

Multilateral Agreement RID 5/2000
Under CIM Article 5(2) and Article 6(12) of Directive 96/49/EC relating to
the carriage of Diagnostic Specimens

1. By derogation from the requirements of RID relating to the carriage of infectious substances of Class 6.2, in particular those of marginals 652, 653, 654, 655, 662 and 664, diagnostic specimens to which the provisions in marginal 650(7)(a) and (b) apply may also be carried under the conditions set out below. However, diagnostic specimens where the source patient or animal has or may have a serious human or animal disease which can be readily transmitted from one individual to another, directly or indirectly, and for which effective treatment and preventative measures are not usually available cannot be transported in accordance with the terms of this Special Agreement.
2. The packaging shall meet the following conditions:

General provisions

- (a) diagnostic specimens shall be packed in good quality packagings, which shall be strong enough to withstand the shocks and loadings normally encountered during carriage, including transshipment between vehicles and/or warehouses as well as any removal from a pallet or overpack for subsequent manual or mechanical handling. Packagings shall be constructed and closed so as to prevent any loss of contents when prepared for carriage which might be caused under normal conditions of carriage, by vibration or by changes in temperature, humidity or pressure;
- (b) primary receptacles shall be packed in secondary packaging in such a way that under normal conditions of carriage they cannot break, be punctured or leak their contents into the secondary packaging. Secondary packagings shall be secured in outer packagings with suitable cushioning material. Any leakage of the contents shall not substantially impair the protective properties of the cushioning material or of the outer packaging;
- (c) each package shall be clearly and durably marked with the words **"DIAGNOSTIC SPECIMENS"**
- (d) outer packagings may consist of paper, fibreboard, plastics or metal;

for liquids

- (a) the primary receptacle(s) shall be leakproof and not contain more than 100 ml;

(b) there shall be absorbent material placed between the primary receptacle and the secondary packaging; if several fragile primary receptacles are placed in a single secondary packaging, they shall be either individually wrapped or separated so as to prevent contact between them. The absorbent material, such as cotton wool, shall be in sufficient quantity to absorb the entire contents of the primary receptacles, and there must be a secondary packaging, which must be leakproof,

(c) the primary receptacle or the secondary packaging shall be capable of withstanding without leakage an internal pressure producing a pressure differential of not less than 95kPa (0.95 bar);

(d) the outer packaging shall not contain more than 500ml.

for solids

(a) the primary receptacle(s) shall be waterproof and not contain more than 100g;

(b) if several fragile primary receptacles are placed in a single secondary packaging, they shall be either individually wrapped or separated so as to prevent contact between them and there must be a secondary packaging which must be waterproof;

(c) the outer packaging shall not contain more than 500g.

3. None of the other requirements of RID relating to the carriage of infectious substances of Class 6.2 shall apply.

4. This agreement shall remain in force until 7 August 2005 for carriage on the territory of those COTIF Contracting States which have signed this Agreement, unless it is revoked before this date by at least one of the signatories. In this event, it shall only remain in force until the above-mentioned date for carriage on the territory of those COTIF Contracting States which have signed the Agreement but have not revoked it.

Done in London, 7 August 2000.

Competent Authority for RID in the United Kingdom

V MATLEY