

Packaging and Labelling Requirements for Category B Infectious Substances Assigned to UN 3373

Category B infectious substances (UN 3373) are classified as being potentially harmful to humans or animals and must be packed in accordance with ADR (International carriage of dangerous goods by road) packing instruction PI 650 for road transport and IATA packing instruction PI 650 for air transport.

Category B infectious substance must be packaged using appropriate UN transport packaging systems, commonly known as a 'triple packaging system'.

- 1) The samples must be contained in suitable robust and leak proof primary containers (e.g. Screw cap tube).
- 2) The primary container should be placed inside a robust and leak proof secondary container (e.g. A sealed bio-bag) so that the contents do not leak during transport. Such bags must be sealed/secured. Suitable absorbent material (e.g. blue roll) should be placed inside the bag.
- 3) The bag should then be placed inside the tertiary package (e.g. fibreboard box). All material should be secured to prevent movement.

'Triple packaging systems' are available from post offices, couriers and other transport organisations. It is important to note that such packaging (e.g. from one supplier) should not be mixed with another as this will void the suitability of the package.

Outside (Tertiary) packaging must have the appropriate markings and labels on the outer container. Labels must be durable and legible and clearly visible on the outside of the packaging. The package must be of such a size that there is adequate space to fix all the required markings and labels. Labels must be located on the same surface of the package affixed adjacent to the consignor's or consignee's address.

The shipper (sender) and the Consignee (receiver) must be clearly marked on the outside of the package. Contact numbers must also be provided.

Shipping should be arranged by an official courier which can UN 3373 biological substances (category B).

PACKING INSTRUCTIONS

The package must be marked with the following UN number and proper shipping name.

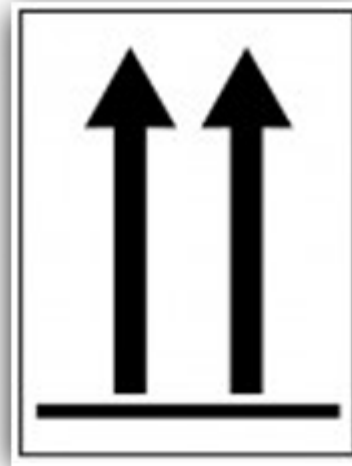
UN 3373 BIOLOGICAL SUBSTANCE, CATEGORY B (Figure 1 contains UN number and classification)

The hazard warning label for category B infectious substances shown below (Figure 1) must be affixed to the package.

The scientific or technical name of the microorganism must not appear on the package but should be supplied in the accompanying transport documentation (For example in printed paperwork in a safe clean location inside the outer package).



Above: Figure 1



Above: Figure 2

Packages containing liquids must display suitable package orientation labels (Figure 2). Such liquids must be packaged in a way to prevent leakage.

The labels must be affixed or pre-printed on at least two opposite sides to show the proper orientation for the primary containers to be in the upright position. *Note that orientation arrows are not required on packages containing class 6.2 infectious substances in primary receptacles of not more than 50ml although they may be used if desired.*

For air transport, Primary containers must not exceed 1 litre and packages must not contain more than 4 litres for liquids. Outer packaging must not contain more than 4Kg for solids.

If an over pack (for example two Category B packages in one larger box) is used to contain several packages then it must be marked as in Figure 3.

Below: Figure 3



The markings and labels which are on the internal packages must also be repeated on the outside of the overpack (e.g. Category B infectious substances).

DEMONSTRATION

A you tube video giving general information on packaging Category B substances for shipment is available below. Please note this is for air shipment only.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=segYrsl6qAA>

FURTHER INFORMATION

http://www.docs.csg.ed.ac.uk/Safety/bio/guidance/transport/transport_bio_materials.pdf