



Suggestions for Shipping Tumor Samples – US Customs Instructions

Formalin-fixed* tissues are not generally considered to be infectious specimens because they have been biologically inactivated. Thus, the possibility for these materials to pose an infectious disease risk is extremely low. Even so, these materials should be packaged in a manner that will prevent any possibility for release of liquids while in transit. This can be achieved through the following actions:

- Minimize the amount of free liquid in the specimen containers; the less liquid in the package, the smaller the potential for leakage. Once the sample is formalin fixed (24-48 hrs), you can have your vet wrap the tumor in formalized gauze sponges to reduce the chance of spillage.
- Have the vet place the sample in a non-breakable primary container with a leak-proof seal (i.e. screw top jar, not snap cap); reinforce screw tops with parafilm or equivalent sealing tape. Do not open this container once your vet has sealed it as formalin is a suspected human carcinogen.
- Package the primary container and enough absorbent material (cotton balls, paper towels) to absorb **all liquids** (in the event of a leak) in a leakproof secondary packaging (larger plastic container, sturdy Ziploc bags, etc.).
- Use a sturdy outer box (one that can withstand a 4 ft. drop is a good rule of thumb and has to have one surface larger than 100mm = approximately 4 inches) to contain the secondarily packaged primary containers.
- In a separate Ziploc bag, place a copy of the dog's medical record including a pathology report, a 3-generation pedigree and your contact information and place the bag in the outer box just prior to sealing the box.
- Before sealing the outer box, assure that all free space is taken up in the box. The final package should not "rattle". If it does, use "spacers" such as Styrofoam wedges, packing peanuts, bubble wrap etc. to take up extra space that could allow materials to shift while in transit.
- It is recommended that orientation arrows be drawn or placed on 2 opposite sides of the box so that transit personnel do not store the box on its side. Clearly in one (1) inch letters, mark the box "**EXEMPT ANIMAL SPECIMEN**".

*Make sure that the formalin solution your vet is using to fix the sample is LESS than 10%. Formalin mixtures that contain a final formaldehyde concentration of 10% or greater are classified as "aviation regulated liquids" and must be shipped as a Dangerous Good and cannot be shipped in the regular mail.

Take the package to the Post Office where the Custom Form 2976 and fill it out as shown (see sample below). **Make sure to use all CAPITAL letters when filling out the form.** This form will be affixed to the outer box. It is recommended that you ship the package 'Canada - Air Letter - post', as long as it weighs less than four (4) pounds.

See the SCARF website <http://www.samoyedhealthfoundation.org/research/help-with-expenses> to find out how SCARF can help to defray your costs for participating in one of our sponsored research projects.

References: *MSU Office of Radiation, Chemical & Biological Safety – Biosafety Resource, 6/2003 and*
http://hazmat.dot.gov/training/Transporting_Infectious_Substances_Safely.pdf



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**United States Postal Service
Customs Declaration**

May be opened officially

CN 22

See Instructions on Reverse

Do not duplicate without USPS approval.

Cut

☐ Gift☐ Commercial sample☐ Documents☒ OtherQuantity and detailed description of
contents (1)Weight (2)
lb. oz.Value (3)
(US \$)**MAMMARY TUMOR IN
FORMALIN SOLUTION****\$1.00***For commercial items only*
If known, HS tariff number (4) and country
of origin of goods (5)

Total Weight (6)

Total Value
(7) (US \$)I, the undersigned, whose name and address are given on the item,
certify that the particulars given in this declaration are correct and that
this item does not contain any dangerous article or articles prohibited by
legislation or by postal or customs regulations.

Date and sender's signature (8)

Ship Date *Samoyed Owner's Signature*

PS Form 2976, January 2004

Customs Declaration CN 22 — Sender's DeclarationI, the undersigned, whose name and address are given on the item, certify that the particulars given in this
declaration are correct and that this item does not contain any dangerous article or articles prohibited by
legislation or by postal or customs regulations. This copy will be retained at the post office for 30 days.

Sender's Name & Address

**SAMOYED OWNER
1 GREAT DOG STREET
ANYTOWN, ANYSTATE 12345
USA**

Addressee's Name & Address

**Dr. Monique Doré
Département de pathologie et microbiologie
Faculté de médecine vétérinaire
Université de Montréal
3200 Sicotte
St-Hyacinthe, Québec
Canada J2S 7C6**

Date and sender's signature

Ship Date*Samoyed Owner's Signature*

Detached from PS Form 2976, January 2004

Post Office Copy