

Biological Shipping FAQ

This sheet is designed to assist the shipper in properly classifying and packaging Div 6.2 material. This sheet is not intended to replace proper training and certification as required by the Department of Transportation.

Infectious Substance Shipping TheCryoGuys specialize in the safe handling and transport of biological materials and have included basic solutions for frequently asked questions in this reference guide.

STEP 1 – Classifying the material

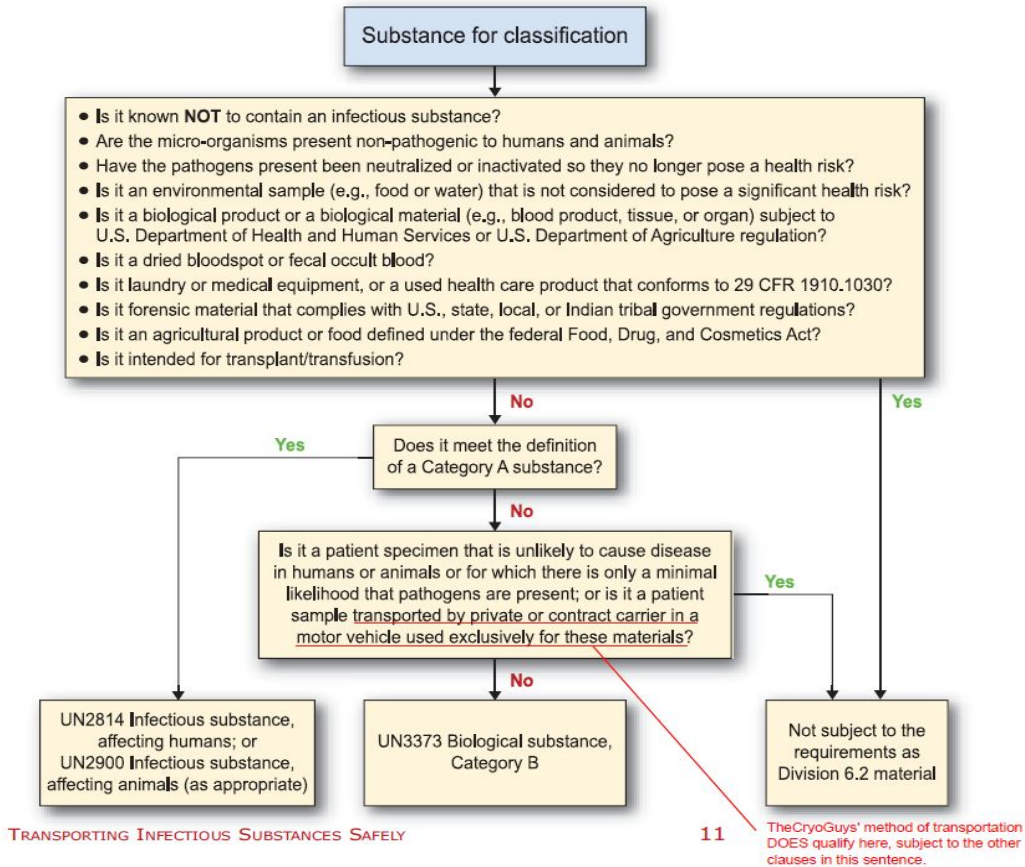
Q: Is my biological material an infectious substance?

A: Is your biological material – “known or reasonably expected to contain a pathogen (*micro-organism or other agent that can cause disease in humans or animals*)”? If yes, the biological material is considered a division 6.2 Infectious Substance. If no, it is not.

Q: How do I determine the proper shipping name for my infectious substance?

A: There are only three classification options for infectious substances.

- (1) **Infectious Substance, Category A** = an infectious substance in a form capable of causing permanent disability or life-threatening or fatal disease in otherwise healthy humans or animals when exposure occurs
- (2) **Biological Substance, Category B** = an infectious substance NOT in a form capable of causing permanent disability or life-threatening or fatal disease in otherwise healthy humans or animals when exposure occurs
- (3) **Exempt Patient Specimen** = a sample collected directly from humans or animals and transported for research, diagnosis, investigational activities, or disease treatment or prevention



Q: My infectious substance is cryogenically frozen. Can I ship it as “exempt” as long as it does not thaw?

A: Absolutely not. Certain infectious substances pose fewer risks while frozen, but it does not change the fact that it is an infectious substance. All classification and shipping regulations must be adhered to.

Q: Can someone else classify my biological material for me?

A: No. Understanding the source, history, handling and specific properties of a biological material is critical in determining its proper shipping name. Properly classifying a material is fundamental to safe handling and transport of the material.

STEP 2 – Packaging the material

Q: I’ve been trained and certified to properly package infectious material, but where can I source the packaging material I need?

A: All infectious material must be triple packaged in tested and certified UN packaging. When shipping a collection of samples, combination packaging systems greatly simplify the packaging process. If contracted to transport your material, TheCryoGuys will source sufficient packaging kits and ship them to your location prior to your shipment date.



Q: I’ve never used combination packaging before. How will I know if I’m using the packaging properly?

A: A detailed instruction booklet will be included in each packaging kit. Instruction videos are available online and TheCryoGuys’ Safety Department can be reached at (888) 279-6489 ext 4 with any questions.

STEP 3 – Transporting the material

Q: How will I know that my samples are maintained at proper temperature during transit?

A: Once properly packaged, the infectious material will be returned to either the shipper’s decontaminated freezer or a certified and decontaminated TCG rental unit. NIST-traceable temperature probes are placed inside each freezer prior to departure. These units are remotely monitored in real-time by both the driver-technicians and TCG’s dispatch office. A temperature and unit condition report will be emailed to designated contacts throughout the course of shipment. A complete shipment report including each unit’s history is available upon delivery.

Q: How long will my samples be in transit?

A: TheCryoGuys’ Bioscience Transport Vehicles are exclusive-use, expedited tractor-trailers which means that your material will get from Point A to Point B in the least amount of time safely possible.

Q: These samples are invaluable. How safe is TCG’s shipping method for infectious material?

A: TheCryoGuys’ bioscience shipping method is time tested and proven safe by ten years of claim-free, zero-loss history. TCG’s fully-redundant approach ensures a fail-safe is always available in case of emergency. All TCG personnel are extensively trained in biosafety, biosecurity and hazmat response.