

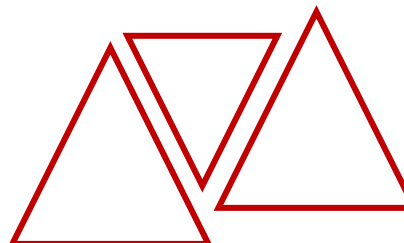
## Recommended packaging requirements when transporting biological specimens from external facilities

Packaging specimens for transport by road must use the following minimum packaging:

- Choose appropriately sized eskies.
- Line esky with liner or large plastic bag.
- Place absorbent pad in liner or bag.
- Place all collected specimens for an individual patient within a single biohazard bag.
- To address concerns of sample leaking, please ensure specimens other than blood (e.g., faeces or urine) are placed in a biohazard bag, sealed and can then accompany blood samples in the primary biohazard bag.
- Ensure the correct request form and additional documentation match the specimens sealed in the biohazard bag.
- Ensure all biohazard bags are sealed then place into the esky liner or bag with the absorbent material.
- Extra absorbent material should be added to ensure minimal movement of specimens and that any leaks are contained.
- Seal the esky or bag by taping or tying to prevent leakage.
- Place the ice brick/s or frozen gel pack/s on top and underneath the sealed esky liner or bag. See table below for the number required to maintain constant temperature throughout the journey.
- Seal the esky with packing tape to ensure the lid is secure
- Ensure the consignment note has "Biological specimens category B exempt packed as per PI650" (PWL33 & PWL20 sticker available from Marketing). **Note:** If known infectious samples are included these must be marked "Suspected Category A Infectious Substance".

For Histopathology specimens fixed in formalin:

- Place the specimen in an appropriately sized jar or bucket to accommodate the specimen (if the specimen is too large to fit in a container, it may be wrapped in a gauze soaked in formalin and sealed in a bag/container. For further advice, please contact a Histopathologist at QEII).
- Ensure that the specimen is fully immersed in 10% Buffered Formalin. Tape the lid of the container to ensure it is securely fastened.
- Place the specimen container in a plastic bag and seal the bag.
- Place the sealed plastic bag in an esky with adequate absorbent material to absorb any spills and to ensure that the container does not move around.
- In addition to other required labelling – add the following label (PWL70 sticker available from Marketing) - "**3.5% Formaldehyde. Not restricted as per Special Provisions IATA DG A 189 'Very low concentration'**".



## Recommended Ice bricks required for esky size and length of transit

<b>Esky size</b>	<b>Ice bricks required</b>	<b>Transit time</b>
Small foam esky	1x ice brick or frozen gel pack	≤2 hours
	2x ice bricks or frozen gel packs	2-4 hours
Medium foam esky	2x ice bricks or frozen gel packs	≤4 hours
	4x ice bricks or frozen gel packs	4-8 hours
Large foam esky	4x ice bricks or frozen gel packs	≤6 hours
	6x ice bricks or frozen gel packs	6-8 hours
	8x ice bricks or frozen gel packs	8-10 hours

Samples received outside of the acceptable conditions could be rejected and sample recollection would be recommended.

