

# Transport of Biological Materials, Infectious Substances, and Dry Ice by Ground



When transporting biological materials, infectious substances, and dry ice, US Department of Transportation (DOT) Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR) may apply. Transporting materials considered to be dangerous goods must be done in compliance with DOT regulations; these apply when transporting materials between WSU and U of I, between field sites and campus, and within campus when multiple buildings are separated by public roadways.

All responsibility for packaging and shipment of these agents is assigned to the shipper. This includes classification of shipment, proper packaging of shipment, proper marking and labeling of package, and proper documentation of shipment. CITI training for [Shipping and Transport of Regulated Biological Materials](#) is available online and fulfills the training requirement for transport of biological materials, infectious substances, and dry ice

## **Types of materials that must be transported in compliance with DOT requirements:**

- All materials transported on dry ice (UN1845)
- Genetically Modified Organisms or Genetically Modified Microorganisms (GMO/GMMO) (UN3245)
- Exempt Human or Animal Specimens
- Category B Infectious Substances (UN3373)

Category A Infectious Substances (UN2814, UN2900) MUST never be transported by ground in a motor vehicle. These materials may only be shipped via FedEx or hand carried. For more information on classification of shipment type, see [U of I Biosafety Shipping website](#).

## **Types of materials that are not subject DOT requirements during transport:**

- Non-infectious biological materials from humans, animals, or plants. Examples include, but are not limited to, non-infectious cells, tissue cultures, non-infectious DNA, RNA or other genetic elements.
- Materials containing microorganisms that are non-pathogenic to humans or animals.

## **Shippers/Transporters guidelines for compliance and safe transport:**

- Use a university vehicle when available. Use of personal vehicles is discouraged.
- Be authorized to use a university vehicle, if applicable.
- Use the proper containment and packaging materials during transportation.
- Be trained and authorized to handle and transport dangerous goods. CITI [Shipping and Transport of Regulated Biological Materials](#) fulfills this requirement.
- Do not use public transportation or ride-share services to transport these types of packages.
- NEVER put dry ice in a completely sealed container. It will over-pressurize and can cause serious injury and property damage. Avoid transporting dry ice packages in a poorly ventilated vehicle due to suffocation hazard.

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## Transport in a Personal or University Vehicle

The use of a university vehicle is recommended for transportation of biological materials, infectious substances, and dry ice. Transport in a personal vehicle is not recommended. Vehicles titled to individuals, or privately-owned vehicles, even if used for university business, are not part of, and are not covered by, the State of Idaho Risk Management Program. Vehicles rented through the [U of I Motor Pool](#) or [State of Idaho rental contracts](#) are covered by the State of Idaho Risk Management Program, similar to university-owned vehicles. When using a private vehicle for university business, it is important to consider how your private finances or automobile coverage will be impacted if there is an auto incident. Accidents during movement or transportation of any of these materials can result in serious harm to persons and property. Release and spills of these materials may involve police and hazardous materials responders.

Risk Management administers the insurance program at the university. Questions about insurance coverage can be forwarded to [risk@uidaho.edu](mailto:risk@uidaho.edu). For more information see the [Risk Management website](#).

The following table summarizes options for transport of materials covered in this document and non-hazardous materials on ice:

	Non-hazardous material on wet ice/ice packs	Non-hazardous materials on dry ice, GMO/GMMO, Exempt Human or Animal Specimens, Category B Infectious Substances
<b>Required training</b>	None	Shipper/transporter must be trained if using a vehicle.
<b>Packaging/labeling</b>	To/from information	Must be DOT compliant if transported by vehicle.
<b>University vehicle or university rental vehicle</b>	Yes	Yes
<b>Personal vehicle (NOT covered by U of I auto coverage)</b>	Yes	Not recommended
<b>Walking</b>	Yes	Yes

If you are unsure about any aspect of shipping biological materials, infectious substances, and dry ice contact U of I Biosafety ([biosafety@uidaho.edu](mailto:biosafety@uidaho.edu) or 208-885-4054)

## References:

[49 CFR Parts 171-180 Hazardous Materials Regulations](#)

[University of Idaho Management Standards for University Owned, Rented, or Lease Vehicle Use and Coverage Standards](#)