

# Rabies Specimen Collection, Processing and Shipping

Public Health Policy and Programs Branch  
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

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## DESIGNATION OF SPECIMENS AS PER TDG REGULATIONS

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### **Exempt Animal Specimen vs. Biological Substance, Category B:**

#### **1) Exempt Animal Specimens:**

If there is no particular reason to believe that an animal specimen contains rabies virus, but it is being submitted for testing as a precaution (*i.e.* to confirm that it is negative), it may be shipped as an “Exempt Animal Specimen”, as per section 1.42 of the Transport of Dangerous Goods (TDG) Regulations. Dogs/cats/ferrets that do not survive the full term of the required 10-day observation period, but are believed to have died due to causes other than rabies (renal failure, injuries from vehicle collisions, etc.) should be shipped as “Exempt Animal Specimens”.

All bats should be shipped as “Exempt Animal Specimens”.

Specimens shipped as “Exempt Animal Specimen” should be packaged and handled in the same manner as suspect rabies samples, but the shipping label only requires the name, address and phone number of the shipper and receiver, and the shipment designation name (Exempt Animal Specimen).

Please use the “Exempt Animal Specimens” shipping label template provided.

The shipping label does not require any dangerous goods safety marks, and the specimen should not be identified as a dangerous goods shipment on the Purolator pick-up order, as this carries an additional charge of \$38.00 per shipment.

## **2) Biological Substance, Category B (Dangerous Goods)**

Any animal specimen actually believed to contain rabies virus (*i.e.* specimen from an animal exhibiting neurological signs consistent with rabies) is classified as an Infectious Substance, Class 6.2 Dangerous Goods.

Animal specimens believed to contain rabies virus are designated and shipped as “Biological Substance, Category B” (UN3373) as per subsection 2.36(2) of the TDG regulations.

This designation must appear on the shipping label, along with the name, address and phone number of the shipper and receiver, and the Dangerous Goods safety marks (see below for more information).

Anyone packaging a Biological Substance, Category B sample must have read and initialled the TDG training information, and must have an OAVT-issued, signed TDG certificate of training.

### Dangerous Goods Safety Marks for Biological Substances, Category B:

The outer packaging for any animal specimen believed to contain rabies virus must be marked with the UN3373 diamond in contrasting colours (*e.g.* black on white) meeting the following requirements:

- Black letters and numbers must be at least 6 mm high, and a black line at least 2 mm wide
- White background
- The diamond (square on point) must be at least 5 cm x 5 cm

The outer packaging must also be marked with a 24-hour telephone number. The number must be a line that is answered 24-hours a day (it cannot be a cell phone number or an answering machine). Health units should provide the OAVT with this 24-hour number for shipments which will need to go as Category B.

Please use the “Category B” shipping label template provided.