

346.326 Exempt Human or Animal Specimens

Note: See Packaging Instructions 6H in Appendix C and DMM 601.10.17.9.

Exempt human or animal specimens as defined in 346.12d are not subject to regulation as hazardous materials but when presented for mailing must be triple-packaged in leakproof (for liquids) or siftproof (for solids) primary receptacles. Sufficient cushioning and absorbent materials must surround each primary receptacle containing liquid. Secondary containers for liquids must be leakproof. Secondary containers for solids must be siftproof. The primary and secondary packaging must be enclosed in a rigid outer shipping container. A single primary receptacle must not contain more than 500 ml of a liquid specimen or 500 grams of a solid specimen. Two or more primary receptacles whose combined volume does not exceed 500 ml (for liquids) or 500 grams (for solids) may be enclosed in a single secondary container. The secondary container cannot serve as the outer shipping container. The secondary container must be marked with the international biohazard symbol shown in Exhibit 346.321. The secondary container must be securely and snugly enclosed in a fiberboard box or container of equivalent strength that serves as the outer shipping container. A shipping paper is not required. The outer shipping container must be marked on the address side with the words "Exempt human specimen" or "Exempt animal specimen," as appropriate. In addition, at least one surface of the outer packaging must have a minimum dimension of 3.9 inches by 3.9 inches (100 mm by 100 mm). Exempt human and animal specimens are mailable as First-Class Mail, Priority Mail, Express Mail, or Package Services mail.

346.327 Proper Packaging of Mailable Materials

All mailable materials as identified in 346.212 must be properly packaged. Exhibit 346.327 lists the specific reference in 346 under which each type of mailable material must be packaged.

Exhibit 346.327

**Packaging References for Mailable Materials, Infectious Substances
(Hazard Class 6, Division 6.2)**

Material Being Mailed	Packaging Standards¹		
	Nonregulated	Category A	Category B
Blood for Transfusion	346.325	nm	346.321
Biological Product	346.325	nm	346.321
Culture or Stock	346.325	nm	346.321
Patient Specimen	n/a	nm	346.321
Exempt Human or Animal Specimen	346.326	n/a	n/a
Forensic Material	346.325	nm	346.321
Regulated Medical Waste	346.322	nm	346.322
Sharps Waste	346.322	nm	346.322
Toxin ²	346.31	nm	346.321
Treated Medical Waste	346.325	n/a	n/a
Used Health Care Product	346.323	nm	346.323

1. *nm = Nonmailable.
n/a = Not applicable.*
2. *Toxin means a Division 6.1 material from a plant, animal, or bacterial source. A toxin containing an infectious substance or a toxin contained in an infectious substance must be classified as Division 6.2; described as an infectious substance; and assigned to UN2814, UN2900, or UN3373, as appropriate. A Division 6.1 toxin that can qualify as an ORM-D material is permitted when packaged under 346.231 or 346.31.*

USPS Packaging Instruction 6H

Exempt Human or Animal Specimens

Reference DMM 601.10.17.9

Exempt human or animal specimens as defined in 346.12d are not subject to regulation as hazardous materials, but when presented for mailing, they must be properly packaged. See 346.326.

“Exempt human or animal specimen” means a human or animal sample (including, but not limited to, secretions, excreta, blood and its components, tissue and tissue fluids, and body parts) transported for routine testing not related to the diagnosis of an infectious disease.

Typically, exempt human specimens are specimens for which there is a low probability that the sample is infectious, such as specimens for drug or alcohol testing; cholesterol testing; blood glucose level testing; prostate-specific antigens (PSA) testing; testing to monitor heart, kidney, or liver function; pregnancy testing; and testing for diagnosis of noninfectious diseases such as cancer biopsies.

Proper Shipping Name

- Not applicable (not regulated under 49 CFR as a hazardous material in domestic commerce).

Mailability

- International Mail: Mailable. They are not subject to regulation as hazardous materials, but when presented for mailing, they must be packaged as identified in 346.326.
- Domestic Mail: Mailable with First-Class Mail, Priority Mail, Express Mail, or Package Services.

Required Packaging

Primary Receptacle

- Material must be triple-packaged in leakproof (for liquids) or siftproof (for solids) primary receptacles.
- A single primary receptacle must not contain more than 500 ml of a liquid specimen or 500 grams of a solid specimen.
- Two or more primary receptacles whose combined volume does not exceed 500 ml (for liquids) or 500 grams (for solids) may be enclosed in a single secondary container.
- Sufficient cushioning and absorbent materials must surround each primary receptacle containing liquid.

Secondary Container

- The secondary container cannot serve as the outer shipping container.

USPS Packaging Instructions for Mailable Hazardous Materials

- The secondary container must be securely and snugly enclosed in a fiberboard box or container of equivalent strength that serves as the outer shipping container. The outer shipping container must be rigid.
- The secondary container must be marked with the international biohazard symbol shown in [Exhibit 346.321](#).

Marking/Documentation

- The outer shipping container must be marked on the address side with the words "Exempt human specimen" or "Exempt animal specimen," as appropriate. In addition, at least one surface of the outer packaging must have a minimum dimension of 3.9 inches by 3.9 inches (100 mm by 100 mm).
- A shipping paper is not required.