

# Division 6.2 Infectious Substance Shipping Guide: Classification, Packing, Marking and Labeling



**Massachusetts Department of Public Health  
State Laboratory Institute**

## **Introduction**

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This booklet is intended to provide general information and guidance regarding packaging and shipping of Division 6.2 Infectious Substance Materials. It is not a comprehensive list of all regulations. Consult the Department of Transportation, International Air Transport Association and United States Postal Service regulations for current policies and procedures.

The companies your facility uses for shipping or courier services may have additional documentation requirements for airway bills or shipper's declarations that are not covered in this guide. Please contact your shipping partners directly for specific requirements.

## Regulatory Agencies

### → Department of Transportation (DOT)

In the United States, the Department of Transportation is the regulatory authority for hazardous materials sent by all modes of transport, except the U.S. Mail. DOT is the U.S. authority for assuring compliance with the transportation regulations.

- Website: <http://hazmat.dot.gov>

Contains links to the regulations, free publications, and DOT training schedules. The Office of Hazardous Materials Safety website formulates, issues, and revises Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR) under the Federal Hazardous Materials Transportation Law.

*Hazardous Materials INFO LINE:* 1-800-HMR49-22 (1-800-467-4922)  
1-202-366-4488 (Washington, D.C.)

### → International Air Transport Association (IATA) / International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

ICAO governs the international transport of dangerous goods or hazardous materials by air. The professional airline regulatory document, IATA *Dangerous Goods Regulations* takes the ICAO regulations and adds additional industry requirements. A shipper who follows IATA regulations is also in compliance with ICAO.

- Main Website: <http://www.iata.org>
- Website: [http://www.iata.org/whatwedo/cargo/dangerous\\_goods/index.htm](http://www.iata.org/whatwedo/cargo/dangerous_goods/index.htm)

Contains Packing Instruction 650, up-to-date checklists for dry-ice and non-radioactive shipments, and addenda to the most current edition of the *Dangerous Goods Regulations*.

*Dangerous Goods Information HOTLINE:* Phone: 1-514-390-6770  
Email: [dangood@iata.org](mailto:dangood@iata.org)

### → United States Postal Service (USPS or U.S. Mail)

The USPS is an independent federal agency that provides mail service in the United States. Regulations affecting the transport of hazardous materials in the US mail, including Division 6.2 materials, are codified in the Code of Federal Register, 38 CFR and published in the Domestic Mail Manual.

- Website: [http://pe.usps.gov/text/dmm300/601.htm#1\\_0](http://pe.usps.gov/text/dmm300/601.htm#1_0)

This contains the 601 Mailability section of the Domestic Mail Manual. See section 10.17 for regulations regarding Infectious Substances (Hazard Class 6, Division 6.2). See section 10.20 for regulations regarding Dry Ice.

## Classification of Division 6.2 Infectious Substances

Source: DOT, IATA, USPS

### Hazardous Materials

Class 1	Explosives
Class 2	Gases
Class 3	Flammable Liquids
Class 4	Flammable Solids
Class 5	Oxidizers/Organic Peroxides
Class 6	Toxic and Infectious Substances Division 6.1 – Poisonous Material Division 6.2 – Infectious Substance
Class 7	Radioactive Material
Class 8	Corrosives
Class 9	Miscellaneous Hazardous Material

**Division 6.2 Infectious Substance:** A material known or reasonably expected to contain a pathogen, such as bacteria, viruses, rickettsiae, parasites, fungi or prions, that can cause disease in humans or animals.

