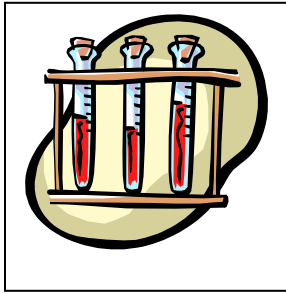


Required Training for Shipping Infectious Substances and Diagnostic Specimens



Regulations for shipping infectious and diagnostic specimens are becoming more and more stringent. The cost of non-compliance can include loss of specimens, time, and money; in addition to criminal penalties.

Did you know that if you ship infectious substances you must receive documented training? And it must be updated every two years and/or when changes in regulations occur if the specimens are sent by air. If shipped by ground only, training is required every three years and/or when changes in regulations occur. Even if you just prepare the paperwork and never touch the package, you must be trained.

If you handle, offer for transport, transport infectious substances, or cause them to be transported, you are required to receive training on shipping infectious substances. This training is available to UAB employees via an interactive CD ROM format by contacting UAB Occupational Health & Safety. The CD entitled "*Shipping Infectious Substances and Diagnostic Specimens*" meets the current strictest International Air Transport Association training requirements (IATA). CDs are available on loan for one week periods. To reserve the CD, supervisors/managers may call OH&S at 4-2487 or email your request to glenda@uab.edu. There is no charge for loans, however to reserve the CD, please provide a departmental account number for tracking purposes and the dates you prefer to reserve the CD.

Beginning February 2003, persons who ship diagnostic specimens must also receive training to ensure they are familiar with their shipping-related activities. This interactive CD can help you meet that requirement too, if you do not have training available.

Minimum system requirements for optimal CD operation include:

- 486/100 (Pentium Class Recommended)
- 2 MB Video Card
- 2x CD ROM (4x Recommended)
- 15" VGA Monitor 800x600, 16-bit color
- SoundBlaster or compatible sound card
- Win 9x/NT operating system
- Acrobat Reader (included on the training CD)

Supervisors/Managers are responsible for maintaining copies of exam results, signed training certificates, and for providing copies to employees upon request. Training records for shipping infectious substances must be maintained for the duration of employment + 90 days or for 2 years, whichever is longer.

When your shipping contractor requests your “Certificate of Training”, be ready! Present your certificate indicating that you are committed to ensuring public safety and minimizing risks posed by shipping infectious materials.

For updates on shipping infectious substances and other safety related topics, subscribe to *UAB Safety Shorts* at the following website:

<http://www.healthsafe.uab.edu/pages/home/safetyshorts.html> .