TRANSPORT OF BIOHAZARDOUS MATERIALS AT UNL
(INCLUDING RESEARCH AND CLINICAL SPECIMENS/MATERIALS)

Scope

This SOP is specifically for on-campus and inter-campus transport of biohazardous materials between work locations at UNL by UNL personnel. This SOP does not apply to transport by commercial carriers. Biohazardous materials may include:

- recombinant and/or synthetic nucleic acids (r/sNA) or materials and organisms containing r/sNA;
- pathogens of any kind including biological toxins or animals, tissues, cells or microorganisms containing pathogens or toxins;
- genetically-modified plants, animals, microorganisms, or cell lines

Off-site transport may be subject to additional regulations administered by other Federal Departments/Agencies including but not limited to: Department of Transportation, Centers for Disease Control, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Fish and Wildlife, and Department of Commerce.

Procedures

Observe the following safe work practices when transporting biological materials on-campus between work locations:

- Transport in a labeled and sealed primary container within a sealed, leak-proof secondary container (e.g., Rubbermaid®-type container, portable cooler, etc.). Disinfect the outside of the secondary container with an appropriate disinfectant before transporting.
- Absorbent material should be placed in the bottom of the secondary container.
- Within the secondary container, place printed information about the material being transported inside the container inside a sealable (e.g. Ziploc) bag. Information should include the name of the material and originating lab information (PI name, building and room) at a minimum. Including other agent hazard information is recommended.
  - Example: *Salmonella infantis*, Smith Lab, FIC 237
  - Example: Plasmids containing rDNA (Non-pathogenic), Jones Lab, Beadle N113
Use of public transportation to transport biohazardous materials is discouraged, and **PROHIBITED** for transport of human pathogens or materials contaminated with human pathogens.§

- If human pathogens or human or non-human primate materials are being transported, the **universal biohazard symbol** must be visible on the outside of the secondary container.
- After use, disinfect (for biohazards) or clean (for toxins) the inside and outside of the secondary container. Refer to the EHS SOP, *Chemical Disinfectants for Biohazardous Materials*.
- Avoid public areas and elevators if possible.
- Although a spill is unlikely when this protocol is followed, a spill protocol should be prepared in advance. Refer to the EHS SOP, *Spill and Exposure Response for Biohazardous Materials (Including Recombinant and Synthetic Nucleic Acids)*.
- In the event of theft, loss, or release notify the UNL Police Department and EHS immediately.

**Other EHS SOPs related to interstate, intrastate, import, or export of biological agents:**

- Import and Transfer of Etiologic and Other CDC Regulated Agents
- Importing Animals and Animal Products
- Non-genetically Engineered Plant-Related Articles Requiring APHIS Permits
- Packaging and Shipping Hazardous Materials/Dangerous Goods
- Shipping Biological Substances and Patient Specimens
- Shipping Infectious Substances With or Without Dry Ice

§ If you do not have another means of transport between campuses, please contact EHS for assistance.