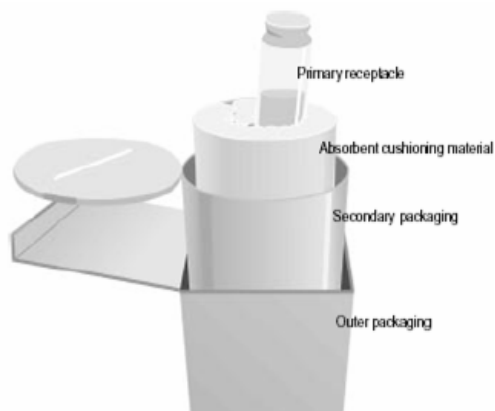
<b>Category A</b>	An infectious substance transported in a form capable of causing permanent disability or life-threatening or fatal disease in otherwise healthy humans or animals when exposure occurs.
<b>Category B</b>	An infectious substance not in a form capable of causing permanent disability or life-threatening or fatal disease in otherwise healthy humans or animals when exposure occurs.
<b>Exempt Human Specimen or Exempt Animal Specimen</b>	
DOT does not have this category in their regulations! According to DOT exempt human or animal specimens are not subject to requirements as Division 6.2 material. Please refer directly to IATA and USPS regulations, as well as your own facility guidelines to determine what is acceptable to be sent in this category.	

**Culture:** An infectious substance containing a pathogen that is intentionally propagated. A culture does not include a human or animal patient specimen as defined below, regardless of how it is transported (with OR without transport media).

**Note:** The definition of cultures refers to any infectious substance containing a pathogen that has been intentionally amplified or propagated. This includes laboratory stock culture AND presumptive positive cultures intended for diagnostic and clinical purposes.

**Patient Specimen:** Human or animal materials collected directly from human or animals and transported for research, diagnosis, investigational activities, or disease treatment or prevention. Patient specimens include excreta, secreta, blood and its components, tissues and tissue swabs, body parts, and specimens in transport media (transwabs, culture media, blood culture bottles).

## Required Packing



The Department of Transportation (DOT), International Air Transport Association (IATA), and the U.S. Postal Service (USPS or U.S. Mail) require regulated division 6.2 material to be transported in triple packaging. The primary and secondary packaging for Category A and Category B infectious substances must be enclosed in a rigid outer shipping container.

### Primary receptacle(s) and/or secondary packaging(s):

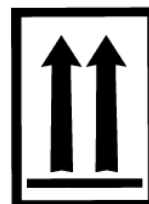
1. Must be leak proof and sift proof.
2. For liquids: Include enough absorbent material to absorb the total amount of liquid should the primary receptacle leak or break.
3. For fragile or multiple receptacles: Cushion to prevent damage in transport.
4. For air transport, which includes the U.S. Mail, the primary receptacle or secondary packaging must be capable of withstanding, without leakage, an internal pressure producing a pressure differential of not less than 95 kPa.
5. Place an international biohazard symbol on any inner packaging that contains blood or is contaminated with human blood. Additionally, affix the label to all secondary containers of packages being transported by U.S. Mail.

International Biohazard Symbol:



## Required Markings for Category A Substances

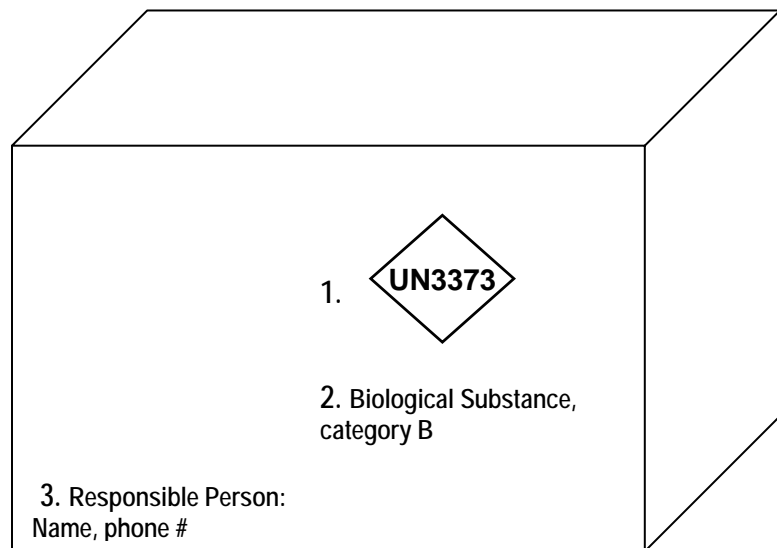
1. Division 6.2 Infectious substance hazard label
2. Proper shipping name and UNID number  
"Infectious substance, affecting humans UN2814" OR  
"Infectious substance, affecting animals UN2900"
3. Responsible person: name and phone number (see page 6 for additional details)
4. UN packaging specification number
5. Air transport (see page 9 for additional information)



