

UN3373 Packaging Requirements

Packages containing Biological Substances, Category B (UN3373) specimens must be packaged and shipped appropriately to meet IATA 6.6.1 regulations.

Specimens being returned to Avero Diagnostics using an Avero Diagnostics test kit meet these requirements. The patient specimen should be placed in a biohazard bag containing absorbent material and then placed in the test kit. Avero Diagnostics test kit(s) can then be placed in a FedEx or UPS UN3373 Clinical Pak, or placed inside a shipping box. The outermost container must display the UN3373 diamond-shaped label.

Please ensure that patient specimens being shipped to Avero Diagnostics are packaged correctly and meet the IATA 6.6.1 requirements. The components of a properly packaged shipment are described below.

Components of a Properly Packaged Shipment

- 1. Primary Container** – A watertight receptacle made of glass, metal or plastic that is leak proof (skirted stopper, metal crimp seal, screw top vial, etc.). The primary container holds the patient specimen (Vacutainer, Progensa vial, Aptima Vial, ThinPrep Vial, SurePath Vial, Urine Collection cup, biopsy vial, etc.).
- 2. Secondary Container** – The secondary container must be watertight and leak proof. A biohazard bag can serve as the secondary container. Each biohazard bag should only contain the primary container(s) for one patient. **Do not add multiple patient samples into one biohazard bag.** The test requisition should be placed in the pocket on the back of the biohazard bag.
- 3. Absorbent Material** – Absorbent material must be placed between the primary and secondary containers. It must have the capability to absorb the full volume of the primary container should it leak. The biohazard bags provided by Avero Diagnostics contain a piece of superabsorbent material that meet this requirement. Cotton balls, paper towels, or cellulose wadding can also be used.
- 4. Sturdy Outer Packaging** – A rigid outer packaging constructed of corrugated fiberboard, wood, metal or plastic appropriate for the size of the contents. The outer packaging must also display the UN3373 diamond-shaped label (see example at right).

A Styrofoam cooler is not considered rigid outer packaging. The cooler must be placed inside of a properly sized corrugated fiberboard box that displays a UN3373 diamond-shaped label.

Avero Diagnostics offers UN337 compliant shipping boxes in a wide variety of sizes. Please contact Client Services or your Sales Representative to place your supply orders.

If you have any questions about packaging requirements, please contact Client Services at **1.877.232.9924**.



focused on
answers.

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