



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

**Environmental Health & Safety**  
IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF OUR WORK AND STUDY ENVIRONMENT

## Shipping UN 3245 Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) and Genetically Modified Microorganisms (GMMOs)]

### Definition

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

### Shipping an Infectious GMO (DOT and IATA)

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.

### Shipping Requirements for Air Transport (IATA)

Genetically Modified organisms (GMOs), including or Genetically modified microorganisms (GMMOs) meeting the definition above must be shipped as a hazardous good.

Hazardous Material shipping training specific for GMOs is required (Call 612-626-6002 or email [dehs@umn.edu](mailto:dehs@umn.edu) to arrange for training). Or use the Shipping service



### 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
- 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**

GMOs may be excluded from the dangerous goods regulation 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.*