



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Environmental Health & Safety

IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF OUR WORK AND STUDY ENVIRONMENT

Bio Basics Fact Sheet: Shipping Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)

Definition

Genetically modified micro-organisms (GMMOs) and genetically modified organisms (GMOs) are micro-organisms and organisms in which genetic material has been purposely altered through genetic engineering in a way that does not occur naturally.

Shipping Requirements for Air Transport (IATA)

GMOs which do not meet the definition of an infectious substance but which are capable of altering animals, plants or microbiological substances in a way which is not normally the result of natural reproduction must be shipped as a Class 9 Dangerous Good. These materials cannot be transported in checked or carry-on baggage.



Hazardous Material shipping training specific for GMOs is required (Call DEHS at 626-6002 to arrange for training).

Shipping a GMO as an IATA *Dangerous Good Excepted Quantity*

Small amounts of non-infectious IATA regulated GMOs can be shipped under less stringent requirements as a *Dangerous Good in Excepted Quantities*.

- Quantity cannot exceed 30g or 30ml in an inner package or a total of 500g or 500ml in an outer package.
- Hazardous Material shipping training specific for Excepted Quantities is required (Call DEHS at 626-6002 to arrange for training).
- Excepted Quantities cannot be transported in checked or carry-on baggage or sent through mail.
- Shippers Declaration is not needed but special labeling is required.

GMOs Excluded from IATA Dangerous Goods Regulation for Air Transport

GMMOs and GMOs are not subject to the above Dangerous Goods Regulations *if* they are not infectious and *if* they are authorized for use by the appropriate national authority for the country that the material is being shipped to/within. For example, in the United States GMO plant material that has been approved for environmental release by APHIS would be exempt.

Note: *Each country has specific GMO regulations which must be adhered to. Do not attempt to ship a GMO internationally without knowing the receiving country's regulations.*

Shipping an Infectious GMO

Infectious GMOs are shipped the same as other infectious agents. Hazardous Biological Material shipping training is required.

Shipping GMOs by Ground

The Department of Transportation (DOT) does not regulate transportation of GMOs for ground transport unless they are infectious. If infectious, follow DOT infectious material requirements for ground transport.