

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR PACKAGING AND DESPATCH OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIALS TO THE PIRBRIGHT INSTITUTE**

The 'Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' licence permits the importation of biological material to The Pirbright Institute by 'AIRFREIGHT' from London Heathrow Airport. If it is not possible to deliver samples by airfreight then a courier designated by The Pirbright Institute may be used.

### **Diagnostic Services**

#### Non-vesicular diseases

- African horse sickness\*\*\*
- African swine fever
- Bluetongue\*\*\*
- Capripox viruses (goat pox, sheep pox and lumpy skin disease)
- Epizootic haemorrhagic disease virus\*\*\*
- Peste des petits ruminants

#### Vesicular diseases

- Foot-and-mouth disease
- Swine vesicular disease
- Vesicular stomatitis
- Vesicular exanthema of swine

All of the infectious diseases listed above require specific packaging and shipping according to International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), and The Pirbright Institute biosecurity regulations

\*\*\* *Samples may be shipped as non-infectious for import/export purposes.*

Advice concerning the sample type that should be sent and the optimal despatch conditions should be sought from the appropriate department within The Pirbright Institute. Sample collection advice and sample submission forms for investigation of suspected cases of vesicular and non-vesicular disease viruses are available on our website at <https://www.pirbright.ac.uk/our-science/diagnostic-surveillance>.

### **Notification of Shipment**

The shipment details must be agreed with The Pirbright Institute before despatch and the following information must be given:

1. Flight/Air Waybill number.
2. Tracking number from courier.
3. Date and time of expected arrival at London Heathrow.
4. Two points of contact for queries.
5. Submission Form.

Please contact reference laboratory administration prior to shipment via:

Email: [incoming.samples@pirbright.ac.uk](mailto:incoming.samples@pirbright.ac.uk)

Tel.: +44 (0)1483 231078 or +44 (0)1483 231446

### **Packaging Requirements**

Specimens for diagnosis of the pathogens listed above must be packaged according to ICAO following IATA protocol.

If samples are derived from culture they must be sent under category A classification and assigned to 'UN 2900 Infectious substance, affecting animals'. However, in The Pirbright Institute's professional opinion, all of the above listed diseases (with the exception of Bluetongue virus), whether culture samples or not, should be sent as category A shipments. This is due to the infectious nature of the agents and that the UK is currently recognised as being free of these biological materials. IATA-certified

personnel must package these and sign off a shipping declaration. If you are unsure on how to despatch category A shipment please contact The Pirbright Institute.

'IATA Packaging Instruction 650' must be followed for UN 3373 category B and packaging instruction 620 must be followed for UN 2900 category A shipments. Guidelines for packaging are provided below; see figures 1 and 2 for correct labelling methods.

For category B shipments, samples should be placed in a leak-proof primary container (not glass) that is wrapped in absorbent material and then placed in a crush- and leak-proof secondary container. This may be surrounded by sealed freezer packs or dry ice and enclosed in a strong outer package. If dry ice is used the outer packaging should allow the release of carbon dioxide. Under no circumstances must dry ice be placed in sealed containers due to the risk of explosion. A list of contents should be enclosed in a waterproof envelope between the secondary and outer packaging.

For category A shipments, follow the above instructions for category B. Additionally, samples must be placed in an IATA-approved secondary container that is classified to the appropriate UN specification (e.g. a BioPack with UN 4G/CLASS 6.2/11GB/2815 – please note '11GB' and '2815' will vary depending on the year, country of production and unique manufacturer number, respectively). The overpack, in which the dry ice may be placed, must also be classified under IATA-specified UN specifications. A maximum of 50mL of infectious substances can be contained in one BioPack when samples are shipped using a non-cargo aircraft.

Due to the nature of our laboratory, the parcel must only contain material that is to be processed at The Pirbright Institute. Also, please be aware, the packaging material including any thermal units cannot be returned to the sender or courier.

## Labelling

The outer packaging of the parcel must be clearly labelled with the following information:

1. Our import licence number for outside the EU is ITIMP18.1412. Please attach a copy within an envelope to the outside of the package.
2. Name and address of the department at The Pirbright Institute receiving the shipment. Please note that failure to correctly address the package to the correct consignee may result in delay or even destruction of the package.
3. Name and telephone number of the person responsible for sending the parcel.
4. Flight Number.
5. Air Waybill Number.
6. Dry Ice Label (if necessary).
7. Category B UN 3373 labelling or UN 2900 labelling (infectious substance), as appropriate.
8. If the parcel is sent **door to airport** the following instruction must be added:

Airfreight package for the attention of:  
Moonbridge Air and Project Services Limited  
"Batch ID DHI"  
Unit 304, Bedfont Industrial Park  
Challenge Rd  
Ashford, Middlesex  
TW15 1AX

