

- <http://hazmat.dot.gov>
- <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/lab>
- <http://www.fedex.com/us/services/options/dangerousgoods/declarationforms.html>
- <http://www.dhl-usa.com/home/home.asp>

Submission Form G-2A

Most Common Submission Errors

- Specimen too old to test.
- Specimen source incompatible with test.
- Specimen received at ambient temperature.
- No date of collection.
- No identifier on tube.
- Specimen not submitted in viral transport media (VTM).
- No source marked.
- Specimen leaked in transit.
- No DSHS G-2A requisition form received.

Helpful Hints

- Ship with adequate cold packs or dry ice.
- Notate the time of collection.
- Ship to arrive on business days.
- Use a physical address, not a P.O. Box
- Do not ship Influenza as a category "A" infectious substance.
- Do not use more than 5 pounds of dry ice.
- Follow the acceptance criteria.
- Make sure your VTM is not expired.