DNA genotek

Shipping recommendations for exempt specimen samples

Summary of recommendations

For samples not expected to be pathogenic, the following packaging is recommended.

- A collected sample in a DNA Genotek collection device
- A leak proof bio-specimen bag containing absorbent material
- Outer packaging that meets local postal service regulations and is labeled as either "EXEMPT HUMAN SPECIMEN" or "EXEMPT ANIMAL SPECIMEN"

This complete kit is available for purchase from DNA Genotek and can be viewed on our website www.dnagenotek.com. For pricing and samples, please contact sales@dnagenotek.com.

Background

Air transportation of diagnostic specimens is governed under authority of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and its regulations are published by the International Air Transport Association (IATA). Since courier services designated as "ground" may involve an air transport segment, the IATA publications are broadly applicable to both air and ground shipment.

The 58th IATA Dangerous Goods Manual effective January 1, 2017 states the following guidance:

3.6.2.2.3.8 Patient specimens for which there is minimal likelihood that pathogens are present are not subject to other provisions of these Regulations provided:

(a) The specimen must be packed in a packaging which will prevent any leakage and which is marked with the words "Exempt human specimen" or "Exempt animal specimen," as appropriate;

(b) The packaging must consist of three components:

1. a leak-proof primary receptacle(s);
2. a leak-proof secondary packaging; and
3. an outer packaging of adequate strength for its capacity, mass and intended use, and with at least one surface having minimum dimensions of 100 mm × 100 mm;

(c) For liquids, absorbent material in sufficient quantity to absorb the entire contents must be placed between the primary receptacle(s) and the secondary packaging so that, during transport, any release or leak of a liquid substance will not reach the outer packaging and will not compromise the integrity of the cushioning material;

(d) When multiple fragile primary receptacles are placed in a single secondary packaging, they must be either individually wrapped or separated to prevent contact between them.

NOTE:

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 under this paragraph. That judgment should be based on the known medical history, symptoms and individual circumstances of the source, human or animal, and endemic local conditions.

Examples of specimens which may be transported under this paragraph include the blood or urine tests to monitor cholesterol levels, blood glucose levels, hormone levels, or prostate specific antigens (PSA); tests required to monitor organ function such as heart, liver or kidney function for humans or animals with non-infectious diseases, or therapeutic drug monitoring; tests conducted for insurance or employment purposes and are intended to determine the presence of drugs or alcohol; pregnancy tests; biopsies to detect cancer and antibody detection in humans or animals.

For those collecting samples which may not fit the definition above, more stringent requirements for transportation apply. These include the use of a rigid outer container, application of UN2814 (Category A pathogens) or UN3373 (Category B pathogens) labels and demonstration of compliance with pressure tests.

More information is available directly from IATA, or from your local carrier or postal service.

Some DNA Genotek products may not be available in all geographic regions.
All DNA Genotek protocols, white papers and application notes, are available in the support section of our website at www.dnagenotek.com.