





Shipping Dangerous Goods – Biological & Infectious Substances

DISCLAIMER: These materials are provided as guidance only to assist properly trained shippers. All shippers are responsible to ensure they are properly trained to ship dangerous goods. These materials do not alter, satisfy, or influence any regulatory requirements. The contents of these materials are subject to change and Purolator accepts no liability for loss or damage resulting from changes, errors, omissions, or misinterpretations of these materials.

Biological Substance Category B – UN3373

Category B infectious substances are pathogens that present a relatively low risk in the event of a release and are those microorganisms that are not included in the designated list of pathogens (Section 2.36 TDGR), nor do they present similar characteristics as pathogens appearing in the designated list. Category B infectious substances are assigned to UN 3373 and are declared “BIOLOGICAL SUBSTANCES, CATEGORY B”. It is the responsibility of the shipper to determine the classification of any infectious substance.

	Air shipments	Ground shipments
Safety marks on package	UN3373 mark, Biological substances, Category B, Name, address and phone number of a responsible person	UN3373 mark, Biological substances, Category B
Hazard mark	Yes 	Yes 
Shippers' declaration	No	No
Other requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Package must meet criteria of Packing Instruction 650 • Name and address of shipper and receiver must be on the package • Name, address and phone number of a responsible person on the bill of lading 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Package must meet criteria for Type 1B shipment • 24-hour emergency phone number marked on the package
DG surcharge	Yes	Yes
Reference	ICAO TI Packing Instruction 650	TDGR Sections 1.39, 5.16



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Purolator's E-Ship® Server and online shipping have a UN3373 option in the menu choices. Choosing this option prints the UN3373 icon on the bill of lading. The shipper must add the information noted in the "other requirements" above.

Transport Canada has a helpful document that provides further information on shipping infectious substances. The document can be found on their website as a [TDG Bulletin on Infectious Substances](#).

Infectious Substance Category A

Category A infectious substances are those pathogens that present a high degree of risk in the event of a release and are included in the designated list of pathogens (Section 2.36 TDGR). Purolator can transport Category A Infectious Substances under certain conditions which require prior approval by the Purolator Dangerous Goods department. Category A infectious substances must be shipped as:

- UN 2814 Infectious Substances Affecting Humans or
- UN 2900 Infectious Substances Affecting Animals

Other Biological Substances

Biological substances, including blood samples and other bodily fluids and tissues, for which the shipper has no reason to believe that they contain pathogens, are not subject to the regulations provided they are in a packaging that is designed, constructed, filled, closed and maintained so that under normal conditions of transport, including handling, there can be no release of the contents. A three-ply package consisting of a leak-proof inner receptacle, a leak-proof intermediate package with absorbent material placed in between and a strong, rigid outer package is strongly recommended. These shipments are classified as Exempt Human Specimens and are not subject to the Regulations except that the words "Exempt Human Specimens" must be indicated on the outside of the package and on the bill of lading.

Blood that is intended for transfusion and organs prepared for transplant are not subject to the requirements of the regulations. Dried blood spots and swabs intended for analysis are also exempt from the regulations.