

# TEMPLE UNIVERSITY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND RADIATION SAFETY

NO. 6.11

**TITLE:** Shipment and Importation/Exportation of Biological and Infectious Materials.

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**ISSUED:** 5/00

**REVISED:** 08/06

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), the US Department of Health and Human Services' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) and the International Air Transport Association (IATA) all have requirements that influence the shipping of dangerous goods from Temple University and Temple University Health System. Infectious substances are one of several types of dangerous goods that may be offered for shipment.

Any person wishing to submit a dangerous good for shipment must first receive training to do so from Environmental Health and Radiation Safety. The purpose of this policy is not to substitute for training, but to provide an overview of the regulations that pertain to the shipment of biological and infectious substances, as well as to the governmental agencies regulating the permitting processes.

**Infectious Substances** are substances known to contain, or reasonably expected to contain pathogens. Pathogens are microorganisms (including bacteria, viruses, rickettsia, parasites, and fungi) or recombinant microorganisms (hybrid or mutant) that are known or reasonably expected to cause infectious disease in humans or animals.

Infectious substances include;

- all cultures containing or suspected of containing an agent that may cause infection.
- human or animal samples that contain such an agent in quantities sufficient to cause infection, should an exposure to them occur due to a transport mishap
- sample(s) from a patient with a serious disease of unknown cause
- other specimens not included above and designated as infectious by a qualified person, e.g., a physician, scientist, nurse, etc.

**Diagnostic Specimens** are any human or animal material including, but not limited to, excreta, secretions, blood and its components, tissue and tissue fluids, being transported for diagnostic or investigational purposes, but excluding live infected animals. Diagnostic specimens resulting from medical practice and research are not considered a threat to public health.

However, if during transport exposure to a specimen could result in an infection, the specimen must be packaged, labeled and transported as an infectious substance.

Diagnostic specimens meeting the definition of the World Health Organization (WHO) Risk Group 4 (biological agents with high risk to the individual and to the community) must be classed and transported as Infectious Substances.

**Biological Products** are those products derived from living organisms that are manufactured and distributed in accordance with the requirements of national governmental authorities that may have special licensing requirements. They are used for prevention, treatment, or diagnosis of disease in humans or animals, or for development, experimental or investigational purposes related thereto.

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They include, but are not limited to, finished or unfinished products such as vaccines and diagnostic products.

**C. TRAINING**

All persons wishing to submit packages containing dangerous goods, including infectious substances, must become certified to ship dangerous goods by attending training. Certification must be renewed every two years. Contact EHRS to arrange for training.

Training will include;

- Classification and Identification of the material
- Packaging Requirements
- Marking and Labeling the Package
- Preparing the Shipping Papers

**D. RECORD-KEEPING**

All records must be retained for three (3) years from the date of shipment.