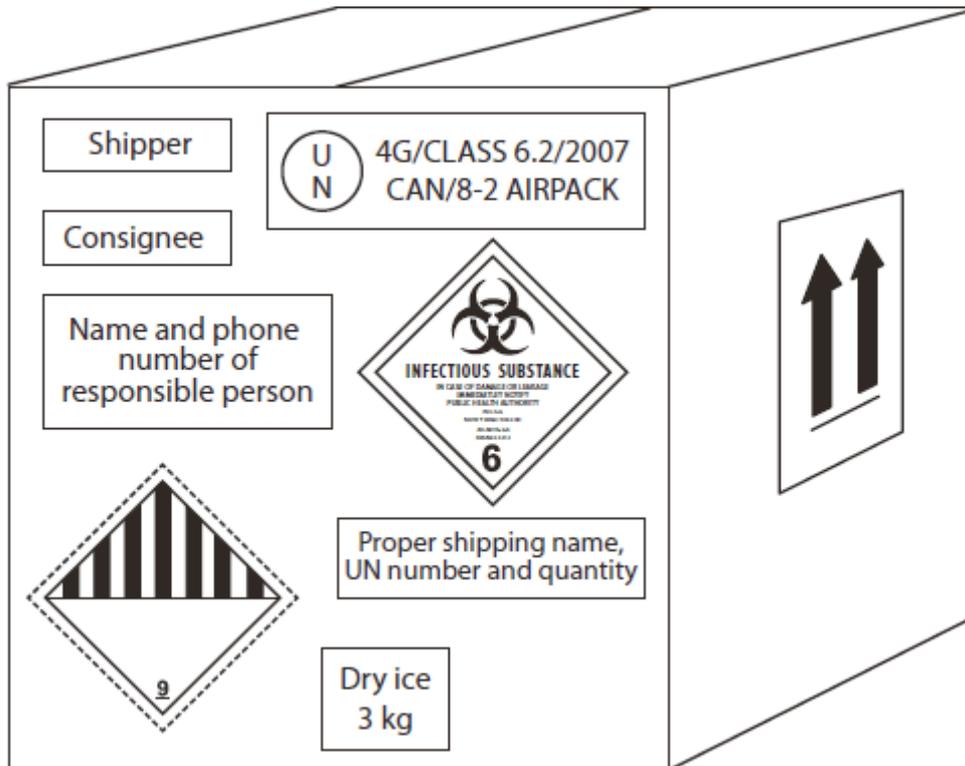
*Note – This shipment is for The Pirbright Institute*

Please contact Moonbridge via:

Email: ryans@moonbridge.co.uk and duncan@moonbridge.co.uk

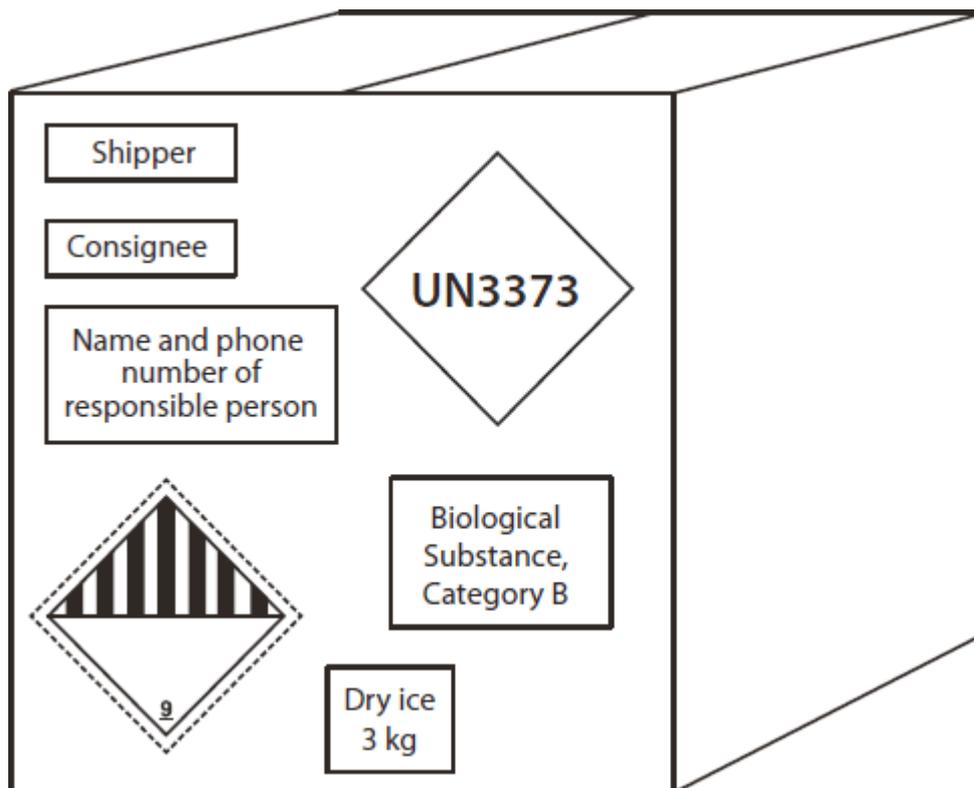
Tel.: +44 (0) 178 259555

**Labelling for Infectious Substances**  
**Category A with Dry Ice**



“Guidelines for Safe Work Practices in Human and Animal Medical Diagnostic Laboratories”, 2012,  
<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/su6101a1.htm>

**Labelling for Infectious Substances**  
**Category B with Dry Ice**



"Guidelines for Safe Work Practices in Human and Animal Medical Diagnostic Laboratories", 2012,  
<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/su6101a1.htm>