



## Shipping ThinPrep® Solutions and Samples within CONUS 1-50 Vials – Small/Excepted Quantity Shipments by Highway and Commercial Air

FACT SHEET 37-038-0518

If you are shipping more than 50 vials of Thin Prep per package, please refer to the Fact Sheet that relates to the number of vials you are shipping.

- 1. BACKGROUND.** Department of Defense (DOD) medical facilities collect and process specimens to test for cervical and bladder cancer using the ThinPrep® PreservCyt® solution made by Hologic Inc. PreservCyt® is a methanol-based, buffered preservative solution and is classified as a hazardous material (HM) due to its low flashpoint (80°F/26.5°C) and must be packaged and shipped in accordance with regulatory requirements governing transport of HMs within the United States. A vial of ThinPrep contains 20 mL of solution.
- 2. TRAINING.** Personnel who package any quantity of ThinPrep® solution must receive training within 90 days of employment per 49 CFR 172.704 and International Air Transport Association (IATA) Dangerous Goods Regulations Chapter 1, Section 1.5. All personnel who sign hazardous materials shipping papers for ThinPrep® shipments must be formally trained per DoD Defense Transportation Regulation (DTR), 4500.9-R, Part II, Chapter 204, Section D ([https://www.ustranscom.mil/dtr/part-ii/dtr\\_part\\_ii\\_204.pdf](https://www.ustranscom.mil/dtr/part-ii/dtr_part_ii_204.pdf)). Certification training can be obtained by successfully completing the Transport of Biomedical Material Course given by the Army Public Health Center. Registration for the Transport of Biomedical Material Course is available at <http://phc.amedd.army.mil/Pages/Training.aspx>. This information paper does not preclude the requirement for specialized training at an approved course for personnel signing hazardous materials shipping papers.
- 3. HAZARD CLASSIFICATION.** New vials of PreservCyt® solution as well as those containing a specimen are Hazard Class 3, flammable liquid, based on the manufacturer's Safety Data Sheet. Although PreservCyt® solution contains a biological specimen being sent for purposes of diagnosis, the sample IS NOT classified as a Diagnostic Specimen. PreservCyt® solution contains chemicals that neutralize any infectious agents that might be present. The specimen is therefore excepted from being classified as a Division 6.2 material based on 49 CFR Section 173.134(b)(4) or the IATA Regulation (59<sup>th</sup> Edition) Chapter 3, Section 3.6.2.2.3.3.
- 4. DESCRIPTION: Basic Description:** UN1993, Flammable liquids, n.o.s., 3, III; **Shipping Description:** UN1993, Flammable liquids, n.o.s. (methanol solution), 3, III.
- 5. SMALL/EXCEPTED QUANTITY (HIGHWAY or COMMERCIAL AIR):** New vials of PreservCyt® solution or specimens collected in PreservCyt® may be shipped as an small/excepted quantity as defined in 49 CFR Section 173.4 and in the IATA, Chapter 2, Section 2.6 when there are NO MORE THAN 50 vials per outer package, **provided each** inner receptacle (vial) does not contain more than 30 mL of solution and the total quantity per outer package does not contain more than 1000 mL (1 L), total solution.

Use of trademarked names does not imply endorsement by the U.S. Army but is intended only to assist in identification of a specific product.

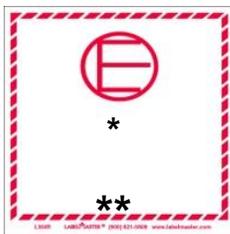
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**a. Highway: Small** quantities of Class 3 Flammable liquids can be shipped by highway using the small quantity exception described in 49 CFR 173.4 as long as the following provisions are met:

- i. Packaging: Each inner receptacle must be secured with wire, tape, or some other positive means to prevent leakage. Outer packaging must be capable of sustaining the multiple drops from a height of 1.8 meters, as described in 173.4 (a)(6). The total outer packaging weight cannot exceed 29 kg (64 pounds).
- ii. Cushioning and absorbance: The inner receptacles must be securely packed in cushioning material and absorbent material. Sufficient, compatible (non-reactive) absorbent material must be used to absorb the entire contents of the inner receptacles in the event of leakage.
- iii. Marking and Labeling: By ground transport (highway), the outer package must be marked with the statement “This package conforms to 49 CFR 173.4 for domestic highway or rail transport only.” Hazard labels are not required.
- iv. Shipping Papers: Shipping papers are not required.

**b. Commercial air:** New vials of PreservCyt® solution or specimens collected in PreservCyt® may be shipped as an **excepted** quantity as defined in the IATA Regulations, Chapter 2, Section 2.6.

- i. Packaging: Each inner receptacle must be secured with wire, tape, or some other positive means to prevent leakage. Outer packaging must be capable of sustaining the drops and stacking test described in IATA 2.6.6.
- ii. Marking. Each package must be marked with the Excepted Quantity Package Mark, properly filled out, having dimensions of 100 mm x 100 mm, which conforms in shape, color and format to the marking described in IATA 2.6.7 and shown below.



\* Primary Hazard Class (**Class 3** for ThinPrep®)

\*\* Name of the shipper or of the consignee must be shown in this location if not shown elsewhere on the package.

- iii. Cushioning and absorbance: The inner receptacles must be securely packed in cushioning and absorbent material. Sufficient, compatible (non-reactive) absorbent material must be used to absorb the entire contents of the inner receptacles in the event of leakage.
- iv. Shipping papers. A “Shipper’s Declaration for Dangerous Goods” is not required.
- v. If an air waybill is used, the “Nature and Quantity of Goods” box must be marked with the statement “Dangerous Goods in Excepted Quantities” and indicate the number of packages.  
**NOTE:** Federal Express requests the placement of the UN ID Number and the proper shipping name in the “Nature and Quantity of Goods” box of the air waybill.

**6. Waste Management:** See APHC Fact Sheet, Management of Waste from the ThinPrep® Processor.