**Orientation arrows** are required for packages containing Category A infectious substances (UN2814 and UN2900) with more than 50 mL (1.7 fl.oz.). Place arrows on TWO opposite sides of the box. The rectangular border around the arrows is optional.

## Required Markings for Category B Substances

1. UN3373 marking
2. Proper shipping name: "Biological substance, category B"
3. Responsible person: Name and phone number (see below for additional details)



### Responsible Person Contact Information

**NOTE:** The phone number listed on the package must be answered during administrative business hours while the package is in transport. The contact information is only required for air transport, not land transport.

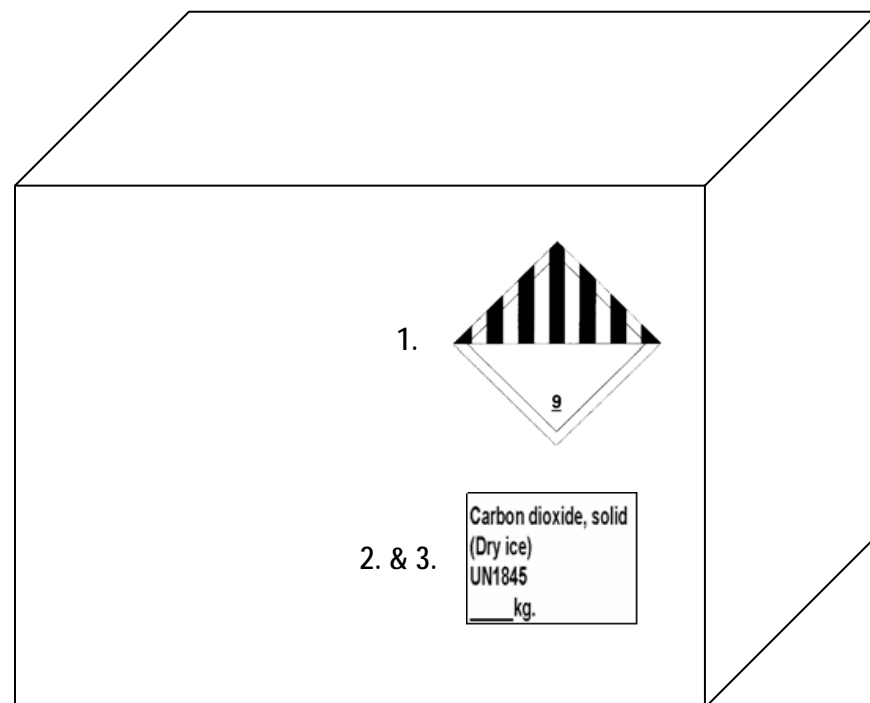
The responsible person must be knowledgeable of the package contents and able to provide comprehensive emergency response information and incident mitigation information for the material.

## Required Markings for Dry Ice

Markings and hazard labels for dry ice are required when sent by air or water. In addition, these markings and labels may be required on packages transported by commercial carriers and couriers by land.

The labels and markings required for dry ice are used *in addition* to any other labels and markings required for other hazardous materials in the package.

