

**Packaging Instructions for  
Transport of Category B Infectious Substances  
by Ground Transport (i.e. Dunham Express)  
per Federal Register DOT 173.199**

**Biological Substance, Category B / UN 3373**

**A Category B infectious substance must be packaged in triple packaging consisting of a primary receptacle, a secondary packaging, and a rigid body outer packaging.**

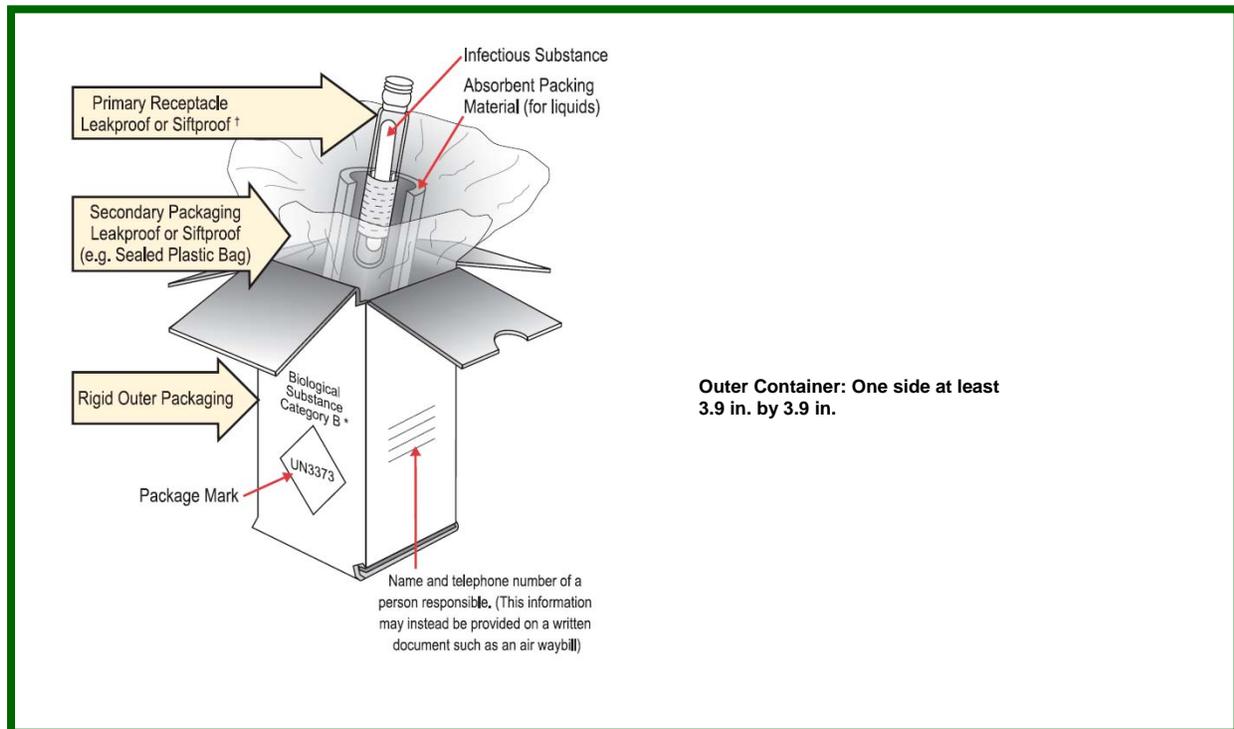
- 1. Primary Receptacle:** must be leakproof for liquids or siftproof for solids, may be glass, metal or plastic (i.e. vial, tube, slant, swab, etc.)
  - Seal the primary receptacle with tape or parafilm for reinforcement.
  - Wrap the primary receptacle in absorbent material. The absorbent material must be of sufficient quantity to absorb the entire contents of the primary receptacle.
  - If transporting multiple primary receptacles, make sure they are individually wrapped in cushioning material to prevent breakage during shipping.
- 2. Secondary Packaging:** must be leakproof for liquids or siftproof for solids ( i.e. sealed biohazard bag, styrofoam<sup>®</sup> or screw-capped metal or container)
  - Place the primary receptacle in a biohazard bag or some other secondary packaging of your choice.
  - Seal the biohazard bag, or other secondary packaging of your choice
  - Make sure the outside of the biohazard bag, or other secondary packaging of your choice is labeled with an *international biohazard symbol*.
- 3. Outer Packaging:** must be rigid and capable of successfully passing the drop test (i.e. Styrofoam<sup>®</sup> or Fiber Board Box)  
**Minimum size:** One side of the outer packaging must be at least 3.9 inches by 3.9 inches (100 mm X 100 mm)
  - Place the secondary packaging in a Styrofoam<sup>®</sup> container or other rigid outer packaging of your choice. Secure the secondary packaging using cushioning material or supports to maintain it in its original position in the package.
  - If the specimen must be kept cool, place a cool pack or dry ice between the secondary packaging and the outer packaging.
  - Include a requisition form or itemized list of contents between the secondary packaging and the outer packaging. Seal the form in a plastic bag to keep it dry, if the package also contains a cool pack or dry ice.
  - Close outer packaging. If using dry ice, do not seal the outer packaging completely, as the outer packaging must allow the release of CO<sub>2</sub>.

4. **Labeling:** should be placed on a single surface whenever possible and labels may not overlap

- Place a UN 3373 label on the package so that the diamond is on point.
- The proper shipping name “Biological substances, Category B must be marked on the package adjacent to the UN 3373 diamond.
- Label with the consignees’s name and address.
- Label with the shipper’s name and address.
- Label with a responsible person’s/agency’s name and telephone number on the package. This person/agency must be knowledgeable about the material being shipped and must be available during normal business hours.

## Biological Substance, Category B / UN 3373 by Ground Transport - Packaging Requirements -

**Specimen must be Triple-Packaged.**



Adapted from:

[http://hazmat.dot.gov/training/Transporting\\_Infectious\\_Substances\\_Safely.pdf](http://hazmat.dot.gov/training/Transporting_Infectious_Substances_Safely.pdf)