 <small>CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION</small>	Division of Parasitic Diseases and Malaria		
Shipping Dried Blood Spots			
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1.0 Purpose

This document provides instruction for packaging dried blood spots for shipment. Shipping should always be done using an approved courier.

2.0 Procedure/Guidelines

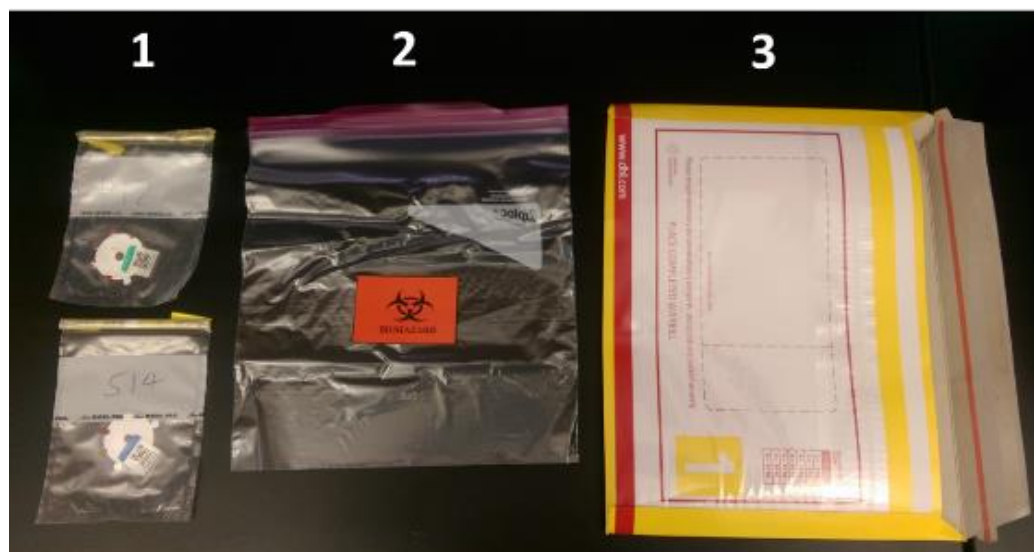
2.1 SHIPPING DRIED BLOOD SPOTS

- 2.1.1. **DBS specimens can be shipped by mail or other carrier with no reasonable expectations of occupational exposure to blood or other potentially infectious material (Federal Register. 39 CFR part 111 and 49 CFR part 173).**

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and the United States Postal Service (USPS) consider DBS specimens nonregulated, exempt materials. DOT has harmonized its regulations with the regulations issued by

- the International Air Transporter Association (IATA)
- World Health Organization's Guidance on Regulations for the Transport of Infectious Substances, and
- International Civil Aviation Organization's Technical Instructions for Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air


- 2.1.2. **Dried blood spots need to be triple-packed for shipping**



Package 1 = individual dried blood spots inside small plastic bag

Package 2 = multiple DBS (approx. 100) placed inside larger plastic bag

- ➔ Dessicant should be placed in the secondary package (best done at time of sample collection)
- ➔ A biohazard label is placed on or inside secondary package
 - This meets the US Occupational Health and Safety requirements for DBS

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Package 3 = high quality paper or Tyvek envelope that seals (example below)




2.2 Preparing the Outer Shipping Container

- 2.2.1. Triple-packaged DBS should be placed in a rigid outer shipping container (such as a cardboard box).
- 2.2.2. The outer shipping container must have a complete return address and delivery address.
- 2.2.3. No content markings (such as UN3373 codes) should be placed on the outer shipping container

2.3 Additional Shipping Requirements and Recommendations

- 2.3.1. DBS can be shipped at ambient temperature. Cold packs are not recommended.
- 2.3.2. Always follow local postal, courier, and other transport regulations.
- 2.3.3. When shipping DBS known to contain an infectious agent, use special precautions and follow international, national, and local regulations (e.g., required packaging and an outside warning label).
- 2.3.4. Provide proper shipping documentation – waybill, import permit or customs letter (if required) and Pro Forma Invoice (recommended for clearance through US customs).
- 2.3.5. The shipping plan should be discussed at the outset of the study. It may be useful to supply certain items like packing tape and Package 3 high-quality paper envelopes.

3.0 References

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- 3.1 CDC Shipping Guidelines for Dried Blood Spot Specimens (24 October 2017). Available at https://www.cdc.gov/labstandards/pdf/nsqap/Bloodspot_Transportation_Guidelines.pdf
- 3.2 Federal Register. 39 CFR part 111 New Mailing Standards for Division 6.2 Infectious Substances. 2006; Section 10.17.9(b). Available at: www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2006-11-01/pdf/E618062.pdf [Accessed 2017 December 17].
- 3.3 Federal Register. 49 CFR part 173 Shippers General Requirements for Shipments and packaging. 2010; Section 173.134(b). Available at: <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2010-title49-vol2/pdf/CFR2010-title49-vol2-part173.pdf> [Accessed 2017 December 17].
- 3.4 US Postal Service. 346 Toxic Substances and Infectious Substances (Hazard Class 6). 346.234 Nonregulated Materials. Available at: https://pe.usps.com/text/pub52/pub52c3_024.htm?q=infectious&t=H&s=R&p=1&c=Pub52 [Accessed 2017 December 17].
- 3.5 International Air Transporter Association (IATA). Division 6.2- Infectious Substances. Available at: <https://www.iata.org/whatwedo/cargo/dgr/Documents/infectioussubstance-classification-DGR56-en.pdf> [Accessed 2017 December 17].
- 3.6 World Health Organization. Guidance on regulations for the transport of infectious substances 2017/2018. Geneva: WHO/WHE/CPI/2017.8.

4.0 Attachments/Appendix N/A

5.0 Revision History

Rev #	DCR #	Changes Made to Document	Date
1	DPDM-2018-008	New Document	05/24/2018


6.0 Approval Signatures

Approved By: Signature on File 5/30/2018
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