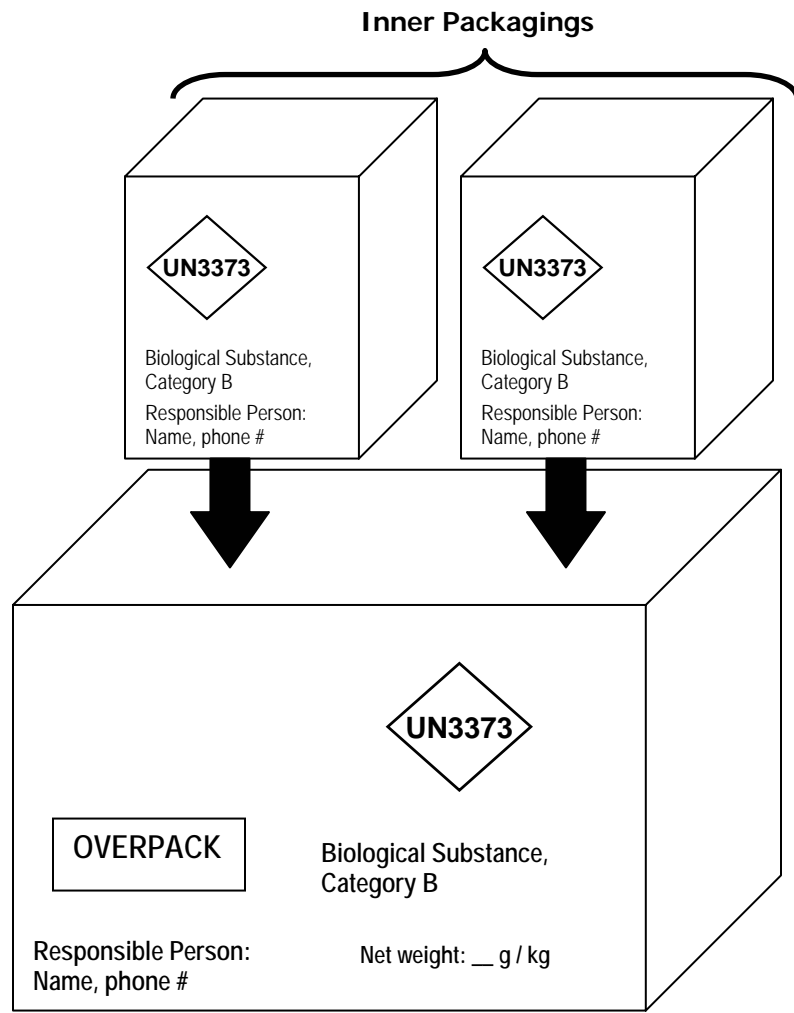
1. Class 9 Miscellaneous hazard label
2. Proper shipping name and UNID Number: "Carbon dioxide, solid" or "Dry ice" and UN1845
3. Net quantity of dry ice



## Required Overpack Markings

Overpack markings are required when the overpack obscures the markings and labels of inner packages.

1. Use the "Overpack" marking in addition to duplicating all markings and inner labels that are not visible through the overpack. UN package specification marking is not required to be duplicated.



## Cargo Only Handling Label

Use the "Cargo Only" handling label for air transport and on packages that exceed the quantity limits for transport by passenger aircraft. This label would only be used for Category A shipments.

1. Affix in addition to other required markings or hazard labels.
2. Affix to the same surface of package and near the required hazard labels.
3. This label should never be used on packages transported by U.S. Mail.



## MDPH State Laboratory Institute Contact Information

If you have any questions regarding the material in this publication or general packaging and shipping questions, please contact the Massachusetts Department of Public Health State Laboratory Institute Packaging and Shipping liaison.

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State Laboratory Institute  
305 South Street, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130  
Telephone: 617-983-6216  
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The State Laboratory Institute also offers "Packaging and Shipping: Division 6.2 Hazardous Materials" train-the-trainer courses on a regional basis several times per year. Please contact Ciranna Bird for more details.



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Website: [www.mass.gov/dph/bls/bls.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dph/bls/bls.htm)