



Packaging Requirements: Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) pathogen Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations

The SARS pathogen is classified as Risk Group 3.

The packaging used for the SARS pathogen, or for diagnostic specimens to be tested primarily for the SARS pathogen, must be a Type 1A package.

(There is a modification possible for transport by air. See below.)

Other requirements of the TDG Regulations such as training, labeling, marking, and documentation apply.

Suppliers of Type 1A packaging are listed on the Transport Canada website:
<http://www.tc.gc.ca/tdg/containers/infectious.htm>

Transport by Aircraft

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Technical Instructions (TI) with some additional provisions of the TDG Regulations, may be used for the transportation of diagnostic specimens by aircraft. Consignments prepared this way may be transported by road to and from the airport as well.

Under the ICAO TI, the shipping name DIAGNOSTIC SPECIMEN, UN3373 must be used for all diagnostic specimens unless they contain Risk Group 4 substances. UN3373 diagnostic specimens are exempted from other requirements in the ICAO technical instructions if they are packaged in packaging of good quality, capable of passing a 1.2m drop test and consisting of three components:

- a primary receptacle containing the diagnostic specimen;
- a leak proof secondary packaging with enough absorbing material to absorb all liquid in the liquid specimen; and
- an outer packaging with suitable cushioning material.

In addition, either the primary or secondary receptacle must be capable of withstanding an internal pressure producing a pressure differential of not less than 95kPa for liquid specimens.

A Type 1A package meets all these requirements. A Type 1B package may only be used if it meets the additional ICAO requirements regarding cushioning of the secondary receptacle, drop test and pressure retention capability.

Link to Health Canada SARS for Health Professionals:
http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pphb-dgsp/sars-sras/prof_e.html