

## ACNS Transport of samples (2): Biological samples, Deuterated materials, Radioactive materials, Strategic goods, Medicine, Dry ice, and Transport within Australia

### Biological samples

The import of biological materials into Australia is regulated by the Department of Agriculture and Water Services. Biological materials that may require an import permit include food samples, proteins, microorganisms and antibodies. Further information on importing biological laboratory materials is available from the Importing section of Department of Agriculture and Water Services.

The ACNS has an import permit that covers a range of biological materials. Contact the Laboratory Manager for a copy of the permit. Biological material not included on this permit may require an import permit to be applied for and received before samples are sent.

A lack of permit may result in a sample being stopped at Australian Customs and returned to the sender (at sender's cost) or destroyed. Import permit application details are available from the Department of Agriculture and Water Services website or from the Laboratory Manager.

Biological samples will also need an SDS, a covering letter stating their intended use and be transported appropriately.

### Deuterated materials

Deuterated materials require an SDS and appropriate transport. You will need to contact the Australian Safeguards and Non-proliferation Office (ASNO) to determine if your material is a trackable quantity. Deuterium gas and deuterium oxide (heavy water) will usually require tracking.

#### Importing to Australia:

Contact your country's authorities to obtain any necessary approvals to export deuterated material. Contact the carrier (airline) or courier.

Contact the Australian Safeguards and Non-proliferation Office (ASNO) to determine if your material is a trackable quantity. Deuterium gas and deuterium oxide (heavy water) will usually require tracking.

#### Exporting from Australia:

Deuterated materials (including deuterium and deuterium oxide (heavy water)) require a Defence Export Permit where they are intended for nuclear reactor use. DECO website: <http://www.defence.gov.au/deco/>

### Radioactive materials

A permit is required to import any radioactive material to Australia and is regulated by the Australia Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) and Australian Border Force. Furthermore, if your sample contains fissionable isotopes you will also require a permit from the Australian Safeguards and Non-Proliferation Office (ASNO).

The ACNS can apply for these permits on your behalf (at your cost). Processing time for an ARPANSA permit is generally 5 days but can be longer depending on demand. Waiting time for ASNO permit is generally 7 days but can be longer depending on demand. Please note that the required permits must be approved BEFORE shipping your sample to ANSTO. For more information on importing radioactive samples contact the Laboratory Manager.

### Strategic goods

Items listed on the Australian Defence Strategic Goods List must also have an export permit and an EDN. Deuterated material appears on this list and it should be checked for other substances and equipment. Permits are applied for through DECO as per the process above. If you are unsure if an item or compound is on the list, advice can be sought from DECO.

### Antibiotics and other medicines

Samples that are antibiotics and other medicines may require a permit through the Department of Health – Therapeutic Goods Administration or the Office of Drug Control before entry into Australia. Further details on the compounds included in this are available on the Department of Health – Therapeutic Goods Administration and the Office of Drug Control websites.

### Other Chemicals Requiring Permits

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has a list of chemicals that require import or export permits at this website. The Office of Drug Control issues permits for precursor chemicals; information is available on their website.

## Dry ice (solid carbon dioxide)

The shipment of dry ice for refrigeration purposes on aircraft does not require a certified shipper provided that the samples it is cooling are non-dangerous (see information above).

The following details apply to all shipments of dry ice:

Proper shipping name: Carbon dioxide, solid

UN number: UN 1845

IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations packaging instruction: 904

The packaging instruction from the current IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations should be consulted.

### *Extracts from packaging instruction 904*

Carbon dioxide, solid must be in packaging designed and constructed to permit the release of carbon dioxide gas and to prevent a build-up of pressure that could rupture the packaging.

A Shipper's Declaration is only required when the carbon dioxide, solid is used as a refrigerant for dangerous goods that require a Shipper's Declaration.

When a Shipper's Declaration is not required, the following information, required for the carbon dioxide, solid must be contained in the "Nature and Quantity of Goods" box on the airway bill:

- Proper shipping name: Carbon dioxide, solid
- Class 9
- UN 1845
- The number of packages
- The net quantity of carbon dioxide, solid in each package

The net weight of the carbon dioxide, solid must be marked on the outside of the package along with the words "Carbon dioxide, solid", UN 1845 and a miscellaneous dangerous goods class diamond (class 9).

## Transport within Australia

If you are sending samples that are dangerous goods within Australia by Australia Post you will need to consult the Australia Post Dangerous Goods Guide. Please note that Australia Post interstate mail services within Australia are generally by air transport.

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