



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

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COMMISSIONER

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March 12, 2007

Re: New requirements for the packaging and shipping of rabies specimens.

Dear Rabies Specimen Submitter:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of changes to federal regulations (49 CFR 171 thru 173) that affect the way you package and ship rabies specimens to the Department of State Health Services (DSHS). On June 6, 2006, the Department of Transportation published final rules revising the transportation requirements for infectious substances that are consistent with revised international standards. These rules became effective October 1, 2006. The changes pertaining to the shipment of rabies specimens are summarized below.

- The classification system for Division 6.2 materials was changed to a two-tiered system—Category A and Category B. (Note: Specimens from animals suspected of having rabies are classified as Category B)
- The proper shipping name “Diagnostic specimens” has been replaced with “Biological substance, Category B.”
- A shipper of Biological Substances, Category B must be familiar with 49 CFR parts 171 through 179. These regulations are available online at the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration’s website at <http://hazmat.dot.gov/>.
- Packaging and marking requirements have been adopted for Category A and Category B infectious substances that are consistent with those in international standards.
 - ◆ Category B infectious substances must be packaged in a triple packaging consisting of a primary receptacle, a secondary packaging, and a rigid outer packaging.
 - ◆ The packaging must be capable of withstanding a drop from a height of 1.2 meters (4 feet).
 - ◆ The name, address, and telephone number of a person knowledgeable about the Category B infectious substance must be provided on a written document, such as an air waybill, accompanying the shipment or on the package.
 - ◆ The outer package must be marked with a diamond shaped UN 3373 label.



- ◆ The proper shipping name “Biological Substances, Category B” must be marked on the outer packaging adjacent to the UN 3373 label.

These changes have been incorporated into the DSHS Shipping and Packaging Instructions for Rabies Specimens, which I have enclosed. The UN 3373 labels may be purchased from suppliers that sell shipping containers and packaging materials such as:

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| ◆ Lab Safety
www.Labsafety.com
800-356-0783 | ◆ ULine Shipping Supply Specialists
www.ULINE.com
800-958-5463 |
| ◆ Label Master
www.Labelmaster.com
800-621-5808 | ◆ Shamrock Labels
www.shamrocklabels.com
800.323-0249 |

If you have any questions concerning these changes you may email me at sherry.clay@dshs.state.tx.us or call me 512-458-7318 ext. 2423. If you have any questions about rabies testing please call Letha Zuckero at 1-888 963-7111 x7595 or (512) 458-7595.

Sincerely,

Sherry Clay
QC Unit Manager
Laboratory Services Section

Enclosure