

Shipping Classification Guidance for Biological Materials

If you are neutralizing or inactivating the sample/specimen, contact REHS (biosafety@rutgers.edu) for shipping guidance. Otherwise, proceed below.

Is your sample one of the following?

- a clinical specimen?
- a laboratory sample (culture) containing pathogens?
- a laboratory sample containing human/primate material (including established cell lines)?

YES or NOT SURE

Does your sample/specimen contain (or is it suspected to contain) micro-organisms that may be pathogenic to humans or animals?

YES

NO

NO

Is your sample/specimen capable of causing permanent disability, life-threatening or fatal disease in otherwise healthy humans or animals (e.g., [Category A](#) infectious substances)?

Is it a human/animal specimen for which a professional judgement has determined that it has minimal likelihood of containing pathogens?³

Is your sample a genetically modified organism or micro-organism (non-pathogenic)?

YES

NO

YES

NOT SURE

YES

NO

UN 2814/2900
Infectious substance, affecting humans / animals^{1,2}

UN 3373
Biological substance, Category B^{1,2}

Exempt human specimen or Exempt animal specimen^{1,2}

Contact REHS (biosafety@rutgers.edu)

UN 3245
Genetically modified organisms and micro-organisms^{1,2,4}

Not Regulated²

Disclaimer – This flow chart is provided as guidance only.¹

1. Anyone classifying a regulated biological material must be current with [shipping training](#).
2. Shipments involving dry ice or other dangerous goods (e.g., chemical preservatives) in addition to the biological material must follow the shipping regulations for those materials.
3. In determining if a patient specimen has a minimal likelihood that a pathogen is present, an element of professional judgement is required. This judgement should be based on known patient medical history, symptoms and individual circumstances of the source, human or animal, and endemic local conditions.
4. For live transgenic animal shipments, contact Rutgers [Comparative Medicine Resources \(CMR\)](#).