



Canadian Food  
Inspection Agency

Agence canadienne  
d'inspection des aliments

# **2014 Shipping Rabies Specimens Factsheets** *for non CFIA employees*

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## Shipping Rabies Specimens Not Believed Infectious - Fact Sheet #1

# SHIPPING EXEMPT ANIMAL SPECIMENS CHECKLIST

Animal specimens not believed to contain infectious substances (e.g. samples taken for surveillance) or specimens where the pathogens has been neutralized/inactivated.

### 1. Minimum Packaging Standard

- ✓ Primary Leak-proof Plastic bag
- ✓ Secondary Leak-proof Plastic bag
- ✓ Absorbent Material
- ✓ Sturdy Fibreboard Outer Box

### 2. Outer Package Markings Checklist

- ✓ name, address, phone number of the shipper and consignee
- ✓ the words - "Exempt Animal Specimen" on the Outer Fibreboard Packaging

### 3. Statement on Shipper's Waybill

- ✓ statement - ***Exempt Animal Specimen***

**NOTE:** If multiple fragile primary receptacles are placed in a single secondary packaging, they must either be individually wrapped or separated to prevent contact between containers.



## Shipping Rabies Specimens Believed to be Infectious - Fact Sheet #2

### Shipping Biological Substances, Category B, UN3373

All animal specimens believed to contain infectious substances containing the Rabies Virus will be shipped as Biological substance, Category B UN3373.

#### 1. Minimum Packaging Standard

- ✓ Primary Leak-proof Plastic bag
- ✓ Secondary Leak-proof Plastic bag

**NOTE:** One of the primary or secondary packaging (e.g. plastic bags) must comply with PI 650 for pressure differential test for air shipments

- ✓ Absorbent Material
- ✓ Sturdy Fibreboard Outer Box (must comply with PI 650 drop test of 1.2m for air shipments)



#### Outer Package Markings Checklist

- ✓ name, address, phone number of the shipper and consignee
- ✓ the words - **Biological Substance, Category B** must be printed on the Fibreboard Box packaging and
- ✓ adjacent in contrasting colour the UN3373 symbol (**see minimum label size example**)

**NOTE:** If multiple fragile primary receptacles are placed in a single secondary packaging, they must either be individually wrapped or separated to prevent contact between containers.

#### Statements on Shipper's Waybill

Statement – Biological Substance Category B UN3373



## Question Regarding Rabies Specimens - Fact Sheet #3

### QUESTION & ANSWERS

The purpose of this fact sheet is to resolve issues not answered in the other two fact sheets.

#### 1. Who is responsible for classifying a shipment?

In the case of infectious substances, a doctor, scientist, veterinarian, epidemiologist, genetic engineer, microbiologist, pathologist, nurse, coroner or laboratory technologist or technician.

#### 2. Are there any standards to follow or recommendations when purchasing plastic bags and fibreboard boxes?

The plastic bags should be thick enough to reduce the chance of tearing due to bone fragments. A common size of bag is 15"x32" with a 3 mL thickness.

The fibreboard box *guidelines* are a corrugated shipping box and must meet the drop-test set out in section 4.5 of CGSB-43.125 (Canadian General Standards Board) found at <http://www.techstreet.com/cgsb/searches/1664947>, except the height of the drop test may be 1.2m in order to meet Packing Instruction 650 required for shipping Biological Substances Category B.

If you are shipping a Biological Substance Category B by air; one of the bags must be able to pass a 95kpa pressure tests. Examples of bags meeting this test are available from <http://www.vonco.com/95kpa-biohazard.php>.

#### 3. Are there any weight restrictions when shipping Biological Substances, Category B?

ROAD: There are no weight restrictions when shipping by cargo road vehicle.

AIR: Packages containing body parts, organs or whole bodies, are EXEMPT from the stated packaging weight limitations in Packaging Instruction 650.

#### 4. Can I transport Biological Substances Category B UN3373 on passenger aircraft?

Passengers are strictly prohibited from transporting infectious substances as or in carry-on baggage, checked baggage, or on their person

#### 5. Can I use dry ice when shipping specimens?

You must **never** use dry ice when using a tightly closed container. The packaging containers MUST be designed and constructed to permit the release of carbon dioxide to prevent the build-up of pressure that could rupture it Cans and other airtight packaging cannot be used with dry ice.



**6. I have a sample from the field I think is a Biological Substance Category B. I am going to drive it back to the worksite to prepare for shipping. Does the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations apply?**

The Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations does not apply except that containment standard in 1.19(b) should be applied.

*1.19 Samples*

*1. (1) These Regulations do not apply to samples of goods, including forensic samples, that are reasonably believed to be dangerous goods if, for the purposes of inspection or investigation duties under an Act of Parliament or of a provincial legislature, the samples are:*

*(a) in transport under the direct supervision of a federal, provincial or municipal government employee acting in the course of employment; and*

*(b) in a means of containment that is designed, constructed, filled, closed, secured and maintained so that under normal conditions of transport, including handling, there will be no accidental release of dangerous goods that could endanger public safety.*

**7. I have to send a formalin-fixed sample that is wrapped in paper towels that were soaked in formalin. Does the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations apply?**

The regulations only apply regarding ensuring the specimen is packaged according to the Exempt Animal Specimen Factsheet.