Transport of Infectious Substances

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INFECTIOUS SUBSTANCES
TRANSPORT
Efficient transport of Infectious Substances is a MUST.

Events reported in WHO EMS (2001–2016)

Some examples of when and where transport services are needed.
Diagnosis is not always possible on site. Need to transport specimens to central labs.
Only occasionally are field labs available for rapid diagnosis. Confirmation of diagnosis may have to be done elsewhere.
Rapid diagnosis can help control outbreaks and reduce death toll and spread of the disease.
INTERNATIONAL REGULATIONS

UN-SCETDG

ICAO
  Air

IMO
  Sea

ECE
  Road

OCTI
  Railway

ICAO-TI

IMDG

ADR

RID

IATA-DGR
**TRANSPORT OF INFECTIONOUS SUBSTANCES**

**Infectious Substances**

- **Category A**
- **Category B**
- **Exemptions**

- Biological products
- GMO/GMMO
- Medical or clinical wastes
- Infected animals
Triple package

- Primary container
- Secondary container
- Outer container

Absorbent and cushioning material
TRANSPORT OF INFECTIOUS SUBSTANCES

Image source: IATA Guidance Document, Infectious Substances, Annex 3, Montreal, Canada
Shipment of biological samples

Cold Chain

Carriers

Courriers

Customs

Sending Laboratory

International organisations: IOs and NGOs

Receiving Laboratory

Customs
CHALLENGES OF THE PROCESS

- lack of awareness of the regulations
- lack of package suppliers
- lack of training opportunities (or too expensive)
- shipments too expensive
- shipment delayed with samples that have lost their viability
- box refused by the courier with no other alternative or by the pilot
- package destroyed by customs or border agencies
Shipment of infections substances

Cold Chain

Carriers

Courriers

Sending Laboratory

Building bridges and mechanisms among stakeholders including International organisations

Receiving Laboratory

Communication

Customs

Raising awareness

Uniform training programme
CURRENT INITIATIVES AT THE INT. LEVEL

WHO Guidance on regulations for the Transport of Infectious Substances

Chapter 1.1.2. of the OIE Manual of Diagnostic tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals:
« Transport of specimens of animal origin »
CURRENT INITIATIVES AT THE INT. LEVEL

ISST

2-Year validity

Re-certification

eISST

e-learning...
"State Parties shall,........ facilitate the transport, entry, exit, processing and disposal of biological substances and diagnostic specimens, reagents and other diagnostic materials for verification and public health response purposes"
• **FAO/OIE/WHO Tripartite Alliance**, since 2010:
  – One of the areas of work is the transport of Infectious Substances
  – **Aim**: identification of the stakeholders / of the gaps and needs in the global transport system / engagement of all in improving the system
  – **Done or ongoing**: Training of trainers for FAO/OIE/WHO Staff in collaboration with IATA (April 2015) / communication with all the stakeholders is ongoing (Customs, carriers, relevant International Organizations, etc.)
Coordination of efforts continues

Customs
Laboratories
IOs
NGOs
Carriers
Courriers
Thank you