

**Procedures for Packaging and Shipping Fragment Specimens**  
**U.S. Army Public Health Command**  
**Laboratory Sciences**

**I. Pre-Shipping Communications**

1. Prior to shipping fragments for analysis, the Medical Treatment Facility (MTF) laboratory will notify the U.S. Army Public Health Command (USAPHC) laboratory of the pending fragment shipment. Notification should be provided to one or more of the following USAPHC contacts:

- a. USAPHC Sample Management Laboratory Chief, (410) 436-8356 (Com); 584-8356 (DSN).
- b. USAPHC Inorganic Radiochemistry Section Chief at (410) 436-8244 (Com); 584-8244 (DSN).
- c. USAPHC Sample Alert email Address (also known as the Sample News Bulletin)

[mailto: usarmy.apg.medcom-phc.mbx.dls-sampnews@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.apg.medcom-phc.mbx.dls-sampnews@mail.mil).

2. If a fragment is known to contain radioactive material, proper International Air Transport Association (IATA) and U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Dangerous Goods Shipping Regulations must be followed.

**II. Fragment Handling**

- 1. Your MTF is requested to stock small plastic specimen cups (with screw caps).
- 2. For shipment, place the fragment specimen(s) in a small plastic specimen cup to maintain the integrity of the specimen. Clearly label the cup with the MTF lab order number, patient name and Social Security Number (SSN#), date of collection, and requesting physician's name. Do not place fragments from different patients in the same sample cup (very important). If there is a desire to distinguish multiple fragments (from the same patient) removed from different parts of the body, use separate fragment cups for each fragment.
- 3. DO NOT preserve a fragment specimen by any means (no formalin). Preservation of metal fragments is not necessary and creates an unnecessary hazardous waste.
- 4. Place the plastic cup in the shipping package. Place supporting paperwork (LIDS 400, see next section below) into reclosable freezer bags to protect them.

**II. Specific Shipping Information**

1. The requesting MTF Laboratory will ship specimens grouped by Service member, with accompanying documentation, using a DOD approved courier to:

U.S. ARMY PUBLIC HEALTH COMMAND  
ATTN: MCHB-IP-LOD/Sample Management Laboratory  
Building E2100  
Bush River Road  
Aberdeen Proving Ground - EA, MD 21010-5403

2. After shipment of the metal fragment for USAPHC analysis, a follow-up email should be sent to the email address in paragraph 1.c. above, providing the courier tracking number.

3. The required information to be provided with the fragment specimen is specified on the USAPHC 'Request for Fragment Analysis' (LIDS 400, see page 2 of this annex).

# Request for Fragment Analysis

Date of Request:

Medical Treatment Facility Information

MTF:

MTF Lab Order #

POC:

Email:

Phone:

Requesting Physician/Surgeon:

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## Patient Information:

Name:  Patient SSN:  Date of Birth:  Gender:

Service Branch:  Unit:

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## Fragment Information: **Important Notes:**

- 1) DO NOT put fragments from multiple patients in the same sample cup.
- 2) If there is a need to distinguish multiple fragments from the same patient, use multiple cups.

Date Fragment(s) removed/collected from patient:  Time Fragment(s) removed/collected from patient:

Site (body location) Fragment(s) removed from:

Total Number of Fragments Removed:  Total Number of Fragments Submitted :  Date of Injury:

Are there any remaining fragments in patient? Country Where Injured Occurred:

Is there tissue being submitted with a fragment? If YES, does the MTF require analysis of the tissue sample?   
If NO, the tissue will be archived only.

Comments/Notes: