

International Shipping Requirements NHP Specimens



VRL requires all shippers to notify the lab before shipping any packages. Also, we require all documents (see check list) including the validated CITES permit to be e-mailed (chih-ling.zao@vrl.net & laboratory@vrl.net) for review before shipping.

The international shipment of specimens presents several problems that are not encountered when shipped inside the borders of the United States. **The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the Fish and Wildlife Service** have requirements that must be met to allow the importation of simian products, including serum and tissues.

Samples should be shipped with dry ice or ice packs by using one of major carriers, e.g. World Courier, Marken, FedEx, or UPS. **Materials covered by these requirements include blood, plasma, serum, fecal swab and sample, and formalin-fixed tissue.**

USDA Documents

The USDA requires the following documentation (VS Letter) accompany each shipment on the exporter's letterhead. The document must be placed on the outside of the package:

1. Description of the material being shipped, and identification of the animal species.
2. Written statement confirming that the material was not obtained from humans or non-human primates that have been inoculated with or exposed to any livestock or poultry disease agent exotic to the United States.
3. Written statement confirming that the material is not of tissue culture origin.
4. Written statement confirming that the material is not zoonotic.

This information must be supplied as an ORIGINAL statement on shipper letterhead in a clear and concise manner and be available for review by the USDA Inspector at the port of arrival.

The complete Guidelines for Importation of Human and Nonhuman Primate Material can be obtained on the internet at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/manuals/ports/downloads/apm.pdf

USDA Additional Documents

The USDA requires additional documentation when shipping cell lines, cell cultures, tissue in culture, hybridomas, or monoclonal antibodies. These documents must be placed on the outside of the package:

1. Written statement confirming that the material is a cell line or another product of a cell line.
2. Written statement confirming the immunogen as applicable.
3. Written statement confirming that the material is for *in vitro* use OR that the material is for *in vivo* human use.
4. Written statement confirming that the material does not come from a facility where work with exotic viruses affecting livestock and avian species is conducted.
5. Written statement confirming that the material is not recombinant OR that the material is recombinant but contains no genes and expresses no products of exotic livestock or poultry disease agent(s).

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Customs Invoice

1. This document states number of samples and monetary value of shipment. Please print on shipper letterhead and place outside the package.

Fish & Wildlife Service Documents

1. CITES (Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species) permit. This requirement includes sera and tissues from all nonhuman primates.
2. A copy of our Fish and Wildlife Service import license needs to be included with the shipment and is available **HERE**.

FDA/CDC Documents

1. A copy of the Permit to Import or Transfer Etiological Agents or Vectors of Human Disease issued by the Center for Disease Control, Public Health Service is available **HERE**.

VRL Sample Submission Form

1. Place document inside the package, mail to:
7540 Louis Pasteur, Suite 200, P.O. Box 40100
San Antonio, Texas 78229

Checklist

- | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> (3) Copies of the VS letter on exporter's company letterhead | <input type="checkbox"/> (3) Copies of VRL's CDC permit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (3) Copies of Customs Invoice | <input type="checkbox"/> (3) Copies of VRL's CDC label |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (1) Copy of Permit to Import or Transfer Etiological Agents or Vectors of Human Disease | <input type="checkbox"/> (3) Copies of VRL's Fish and Wildlife Service import license |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (1) Original and (2) copies of CITES permit (prepared by the exporter). | <input type="checkbox"/> (1) Copy of VRL's Sample Submission Form |

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800.804.3586

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