NOTE: 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. These are available at http://phc.amedd.army.mil/topics/envirohealth/hmw/Pages/ReqTransandP2Factsheets.aspx

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 the Cytyc Corporation. 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 20ml 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) Regulations Chapter 1, Section 1.5. All personnel who sign hazardous materials shipping papers for ThinPrep® shipments must be formally trained per Defense Transportation Regulations, DOD Regulation 4500.9-R, Part II, Chapter 204, Section D ([http://www.transcom.mil/j5/pt/dtrpart2/dtr_part_ii_204.pdf](http://www.transcom.mil/j5/pt/dtrpart2/dtr_part_ii_204.pdf)). Certification training can be obtained by successfully completing the Transport of Biomedical Material Course given by the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine. Registration for the Transport of Biomedical Material Course is available at [https://phccm.amedd.army.mil/topics/envirohealth/hmw/Documents/Transport%20of%20Biomedical%20Materials.pdf](https://phccm.amedd.army.mil/topics/envirohealth/hmw/Documents/Transport%20of%20Biomedical%20Materials.pdf). 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 Liquids, based on the manufacturer’s Material Safety Data Sheet. Although PreservCyt solution contains a patient specimen being sent for purposes of diagnosis, the sample IS NOT classified as a Division 6.2 material. PreservCyt solution contains chemicals that inactivate many common bacterial agents that may be present. The specimen is excepted from being classified as a Division 6.2 material based on 49 CFR Part 173.134(b) or the IATA Regulation 3.6.2.2.3.(50th Edition)

4. **Basic Description:** Flammable Liquids, n.o.s. (methanol solution), 3, UN1993, III.

5. **Excepted Quantity (highway or commercial air):** New vials of PreservCyt® solution or specimens collected in PreservCyt® may be shipped as an excepted quantity as defined in 49 CFR Part 173.4 and in the IATA, Chapter 2, Section 2.7 when there are NO MORE THAN 50 vials per outer package, **provided each** inner receptacle (vial) does not contain more than 30mL of solution and the total outer package does not contain more than 1000mL (1L), total solution.

   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 packagings 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 lbs).

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.” 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 2.7.

i. Packaging: Each inner receptacle must be secured with wire, tape, or some other positive means to prevent leakage. Outer packagings must be capable of sustaining the drops and stacking test described in IATA 2.7.6.

ii. Marking and Labeling. Each package must have a label, properly filled out, having dimensions of 100mm x100mm, which conforms in shape, color and format to the label shown below.

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. Shipper’s declarations are not required. If an airway bill is used, the “Nature and Quantity of Goods” box must be marked with the statement “Dangerous Goods in Excepted Quantities.”


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