



Environmental Health & Safety  
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## Shipping Dangerous Goods

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Old Dominion University is responsible to comply with the Department of Transportation (DOT) and/or the International Air Transport Association (IATA) regulations as they apply to our operations. If you intend on shipping a hazardous material, please read the information below.

To ensure the safe transportation of these materials and to comply with regulations, the University must adhere to the following guidelines regarding all shipments of hazardous materials. A hazardous material/dangerous goods is any articles or substances, which pose an unreasonable risk to health, safety or to personal property when transported.

Anyone who offers for shipment (via land, air, mail, etc.) hazardous materials **must** have the appropriate DOT training, even when the transporter/carrier (i.e. Federal Express) completes the necessary paperwork. Examples of these materials include, but are not limited to:

Laboratory chemicals, cryogenic materials, and samples containing flammable, toxic, explosive, radioactive, oxidizer, and/or corrosive materials;

Paints, stains, thinners, refrigerants, aerosols, medicines, pesticides, disinfectants, fuels (diesel, gasoline, ethanol, etc.); or

Equipment containing hazardous materials, such as mercury, compressed gases, batteries (wet, lithium, and dry batteries containing sodium, potassium hydroxide), etc

Federal regulations have outlined specific shipping requirements for hazardous materials. Depending upon the mode of transports and destination, these shipments are regulated by the 49 Code of Federal Regulation parts 171-180 and /or International Air Transport Association (IATA). To comply with shipping regulations, hazardous materials must be properly classified, documented, packaged, and handled. Furthermore, federal law also requires that anyone one who is involved in or responsible for preparing or transporting a

hazardous material **must** have DOT and/or IATA training and certification. Penalties for non-compliance with the rules are significant and could result in fines up to \$500,000.00 and jail sentences up to 5 years.

Old Dominion University's Mail Service Department cannot handle/transport hazardous materials.

If you must ship hazardous materials, you must:

Contact ODU EH&S (683-4495) for guidance and assistance. EH&S has personnel with the appropriate DOT training to insure the proper shipment of all hazardous materials. Individuals must submit a Dangerous Good Shipping Request Form at least 2 weeks in advance to allow ample time to obtain the supplies that may be needed for packaging and shipping of your material.

Note: If you are shipping a hazardous material that is a commercially available product, it is more cost-effective in many cases to purchase the material at the location to which you wish to ship it. For example, if you are planning field-research, which requires the use of hazardous chemicals, you may find it easier and less expensive to have a vendor ship the chemicals directly to the location where you will be working.

Once the proper packing has been obtained, the staff of EH&S will pick-up your material for shipping. The EH&S staff will package, label and document the shipment in accordance with all applicable regulatory agencies. Any cost related to the packaging and shipping of the hazardous material will be the responsibility of the shipper.