

Memo no.: 2024-046
Date: 17-Oct-2024
Memo to: Clients
Re: ***Labelling Packages and the Transportation of Dangerous Goods (TDG) Act and Regulations***

ICL provides some complimentary routine courier services including packaging systems.

Couriers, particularly Purolator, diligently add additional surcharges for packages containing dangerous goods (DG), including Infectious Substances Category B (UN3373) and Dry Ice (UN1845). When ICL receives a package classified as UN3373, we are required to continue this classification for subsequent specimen shipment(s) to testing lab(s). The financial impact of the additional handling charges for both incoming and outgoing specimens is significant. *Please note that FedEx does not have additional surcharges.*

To avoid unnecessary surcharges, ICL is requesting you review your packaging processes to **ensure that classification as a DG is not the default practice** and is only done when warranted. It is each client's responsibility to package and ship specimens in accordance with the TDG Act and Regulations. Please consider using FedEx if you wish to continue to over-labelling the packages. Otherwise, ICL has established processes to invoice affected labs the extra Purolator DG surcharges.

ICL Guidelines:

1. Most specimens sent to ICL are diagnostic specimens *not reasonably suspected to contain a pathogen classified by TDG Regulations as Category A or B*. Please ensure proper classification of specimens; ship **routine diagnostic specimens** in packages labeled "**Exempt Human Specimen**". ICL packaging systems will be pre-labeled in this manner and will provide clients additional "Exempt Human Specimen" labels if requested. Ensure that all inappropriate labels are removed from packages prior to shipping. Please do not select unnecessary DG classification on the waybill; the courier waybill must match the package. Please do not remove the default "Exempt Human Specimen" label from ICL boxes. Do not apply any additional labels, e.g., "biohazard" or "samples inside" or "category B" labels.
2. **Ship specimen(s) you classify as UN3373, i.e. suspected to contain a pathogen that is DG Category B, in a separate package.** Place a large UN3373 label to cover the default "Exempt Human Specimen" label and complete the waybill accordingly. Send UN3373 or Exempt specimens in separate packages or if using a single package, clearly segregate and identify the Category B specimens.
ICL has established processes to pass on Purolator surcharges to labs shipping DG packages. Or you may use FedEx to avoid the Purolator surcharges.

3. **Do not send ICL any specimen you suspect contains a DG Category A pathogen.** Consult your scientific staff for assistance in categorization; you must contact ICL prior to shipping Category A specimens.
4. If you are shipping **packages containing dry ice, classification as DG UN1845 is required only for air shipments.** Packages appropriately vented and transported by land need not be classified as DG; the UN1845/Class 9 label isn't required; prepare the courier waybill accordingly. This guideline point is applicable when shipping by Purolator. However, from an operation's perspective, FedEx requires that all packages containing dry ice must be labeled as UN1845/Class 9 and declared on the waybill.

Thanks again and don't hesitate to reach out if needed.

If you have further questions, please contact Client Care at 416-422-3000 ext. 300 or

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