Guidelines for Transport of Infectious Materials by Non-Commercial Routes

These guidelines apply only to Iowa State University employees packaging infectious materials for pick up by non-university employees, and to Iowa State University employees transporting infectious materials in university vehicles within Iowa. Personal vehicles must not be used.

Materials with special transport requirements (requiring permits, etc.) may not be transported according to these guidelines unless approved by EH&S (Refer to the attached list).

For the purposes of these guidelines, “Infectious Materials” are defined as: Materials that contain, or are reasonably suspected to contain, biological agents or their toxins that can cause disease in humans and/or animals.

1. Place infectious material into a securely closed, watertight primary container (test tube, vial, etc.). Maximum quantity allowed in each primary container is 500 ml or 500 g.

2. If specimen is in liquid form, wrap primary container with absorbent material sufficient to absorb contents (paper towels, etc.).

3. Enclose the primary container in a securely closed, durable, watertight secondary container (ziploc bag, large plastic culture tube, etc.).

4. Multiple primary containers may be placed in a single secondary container but must be separated to prevent contact between them. Maximum total quantity allowed in each secondary container is 500 ml or 500 g.

5. Place a cushioning material around secondary container(s) to prevent movement in the outer package.

6. If refrigerant is used, it must be placed between the secondary container(s) and outer transport container.

7. If dry ice is used, the cushioning material must be placed so that the secondary container does not become loose inside the outer transport container as the dry ice sublimates.
8. Place prepared inner container(s) into a strong outer transport container (corrugated cardboard, hard plastic or other equivalent strength material). Maximum total quantity allowed in a single outer transport container is 4,000 ml or 4 kg.

4. Separate multiple primary containers

5. Cushioning around primary

6. Refrigerant outside secondary

8. Place into a transport container (max 4 L)

9. Place a label containing the biohazard symbol, name of the infectious material being transported, and any hazards (e.g., Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae, animal pathogen only) on the outside of the outer transport container.

9. Adhere required labels

If a spill occurs, or if evidence of leakage or any other damage to packages bearing a biohazard label is discovered during or after transport, isolate the spill and/or package and contact EH&S at 294-5359.
Materials That May NOT be Transported by Non-Commercial Routes

All items listed require EH&S approval prior to transfer using these guidelines. This information applies only to intrastate transport. Domestic or international transport outside of Iowa may require permits for items not listed. Contact EH&S at 294-5359 for assistance.

♦ Any infectious material classified at Biosafety Level 3 or above [refer to the American Biological Safety Association’s Risk Group Classification for Infectious Agents tables at http://www.absa.org/riskgroups/default.htm], plus the following:

♦ Microorganisms:
  ♦ Bacillus anthracis
  ♦ Clostridium botulinum
  ♦ Francisella (Pasteurella) tularensis
  ♦ Any genetically modified microorganisms classified at Biosafety Level 3 or above or listed above, or genetic elements from these organisms, shown to produce or encode for a factor associated with a disease.

♦ Toxins:
  ♦ Abrin
  ♦ Aflatoxins
  ♦ Botulinum toxins
  ♦ Clostridium perfringens epsilon toxin
  ♦ Conotoxins
  ♦ Diacetoxycirpenol
  ♦ Ricin
  ♦ Saxitoxin
  ♦ Shigatoxin
  ♦ Staphylococcal enterotoxins
  ♦ Tetrodotoxin
  ♦ T-2 toxin
  ♦ Any genetically modified microorganisms or genetic elements that contain nucleic acid sequences coding for any of the toxins on this list, or their toxic subunits.

♦ Plant Pests and Noxious Weeds
  ♦ Foreign plant pests injurious to plants grown in the United States
  ♦ Designated noxious weeds, which are of foreign origin and new to or not widely prevalent in the United States
  ♦ Insects, mites, and nematodes introduced for biological control of weeds in the United States
  ♦ Biological control organisms imported, shipped, and released in the United States
  ♦ Insects and mites commonly included in shipments as host material for biological control agents
  ♦ Domestic plant pests regulated by federal or state quarantines
  ♦ Low-risk plant pests, including arthropods and pathogens
  ♦ Non-regulated domestic plant pests shipped into an area in the United States where the pests do not occur