Radiological Agents: Instructions for Shipping Urine Specimens to CDC after a Radiological Incident

This guidance is in accordance with the International Air Transport Authority (IATA) Packing Instruction 650 for Biological Substance, Category B. See “Radiological Agents: Shipping Instructions for Specimens Collected from People with Potential Contamination to Radiological Materials” for detailed information: http://emergency.cdc.gov/radiation/labinfo.asp

1. To separate urine cups, use a grid and/or individually wrap the urine cups. Place absorbent material in the bottom of the box and insert the cups.

2. Use one continuous piece of evidence tape to seal the box containing the urine cup(s). Write initials half on the evidence tape and half on the box or bag.

3. Wrap the box with absorbent material and secure with tape. Seal the box inside a Saf-T-Pak inner leak-proof polybag (or equivalent).

4. Place the sealed Saf-T-Pak inner leak-proof polybag (or equivalent) inside a white Tyvek® outer envelope (or equivalent).

5. Seal the opening of this outer envelope with a continuous piece of evidence tape. Write initials half on the evidence tape and half on the envelope.

6. Use a polystyrene foam-insulated, corrugated fiberboard shipper to ship boxes to CDC. Place an absorbent pad in the bottom of the shipper.

7. Place a layer of dry ice in the bottom of the shipper on top of the absorbent material. **DO NOT** use large chunks or flakes of dry ice.

8. Place the packaged urine cups in the shipper. Use absorbent material or cushioning material to minimize shifting while box is in transit. Place additional dry ice on top of samples.

9. Place the urine shipping manifest in a sealable plastic bag and put the bag on top of the packaged samples inside the shipper. Keep chain-of-custody documents for your files. Place lid on the shipper.

10. Secure the outer container lid with filamentous shipping tape. Place your return address in the upper left-hand corner of the shipper top and put the CDC receiving address in the center (see Instruction box # 13 below for address).

11. Add the UN 3373 label and the words “Biological Substance, Category B” on the front of the shipper. UN 3373 is the code identifying the shipper’s contents as “Biological Substance, Category B.”

12. Place a Class 9/UN 1845 label on the front of the shipper. This label is to indicate the use of dry ice (in kg) in the shipper and the proper name (either dry ice or carbon dioxide, solid).

13. Send shipment to: CDC Warehouse 3719 North Peachtree Road Chamblee, Georgia 30341 Phone: 770-488-7227 NCEHsamplelogistics@cdc.gov

Questions concerning this process should be directed to: CDC Sample Logistics Laboratory Inorganic and Radiation Analytical Toxicology Branch Division of Laboratory Sciences, National Center for Environmental Health Phone: 770-488-7227 NCEHsamplelogistics@cdc.gov

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