

Australian Standard[®]

**Packaging for surface transport of
biological material that may cause
disease in humans, animals and plants**

STANDARDS
Australia



This Australian Standard® was prepared by Committee HE-007, Packaging of Infectious Materials. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 19 January 2007.

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The following are represented on Committee HE-007:

- Australasian Association of Clinical Biochemists
 - Australian and New Zealand Clinical Waste Management Industry Group
 - Australian Association of Pathology Practices Inc
 - Australian Society for Microbiology Incorporated
 - Australia Quarantine and Inspection Services
 - Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing
 - Commonwealth Department of Transport and Regional Services
 - CSIRO Australian Animal Health Laboratory
 - Department for Environment and Heritage, SA
 - Department of Environment and Conservation, NSW
 - National Pathology Accreditation Advisory Council
 - Public Health Laboratory Network
 - Queensland Health
 - Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia
 - Transport Workers' Union of Australia
 - University of Melbourne
 - University of Queensland
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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee HE-007, Packaging of Infectious Materials. It stems from a need, expressed by the Commonwealth Department of Transport and Regional Services and the Australian Society for Microbiology Incorporated, for a Standard on packaging of biological material for surface transport.

The objectives of this Standard are as follows:

- (a) To responsibly manage risks to ensure that—
 - (i) the workforce is properly protected when they handle the packaged biological material without the necessity of personal protective equipment (PPE), or specialist training; and
 - (ii) the community is provided with a level of assurance that appropriate measures have been taken for safe transportation and containment of biological material.
- (b) To establish a national Standard for the packaging and surface transport of biological material including those for investigation and research.

Appendix A is essentially based on United Nations Recommendation on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Model Regulations, 14th edition 2005, currently under review for inclusion in the 7th edition of the Australian Dangerous Goods Code (ADG Code). Further assistance from this UN publication on packaging definition, classification of infectious substances into categories and packaging instructions has been taken while preparing this Standard.

The term 'informative' has been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which it applies. An 'informative' appendix is only for information and guidance.

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FOREWORD

This Standard is based on the premise that the inherent risks to the community associated with the transportation of potentially infectious and infectious biological material are minimized by adequate packaging.

The requirements for these packaging types are set out in the content of this Australian Standard. It is the responsibility of the organization, management and the individual to safely package biological material for surface transport.

World Health Organization (WHO)—Transport of Infectious Substances WHO/CDS/CSR/LYO/2004.9, recognizes that diagnostic specimens resulting from medical practice are considered a negligible threat to public health.

Australian Government, Department of Health and Ageing—*Infection Control Guidelines for the Prevention of Transmission of Infectious Diseases in the Health Care Setting* presumes that all bodily fluids are infectious and require standard and additional precautions. Although there is only a low probability that such biological material will be infectious, these precautions should be used when packaging such biological materials.

The management of clinical waste is covered by AS/NZS 3816, *Management of clinical and related wastes*, and a range of state and territory regulations.

STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

Australian Standard

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1 SCOPE

This Standard defines the categories of biological material and specifies requirements for packaging and marking for the surface transport of biological material which may be hazardous to the community and environment.

This Standard defines three categories of biological material (see Clause 4) and specifies packaging requirements for surface transport of Category B and Category C material (see Note 1).

This Standard does not apply to the following:

- (a) Blood for transfusion, blood products, and tissues and organs for transplantation.
- (b) Blood or blood components that health professionals have determined are acceptable for transfusion or transplantation or for the preparation of blood products.
- (c) Genetically modified organisms (see Note 3), live animals and hospital laundry. The Standard acknowledges packaging of these biological materials is subject to the requirements of their relevant authorities.
- (d) Substances such as smears on absorbent paper, hair, nails, paraffin embedded blocks of processed tissue and fixed slides.

NOTES:

- 1 Biological material being transported by air, sea or post is subject to other packaging requirements such as The International Air Transport Association (IATA), International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), *The International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code (IMDG)* or *Australia Post Dangerous and Prohibited Goods Postal Guide*.
- 2 Where the transport is likely to be multi-modal, the packaging requirements of ALL modes must be met. For example, if a package is to go by both air and road, the packaging requirements for air will satisfy both requirements.
- 3 Requirements for the packaging of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) are detailed in the *Guidelines for the Transport of GMOs* issued by the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator (OGTR).

2 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS

The following documents are referred to in this Standard:

AS/NZS 2243	Safety in laboratories
2243.3	Part 3: Microbiological aspects and containment facilities
2243.10	Part 10: Storage of chemicals

NTC (National Transport Commission)

Australian Code for the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road and Rail (ADG Code)

Australia Post

Australia Post Dangerous and Prohibited Goods and Packaging Post Guide