

Packing and Transportation of Biological Specimens

Introduction

The following are the guidelines and procedures for the packaging of biological specimens, in order to comply with the requirements of chapter 8 of the National Road Traffic Act 1996, SANS 10228 and SANS 10229.

Samples are placed into one of three categories:

- Category A - Infectious substances which are zoonotic as well as infectious to animals.
- Category B - Infectious substances which are infectious to animals only
- Category C – Substances which are not infectious to humans or animals.

Each category is identified by a specific UN Code -

Category A: UN 2814

Category B: UN 2900

Category C: UN 3373 (materials collected for routine diagnostic purposes).

Triple Packaging System.

Infectious Substances are required to be packed using the **Triple Packaging System** consisting of:



- Primary receptacle (black square): A labelled watertight, leak-proof, sealable, plastic envelope containing the specimen and which shall be packaged together with sufficient absorbent material to absorb all the fluid in the event of a breakage.
- Secondary packaging (heart): A second durable, watertight, leak-proof receptacle to enclose and protect the primary receptacle(s).

- Outer shipping packaging (circle): Secondary packaging is placed in outer shipping packaging which protects it and its contents from outside influences such as physical damage, using suitable cushioning material while in transit.

Marking and Labelling



Packages as well as containers and swabs shall be marked to provide information about the contents of the package.

All markings shall be placed in such a way that they are clearly visible and display the following information on the outer packaging.

- The senders name and address.
- Telephone number of the sender.
- The receivers name and address and telephone number.
- United Nations code (A, B or C) and shipping name.
- Orientation label.
- Infectious Substance (or UN3373 Label).
- Temperature storage requirements (optional).
- When dry ice or liquid nitrogen is used, the appropriate UN number, net quantity and type of refrigerant used must be indicated.

Documentation

The following documentation is required.

- VDX Specimen Submission Form (placed between secondary and outer packaging). All VDX submission forms available at www.vetdiagnostix.com
- List of contents.
- The senders name and address.
- Telephone/Fax number of the sender.

Materials: All packing material and labels can be obtained from

Vetdiagnostix - Veterinary Pathology Services
www.vetdiagnostix.com