

## Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (US)

Also known as [APHIS](#) (pronounced A FIS)

## Biological Product (IATA 3.6.2.3)

Biological products are those products derived from living organisms which are manufactured and distributed by the requirements of appropriate national authorities, which may have special licensing requirements, and are used either for prevention, treatment, diagnosis of disease in humans or animals, development, experimental, and related investigational purposes. They include, but are not limited to, finished or unfinished products such as vaccines.

## Biological Substance, Category B (IATA 3.6.2.2.2)

A biological substance that is not in a form generally capable of causing permanent disability or life-threatening or fatal disease in otherwise healthy humans or animals when exposure occurs

## Carrier

Any commercial company transporting goods. In this context, a carrier (or courier) refers to companies such as Federal Express (FedEx), DHL, the United States Postal Service (USPS), etc. who transport Category B, Infectious Substances.

Also known as a courier.

## Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (US)

[The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) requires permits when shipping some Category B packages.

Check with the UAB EH&S or your carrier/courier for more information.

## Courier

Any commercial company transporting goods. In this course, a courier (or carrier) refers to companies such as Federal Express (FedEx), DHL, the United States Postal Service (USPS), etc. who transport infectious substances or materials.

Also known as a carrier.

## Cultures

The result of a process by which pathogens are intentionally propagated (does not include specimens as in IATA 3.6.2.1.4).

## Dangerous Goods

IATA Articles or substances which are capable of posing a risk to health, safety, property or the environment and shown in the list of dangerous goods in the IATA DGR or which fall under the classifications according to the IATA DGR.

## DGR

Dangerous Goods Regulations

## DOT

Department of Transportation

## Dry Ice

Dry Ice is a refrigerant made from Carbon Dioxide gas and can be dangerous to work with if not appropriately handled.

## Exempt Specimens (IATA 3.6.2.2.3.6)

Patient specimens for which there is a minimal likelihood that pathogens are present and when packed in packaging that will prevent leakage and marked with the words “Exempt Human Specimen” or “Exempt Animal Specimen.” A professional opinion is required when determining whether something qualifies as an Exempt Specimen.

## Genetically Modified Organism (GMO)

An organism whose genetic material has had the genetic material of another organism inserted into its own.

## Governing Agencies

There are several international and national agencies regulating the shipment of Biological Substances, Category B and Materials. Among these are:

- [International Air Transportation Association \(IATA\)](#)
- [International Civil Aviation Organization \(ICAO\)](#)
- [The United States Department of Transportation \(DOT\)](#)
- [The United Nations](#)

## Harmonization

The coordination of multiple agencies and regulations to cause as little confusion as possible

## **Hazardous Materials**

Hazardous Materials (or HazMat)

## **HHS**

US Department of Health and Human Services

## **HIV**

Human Immunodeficiency Virus

## **HMR**

Hazardous Materials Regulations

## **International Air Transportation Association (IATA)**

Trade association of the world's major airlines

## **IATA (Dangerous Goods Regulations) DGR**

Contains all of the requirements from the ICAO Technical Instructions, plus more restrictive regulations for shipping. Following the IATA DGR ensures that you are following federal law.

## **International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)**

The part of the United Nations that governs all international matters related to flight.

## **Infectious Substance, Category A (IATA 3.6.2.2.2.1)**

An infectious substance transported in a form that, when exposure occurs, is capable of causing permanent disability, life-threatening or fatal disease in otherwise healthy humans (UN 2814) or animals (UN 2900).

## **Kilogram (Kg)**

Metric measurement of weight; equal to 1000 grams.

## May - a regulatory term

When used within a regulation, indicates a preferred, but not mandatory requirement. Example: "The complete shipper's address must be placed on the outside of the package. A shipper's phone number may be included, but is not required." (From the DRG).

## MRSA

Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus

## Must

When used within a regulation, indicates a mandatory requirement. Example: "The complete shipper's address must be placed on the outside of the package. A shipper's phone number may be included, but is not required." From the DRG.

## Numerical Cross-Reference

An IATA list that will allow the user to look up a Proper Shipping Name (PSN) using a UN number.

## OHSA

United States Department of Occupational Safety and Health Administration

## Overpack

An overpack is a fiberboard box or container designed to hold packages or some refrigerant (Dry Ice or Gel Packs) during shipment and remain leak proof.

## Package

The completed product of packaging combined with the method of packing to make an item ready for transport.

