DEFINITIONS
(49 CFR 173.134)

An **infectious substance** is a viable microorganism, or its toxin, that causes or may cause disease in humans or animals. It includes agents listed in 42 CFR 72.3 of the regulations of the Department of Health and Human Services and any other agent that causes or may cause severe, disabling or fatal disease.

A **regulated medical waste** is a waste, or reusable material, that contains an infectious substance and is generated in the diagnosis, treatment, or research of humans or animals. This definition does not include discarded cultures or stocks.

A **biological product** is a material prepared and manufactured in accordance with certain regulations of the Department of Agriculture or the Department of Health and Human Services.

A **diagnostic specimen** is any human or animal material being shipped for purposes of diagnosis. It includes but is not limited to excreta, secreta, blood, blood components, tissue, and tissue fluids.

Hazard Communication
(see the applicable Subpart of 49 CFR Part 172)

Each offeror of a Division 6.2 material must: describe the material on shipping papers (Subpart C); mark (Subpart D) and label (Subpart E) the package; and provide emergency response information (Subpart G).

Additional Requirements

Training (Subpart H of 49 CFR Part 172)
- All hazmat employees
- General awareness, function specific, and safety
- Test and maintain record
- Retrain every 2 years

Incident Reporting (49 CFR 171.15)
- Any infectious substance spill, contact Center for Disease Control - CDC (1-800-232-0124)
- Other reportable hazardous material, contact the Department of Transportation's National Response Center - NRC (1-800-424-8802)

U.S. Department of Transportation
Research and Special Programs Administration
400 Seventh St., S.W.
DHM-50
Washington, DC 20590

INFECTIOUS SUBSTANCES

What You Need to Know

U.S. Department of Transportation
Research and Special Programs Administration
Hazardous Materials Safety

Department of Transportation Regulations for Infectious Substances and Regulated Medical Waste

The safe transportation of hazardous materials is a matter of concern to the public, Congress, and Federal, state and local officials. To ensure public safety and minimize risks posed by hazardous materials in transportation, Congress requires the Secretary of Transportation to prescribe regulations for safe transportation of hazardous materials.

The Research and Special Programs Administration is the agency within the Department of Transportation responsible for developing and issuing the hazardous materials regulations (HMR; 49 CFR Parts 171-180). The HMR govern the classification, hazard communication, and packaging of hazardous materials for transportation.

Infectious substances, including regulated medical waste, are one class (Division 6.2) of hazardous materials regulated under the HMR. An infectious substance may not be offered for transportation or transported in interstate or foreign commerce by rail, water, air, or highway, unless the requirements of the HMR are met.

To obtain general hazardous materials transportation information, call the:

INFO-LINE

1-800-HMR49-22

(1-800-467-4922)

In the Washington, DC metro area, the number is (202) 366-4488.

NOTE:

This pamphlet highlights rules and exceptions. It does not take the place of the published regulations.

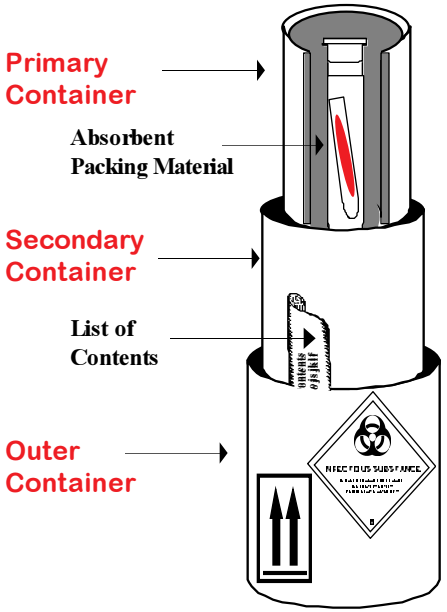
PACKAGING

Infectious Substances Packaging

(49 CFR 173.196)

- Watertight primary & secondary inner containers
- Primary or secondary inner containers capable of withstanding internal pressure of 95 kpa at -40° F. to 131° F.
- Outer packaging - smallest external dimension at least 100 mm (3.9 in)
- Capable of passing:
  - 9 m (30 ft) drop test
  - Penetration test
  - Vibration standard

A typical infectious substance packaging configuration (closures not shown):



Exceptions

(49 CFR 173.134)

Regulated medical waste transported by a private or contract carrier is excepted from packaging and labeling requirements if:

- Packaged in rigid, non-bulk packagings conforming to general packaging requirements of §§ 173.24 and 173.24a, and
- Packaged and marked with the "BIOHAZARD" marking in accordance with the Department of Labor regulations in 29 CFR 1910.1030.

Diagnostic specimens and Biological products are not subject to the HMR, except when transported as regulated medical waste.

Certain wastes may not be subject to the HMR (see 49 CFR 173.134).

Regulated Medical Waste Packaging

(49 CFR 173.197)

- Non-bulk max capacity = 450 L (119 gal) or less
- Non-bulk max net mass = 400 kg (882 lbs) or less
- Meets UN Packing Group II,
- Rigid,
- Leak resistant,
- Impervious to moisture,
- Of sufficient strength to prevent tearing or bursting under normal conditions of use and handling,
- Sealed to prevent leakage during transport,
- Puncture resistant for sharps,
- Break-resistant, and
- Tightly lidded or stoppered for fluids in quantities greater than 20 cc.

A typical regulated medical waste packaging configuration: