

1.7.2015

Sending laboratory samples

Laboratory samples are transported in Finland as letters, reply mail items, parcels or freight, for example. Special Handling supplementary service must be chosen for laboratory samples sent as parcels. The shipment is delivered for transport by taking it to Posti's service point or ordering a pick-up from the desired location. Samples must not be dropped off in a mailbox, and they may not be dead animals.

The sender is responsible for the correct classification, packaging and markings of the substance. The sender is also responsible for delivering the shipment for transport as appropriate according to the TDG* act (719/1994) and the decrees and orders given based on it. The sender is also always responsible for marking the substance name, classification and other required information in the documents.

Each shipment shall be marked with the sender's contact information. If the shipment is packed by a patient, for example, they shall be provided with clear instructions on packaging and markings. Sending substances packed in dry ice requires a separate TDG contract, and the sender will be provided with specific instructions. The TDG contract is made through Posti's contact person.

If necessary, Posti's TDG safety advisor is available for help in interpreting the instructions and any questions related to shipments. Additional information on the transport of substances classified as dangerous is also available on the Ministry of Transport and Communications web site at www.lvm.fi/web/fi/vak.

Infectious substances Substances which are known or, with reasonable certainty, suspected to contain pathogens, are considered infectious. Pathogens refers to micro-organisms or other substances, such as prions, which may cause disease to humans or animals. Infectious substances shall be classified in the TDG class 6.2 and the applicable UN number 2814, 2900 or 3373.

Infectious substances – UN 2814 and UN 2900

The substances must be classified under UN 2814 or UN 2900 if they are transported in a format in which exposure to the substances may cause otherwise healthy people or animals to get a disease which may lead to permanent disability, danger to life or death. As a general rule, Posti does not transport such substances. Please contact Posti's contact person or the TDG security advisor in case of transport of substances belonging to this group.

Infectious substances – UN 3373

Infectious substances not meeting the criteria of UN 2814 or 2900 shall be classified under UN 3373. The official name of these substances is BIOLOGICAL SUBSTANCE, CATEGORY B.

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Packaging of substances classified under UN 3373

Packaging regulation P 650 applies to the packaging of substances classified under UN 3373:

- Packaging of good quality able to sustain the impacts and stresses of normal transport shall be used for the shipment.
- The packaging may not leak under normal transport conditions.
- The packaging shall comprise the following three parts:



- the primary vessel (1st picture)
- the secondary packaging (2nd picture) and
- the outer packaging.



- The primary and secondary packaging shall be leak-proof.
- The primary vessels shall either be wrapped individually or separated in such a way that they cannot come into contact with each other (3rd picture).



- Absorbent material shall be placed between primary vessels containing liquids and the secondary packaging. The absorbent shall be able to absorb the entire contents of the primary vessels.

- Secondary packaging shall be packed in the outer packaging using a suitable stemming material (4th picture).



- The packaging shall be marked with a square set at an angle of 45°, containing the text "UN 3373". "BIOLOGINEN AINE, KATEGORIA B" ("BIOLOGICAL SUBSTANCE, CATEGORY B") shall be marked next to the square. The marking shall be clearly visible and unambiguous (5th picture).



- UN 3373 samples cannot be transported by air mail either domestically or internationally. This may affect the transportation time with regard to long-distance deliveries.
- Posti requires that a yellow and black striped box is used as the outer packaging.

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Samples exempted according to ADR legislation

The exemptions concerning laboratory sample transports are included in section 2.2.62.1.5 of the “Vaarallisten aineiden kuljetus tiellä 2015” (European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of dangerous Goods by Road, ADR 2015). Samples of human or animal origin, for example, which are highly unlikely to contain pathogens, are not regulated under the TDG regulations if packed and marked as stated below. Examples of such samples are provided in section 2.2.62.1.5.8 of the regulation. An expert shall evaluate the exemption of a substance or a sample.

Packaging of samples exempted from the TDG regulations

Samples of human and animal origin highly unlikely to contain pathogens also need to be packed carefully.

- Packaging of good quality able to sustain the impacts and stresses of normal transport shall be used for the shipment.
- The packaging may not leak under normal transport conditions.
- The packaging must comprise of leak-proof primary and secondary receptacles and an outer packaging.
- Absorptive material shall be placed between the primary vessels of liquids and the secondary packaging.
- The parcels shall be marked with “Ihmisperäinen näyte – vapautettu” (“Exempt human specimen”) or “Eläinperäinen näyte – vapautettu” (“Exempt animal specimen”) (picture 6).
- These samples may also be transported by air. For air transport, the markings “Exempt human specimen” or “Exempt animal specimen” shall always be used.
- Posti requires that a yellow and black striped box is used as the outer packaging.



Further information

For further information on the shipping of dangerous goods, please contact your Posti contact person or TDG safety advisor Pauliina Auveri, tel. +358 20 452 0092, pauliina.auveri@posti.com or our customer service:

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* TDG (transport of dangerous goods)