

A quick reference guide to ADR and sample packing for Official Veterinarians

October 2014

The carriage of any sample material must be in accordance with Carriage of Dangerous Goods Regulations and the correct United Nations (UN) number assigned.

Further guidance on the UN classification and their packing instructions may be found in ADR parts 2 and 4. <http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/adr/adr2011/11contentse.html>

The samples which Official Veterinarians (OVs) collect on behalf of the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) are classified under ADR Regulations as UN3373 BIOLOGICAL SUBSTANCE CATEGORY B (refer to ADR part 2 clause 2.2.62) and must be packed according to P650 packing instruction (refer to ADR part 4 pages 146 and 147).

Compliance with these instructions will ensure transport requirements by road are met. OVs must follow this guide for the collection, preparation and dispatch of samples.

Section A

Packing of samples - general information

The samples which OVs collect on behalf of APHA are classified under ADR Regulations as UN3373 BIOLOGICAL SUBSTANCE CATEGORY B and must be packed according to P650 packing instruction.

As a general rule the ADR regulations requires packing to consist of at least three main components:

- a primary receptacle
- a secondary packing, and
- an outer packaging, of which either the secondary or the outer packaging shall be rigid.

N.B. There are additional requirements for liquid substances.

The outer package must be marked with a UN3373 label with minimum dimensions of 50mm x 50mm. Animals should bear the tattoo number and date of tattooing. Further information is available on the APHA website.



The proper shipping name must be on the outer packaging.

‘BIOLOGICAL SUBSTANCE CATEGORY B’ in letters at least 6mm high must be marked on the outer packing adjacent to the UN3373 label/mark.

Section B

Packing of samples – for liquid substances

Liquid substances examples are blood, milk, urine etc.

- the primary receptacle(s) shall be leak proof
- the secondary packaging shall be leak proof
- multiple primary receptacles shall be individually wrapped or separated to prevent contact between them
- absorbent material shall be placed between the primary receptacle(s) and secondary packing
- the packaging shall be capable of withstanding internal pressure of 95kpa.

Section C

Packing of samples – for solid substances

Solid substances examples are: animal tissues, whole carcasses, animal feed, dust etc.

- the primary receptacle(s) shall be sift proof
- the secondary packing shall be sift proof
- multiple primary receptacle(s) shall be individually wrapped or separated to prevent contact between them
- if residual liquid may be present absorbent material shall be used.

Section D

Packing of frozen or refrigerated samples

APHA generally do not require OV's to use ice, dry ice or liquid nitrogen to keep samples frozen. Samples should be packed according to ADR following the relevant section A and B or C.

If you are requested to use ice, dry ice or liquid nitrogen when packing samples, please contact APHA for further advice.

Section E

Dispatch of samples to APHA laboratories

Samples sent to APHA laboratories will require a label on the outer packaging with the following information:

Animal & Plant Health Agency Sample Reception Area Weybridge Woodham lane New Haw Addlestone Surrey KT15 1HZ TEST SPECIFICATIONS Tests: Department: Contact Name: SENDER DETAILS Ref No: Name: Address: Storage conditions +4°C unless specified otherwise FRAGILE HANDLE WITH CARE PATHOLOGICAL SPECIMEN
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Note that this label does not replace the requirements to meet ADR Regulations by following the relevant Section A, B or C.

The TEST SPECIFICATIONS and SENDER DETAILS must be completed. If the consignment is made up of multi-packages, each individual package containing samples must have a completed label.

Dispatch of samples to other laboratories

Samples should be packed according to ADR following the relevant section A and B or C.

The outer packaging should clearly show the relevant laboratory department and full address. The senders address must also be clearly shown on the outer package (usually the underside).



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Data Protection:

For information on how we handle personal data visit www.gov.uk and search Animal and Plant Health Agency Personal Information Charter.

APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Food Standards Agency to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.