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International Air Transport Association ("IATA") 2007 Regulatory Changes Infectious Substance Category A, Biological Substance Category B, & Patient Specimen Shipments

ELECTRONIC VERSION – www.casingcorp.com/iata_changes.htm

Highlights

On January 1, 2007, two proper shipping names "Diagnostic Specimen" and "Clinical Specimen", are abandoned and replaced with "Biological Substance Category B". The UN3373 label continues to be required together with a Biological Substance Category B label.

Under this modified regulatory structure, there are three categories of regulated substances:

1. Infectious Substance Category A, (please see Table below (reference IATA DGR, Table 3.6.D.; The IATA 2007 Category A list is identical to the 2006 Category A list.),

2. Biological Substance Category B, and

3. Patient Specimen: Category B patient specimen, exempt human specimen, exempt animal specimen.

Under the 2005 and 2006 IATA DGR, infectious organisms intentionally propagated or cultured in a laboratory, and not listed in Infectious Substance, Category A, were considered dangerous goods and required to follow Division 6.2 packaging and documentation requirements, UN2814 or UN2900 as appropriate.

Under the 2007 IATA regulations, if a culture of a pathogenic organism is not listed in Category A (IATA DGR 3.6.D), it is classified in Biological Substance Category B. This is a significant change.

Re-classification of cultured pathogens gives the shipper the choice to ship these specimens under IATA packing instruction 650, Biological Substance Category B, without dangerous goods disclosure or Class 6.2 packaging.

Exempt human or animal specimens, the third category, are described below as well as in 3.6.2.2.3.1 of the IATA DGR.

Be certain to review acceptance policies with your carrier to verify that Category A OR B substances are transportable by your carrier. As of September 29, 2006, Lufthansa Airlines was the only carrier to refuse Category B shipments aboard their aircraft. Other carriers may refuse to accept Risk Group IV specimens under the old risk group classification system.

Other air carriers are now accepting the new Biological Substance Category B labels and packaging, in order to avoid disruption of shipments at the end of 2006. For information about current availability of the new labels and packaging, please call or email us.