Exempt Human Specimens- Packing Instructions

Applicability

This document applies to all personnel of AHS Laboratory Services, the Lamont Health Centre and laboratories administered by Covenant Health.

Purpose

This document provides background information and instructions for packaging Exempt Human Specimens as per Transportation of Dangerous Goods (TDG) Regulations.

Background

1. Patient specimens that are not known / suspected to contain infectious substances or substances that are unlikely to cause disease in humans or animals are not subject to the regulation unless they meet the criteria for inclusion in another class.
2. Substances in a form that any pathogens present have been neutralized or inactivated such that they no longer pose a health risk and are not subject to the regulation unless they meet the criteria for inclusion in another class.
3. Dried blood spots, collected by applying a drop of blood onto absorbent material or fecal occult blood screening tests and blood / blood components which have been collected for the purposes of transfusion or for the preparation of blood products to be used for transfusion or transplantation and any tissues or organs intended for the use in transplantation are not subject to the regulation.
4. Specimen types that, once screened for risk factors (no reason to believe positive for HIV, HBV, HCV, TB, etc.) are considered unlikely to contain pathogens, are considered exempt, however they still require proper packaging.
5. Examples of exempt specimens are blood and / or urine specimens being tested for:
    - Cholesterol levels, blood glucose levels, hormone levels or prostrate specific antibodies (PSA)
    - Heart, liver or kidney function tests with non-infectious diseases
    - Therapeutic drug monitoring
    - Insurance or employment tests to determine the presence of drugs or alcohol
    - Pregnancy tests
    - Biopsies to detect cancer
    - Antibody detection

Guidelines

<u>Packaging</u>
Exempt human specimens are not required to be packaged according to PI 650, however must be triple packed using a primary receptacle, secondary packaging and strong outer packaging.

1. Primary receptacle
    - The primary receptacles must be leak-proof, packed so they won't break, be punctured or leak contents into secondary packaging.
2. Secondary packaging
    - Must be leak-proof (i.e. Ziploc style) and secured in outer packaging with cushioning material. Leakage of contents must not compromise the outer packaging or cushioning material.
    - NOTE: Using a bag with a twist tie is not leak proof)

3. Absorbent
    - There must be enough absorbent material in the secondary packaging to absorb the entire liquid contents of the primary receptacles. (e.g., DriMops)
4. Cushioning material
    - Material used to support contents in outer packaging to keep liquid specimens upright and hold secure to prevent breakage or leakage. (e.g., bubble wrap)
5. Strong outer packaging
    - Strong outer packaging of adequate strength for capacity, mass and intended use, and at least one surface with minimum dimensions of 100mm x 100mm.

Note: The Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations do not apply a volume limit to Exempt Human Specimens shipped.

Marking and Labeling

- *Exempt Human Specimen* must be marked on the outer packaging
    - *Must be located on the side of the container so it remains visible if boxes are stacked*
- Address and phone number of shipper and receiver

Reference

- Laboratory Services Provincial Health and Safety Manual Sources of Truth- https://ahs.labqms.com/labFrame.asp?DID=25013&FLDVr=1376

Related Documents

- Transportation of Dangerous Goods Policy - https://ahs.labqms.com/labFrame.asp?DID=24570
- Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations General Information - https://ahs.labqms.com/labFrame.asp?DID=24581
- Transportation of Dangerous Goods Class 6.2 and 9.0 - https://ahs.labqms.com/labFrame.asp?DID=24580
- Classification of Infectious Substances - https://ahs.labqms.com/labFrame.asp?DID=24579