

Medical Courier Compliance & Hazmat Clarification (UN3373)

BOTTOM LINE: You do NOT need hazmat certification for 99% of medical courier work.

Most medical specimens are classified as UN3373 Category B, which is explicitly EXEMPT from DOT hazmat regulations.

What You Are Transporting (UN3373 Category B – Exempt)

- Blood specimens
- Urine samples
- Tissue samples
- Saliva / swab samples
- Most pharmaceuticals
- Sealed chemotherapy drugs
- Medical supplies and equipment

What UN3373 Category B Requires (Courier Responsibilities)

- Do NOT open packages
- Keep specimens upright and secured
- Maintain temperature if required (cooler + ice packs)
- Deliver only to authorized personnel

What You Actually Need to Operate

- Commercial auto insurance (\$190–380/month)
- Cargo insurance (\$100k medical goods, \$39–65/month)
- Bloodborne pathogen training (\$20–50, online)
- Basic safety equipment (cooler, gloves, ice packs)

What WOULD Require Hazmat (You Will Not Be Doing This)

- Category A infectious substances (Ebola, TB cultures, weaponized agents)
- CDC / BSL-3 or BSL-4 research shipments
- Radioactive or chemical materials

Insurance Language (Critical)

Correct script to use with insurers:

“Business errand running, medical specimens classified as UN3373 Category B, no hazmat.”

Using the word ‘hazmat’ incorrectly can inflate insurance quotes to \$600–1,200/month.

When Clients Ask About “Hazmat Training”

Correct response:

“I’m trained in bloodborne pathogen safety and UN3373 Category B specimen handling. The materials I transport are exempt from DOT hazmat classification, but I follow all biological safety protocols.”

Actual Certification Path

- Week 1–3: No certifications required beyond insurance
- Month 1–2: Bloodborne pathogen training + HIPAA awareness
- Month 2–6: Optional CPR / First Aid
- Government contracts: Same certs + past performance

Final Summary

You are transporting UN3373 Category B exempt materials — not hazmat. No hazmat CDL, endorsement, placards, or shipping papers are required. Do not let confusion delay your launch.