Instructions for Shipping Urine Specimens to CDC after a Chemical-Exposure Event

Guidance in Accordance with Packaging Instructions International Air Transport Authority (IATA) 650 Biological Substance Category B

For detailed instructions, see CDC's Shipping Instructions for Specimens Collected from People Who May Have Been Exposed to Chemical-Terrorism Agents.

1. Use a gridded box or individually wrapped cups sealed with evidence tape to separate urine cups. Place absorbent material in the bottom of the box and insert the cups.

2. Use one continuous piece of evidence tape to seal the gridded box or Saf-T-Pak inner leak-proof polybag (or equivalent) containing wrapped urine cup(s). Write initials half on the evidence tape and half on the box or bag.

3. Wrap the gridded box with absorbent material and secure with tape. Seal the box inside a Saf-T-Pak inner leak-proof polybag (or equivalent).

4. Place the sealed Saf-T-Pak inner leak-proof polybag (or equivalent) inside a white Tyvek® outer envelope (or equivalent). Note: If primary receptacles do not meet the internal pressure requirement of 35 kPa, use compliant secondary packaging materials.

5. Seal the opening of this envelope with a continuous piece of evidence tape. Write initials half on the evidence tape and half on the envelope.

6. Use polystyrene foam-insulated, corrugated fiberboard shipper to ship boxes to CDC. Place absorbent pad in the bottom of the shipper.

7. Place a layer of dry ice in the bottom of the shipper on top of the absorbent material. DO NOT use large chunks or flakes of dry ice.

8. Place the packaged urine cups in the shipper. Use absorbent material or cushioning material to minimize shifting while box is in transit. Place additional dry ice on top of samples.

9. Place the urine shipping manifest in a sealable plastic bag and put on top of the sample boxes inside the shipper. Keep your chain-of-custody documents for your files. Place lid on the shipper.

10. Secure the outer container lid with filamentous shipping tape. Place your return address in the upper left-hand corner of the shipper top and put the CDC Laboratory receiving address in the center.

For questions concerning this process, please contact:
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