## Packaging

The materials necessary for a completed package to comply with minimum packing requirements of regulations (amount of containment, absorbent materials, pressure test).

## Packing

The method that is used to enclose articles or substances in packaging.

## Packing Instructions (PI)

A set of specific instructions for packing material for transport by air. Examples include:

- PI 650: Biological Substances, Category B
- PI 959: GMOs
- PI 954: Dry Ice
- PI 620: Infectious Substances, Category A

## Pathogen

A microbial agent (bacteria, virus, parasite, fungus, prion) capable of causing disease.

## Patient Specimens (IATA 3.6.2.1.4)

A specimen collected directly from humans or animals, including, but not limited to excreta, secreta, blood, and its components, tissue, tissue fluid swabs, or body parts. Patient Specimens can be research, diagnosis, investigational activities, disease treatment, and prevention.

## Permits

Documentation that may be required when shipping some Category B packages. An example of this would be Select Agents/Toxins.

## PG

Packing Group

## PHMSA

US Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

## Primary container

The tube, container, or vial in which an item is placed for shipment.

## Principal Investigator (PI)

The person whose name appears as the lead or primary person on the grant or contract.

## Proper Shipping Name (PSN)

The name which is used in shipping documents and, when required, on a package. IATA designates proper shipping names and found in the IATA DGR list 4.2 or 49CFR 172.101.

## Receiver

The person accepting the package from the courier/carrier.

## Restrictions

Some states/countries or couriers/carriers may have more “variations of the regulations” (i.e., restrictive regulations) than IATA DGR or ICAO TI. These restrictions (i.e., “variations of the regulations”) still apply no matter how restrictive they may seem.

## RMW

Regulated Medical Waste

## Secondary Container

Also known as the inner container. The secondary container is a container, inside a shipping container that holds the primary container, along with enough material to absorb the entire contents of the primary container, if liquid, and also withstand pressure requirements.

## Select Agents or Toxins

These are highly regulated materials classified as Category A or B substances. They require a laboratory certificate of registration from federal agencies and a permit to be transported.

## Shall

When used within a regulation, indicates a mandatory requirement.

## Should

When used within a regulation, indicates a preferred, but not mandatory requirement.

## Sublimate

A physical reaction where a solid turns directly into a gas. For example, Dry Ice sublimate into Carbon Dioxide Gas.

# UAB EHS Shipping Glossary

---

## TDG

Transportation of Dangerous Goods

## TDGR

Transport of Dangerous Good Regulations Clear Language Edition (Canada)

## Technical Instructions (TI)

Regulations set forth by ICAO. The source of the United States Department of Transportation Federal laws regarding the transport of Dangerous Goods.

## The United Nations (UN)

This International organization seeks cooperation from all parties involved in determining international law that affects everyone - as in the transportation of Biological Substances, Category B and Materials.

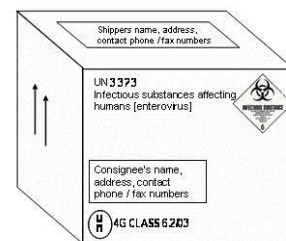
## Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (49CFR)

The Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) is the codification of the general and permanent rules published in the Federal Register by the executive departments and agencies of the Federal Government. It is divided into 50 titles that represent broad areas subject to Federal regulation. Title 49 covers Transportation. This is also known as 49CFR.

## UN Mark

The marking that appears on all approved boxes used for shipping Category B packages.

In this example, the UN is in a circle at the bottom of the box.



## UN Number

The letters "UN" followed by a four-digit number. UN numbers are another method used to identify Dangerous Goods. Every dangerous good has a unique UN number, to match a unique Proper Shipping Name. The letters "UN" must appear before the number to be considered correct.

## UPU

Universal Postal Union

# UAB EHS Shipping Glossary

---

## US DOT

[The United States Department of Transportation \(USDOT\)](#) is the federal cabinet department of the United States government concerned with transportation.

## USDA

US Department of Agriculture

## USPHS

US Public Health Service Commissioned Corps

## USPS

The [United States Postal Service \(USPS\)](#) has specific guidelines for packing, labeling, and marking Category B packages. See the course material for more information or contact the UAB EH&S at (205) 934-2487.

## Variations

Some states/countries or couriers/carriers may have more restrictive regulations than IATA DGR or ICAO TI. These “variations of the regulations” (or restrictions) still apply no matter how restrictive they may seem.

## Waybill

A waybill is documentation of a contract for the transport of cargo. It contains information such as the nature and amount of a Dangerous Good.