

postage and packaging information

transport of infectious substances

Bacteria, yeasts and fungi grown in culture are classed as infectious substances. For transport, these are divided into two categories:

Category A:

An infectious substance which is transported in a form that when exposure to it occurs, is capable of causing permanent disability, life-threatening or fatal disease in otherwise healthy humans or animals. These include all microorganisms in hazard group 3.

Category B:

These include all moulds, yeasts and bacteria other than those classed as Category A. Many microorganisms are capable of causing infections, either in immuno-compromised patients or as opportunistic colonisers in wounds etc., and for this reason they are classed as Infectious Substances.

Please note: CABI does not handle microorganisms in Category A (hazard group 3 human pathogens).

packaging procedures

Customers are required to send cultures of bacteria, yeasts and fungi in Category B packaging as follows:

UN Packaging Instruction P650 should be followed (see WHO 'Guidance on Regulations for the Transport of Infectious Substances 2011-12 Annex 4. Page 14).

Triple containment requirements are:

- samples must be prepared in a primary leak-proof receptacle (eg tubes, bottles or ampoules of glass, metal or plastic)
- primary receptacles must be placed in a secondary leak-proof container approved for use with certified packaging.
- rigid crush-proof outer packaging is required that meets certified standards

If multiple primary receptacles are used, they must be individually wrapped to as to prevent contact between them.

Each primary receptacle must have a leak-proof seal. If screw tops are used for bottles or tubes, these must be secured by positive means eg tape or paraffin sealing wax.

Absorbent material must be placed between the primary receptacle and secondary packaging, sufficient to absorb the entire contents within the package.

An itemized list of contents must be enclosed between the secondary packaging and outer packaging.



labelling requirements for Category B Infectious Substances

UN 3373 approved labelling must be applied to the package (see WHO 'Guidance on Regulations for the Transport of Infectious Substances' 2011-12, p15).

Labelling should state 'Biological Substance Category B.'

In addition, the name and address of the shipper and consignee must be provided on each package

The name and telephone number of a person responsible must be provided on the air waybill or on the package.

sending dried specimens

These regulations do not apply when sending dead, dried specimens. However, sturdy crush-proof packaging is necessary for these samples to avoid damage to the material in transit.

the address to send samples to is:

Microbial Identification Service
CABI
Bakeham Lane
Egham
Surrey
TW20 9TY
UK