



SPECIALTY LABORATORIES

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DATE: January 23, 2003

**SUBJECT: New Regulations Concerning the Shipment
of Diagnostic Specimens**

The US Department of Transportation (DOT) has published new regulations (effective February 14, 2003) concerning the shipment of diagnostic specimens. Following is a summary of the key changes in the regulations and how they affect your shipment of specimens to Specialty Laboratories.

1. Diagnostic specimens are defined as any human material being shipped for diagnosis or investigation. Exceptions to this are specimens classified as Risk Group 4 by the World Health Organization. Risk group 4 specimens are those that can cause serious disease and are easily transmittable. A complete list of Risk Groups can be found at www.absa.org/riskgroups. Specimens containing pathogens from Risk group 4 must be classified as infectious when sending to *Specialty*
2. Packaging requirements have been upgraded for diagnostic specimens. All packaging provided to you by *Specialty* meets the new requirements.
3. Package marking.
 - a. If sending via *Specialty* courier, our courier has information on how to package & label diagnostic specimens for shipment.
 - b. If you are sending directly to *Specialty*, exterior boxes should be marked: "Diagnostic specimens packed in compliance with IATA packing instruction 650".
4. The new regulations require anyone who offers or transports a diagnostic specimen to be aware of the regulations. There is no record keeping associated with this awareness requirement.

If you require further clarification, please contact Client Services at 800-421-4449.

A complete summary of these regulations can be found at:
<http://hazmat.dot.gov/rules/67fr-53118.htm>.