

Introduction:

This document provides Montana State University researchers with a quick overview of government requirements and internal policies for transporting biological materials to or from campus. For additional information on shipping biological materials, visit the [MSU Biosafety Manual](#).

Certain biological materials, as well as dry ice and preservatives, are categorized as dangerous goods when shipped. The handling and shipping of dangerous goods are regulated by federal and international agencies, including:

- International Air Transport Association (IATA)
- U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT)
- Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
- United States Postal Service (USPS)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA)
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (USDHHS)
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- U.S. Department of Commerce (USDOC)
- U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife (USFWS)

Material	Shipment	Instructions and Information
Infectious agents (live pathogens that can infect humans or animals)	Import into the United States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDC Import Permit Program (IPP) for human pathogens: https://www.cdc.gov/import-permit-program/php/biopermit/index.html <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ “Do I Need an Import Permit?” guidance • USDA (VS 16-3) permit application to import or transport animal products, organisms and vectors: https://efile.aphis.usda.gov/s/ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ https://efile.aphis.usda.gov/s/vs-permitting-assistant ◦ APHIS eFile Guidance
	Export from the United States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact MSU Export Control: https://www.montana.edu/research/export-control/index.html • Have receiver secure an import permit.
	Interstate transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USDA (VS 16-3) permit application to import or transport animal products, organisms and vectors: https://efile.aphis.usda.gov/s/
	Intrastate transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comply with CDC and IATA, information at: https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/LaboratoryServices/PackagingAndShipping
Non-pathogenic microorganisms (living, non-pathogenic for humans, animals or plants, (e.g., <i>Echerichia coli</i> K12 or BL21 strains; <i>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</i> ; viral vectors)	Import into the United States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USDA Guideline 1116: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-product-import/no-permit-required
	Export from the United States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact MSU Export Control: https://www.montana.edu/research/export-control/index.html • Have receiver secure an import permit, if applicable.
	Recombinant expressing non-toxic proteins (for international shipments)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USDA Guideline 1114: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-product-import/no-permit-required

Material	Shipment	Instructions and Information
Blood, body fluids, tissues, cells, cell lines (from humans or animals) Animal products *most nonhuman primate species are internationally regulated endangered species	Import into the United States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDC import permit if a human pathogen is possible: https://www.cdc.gov/import-permit-program/php/biopermit/index.html • USDA (VS 16-3) permit application to import or transport animal products, organisms and vectors: https://efile.aphis.usda.gov/s/ • USFWS permit 3-200-29 (Export/Re-export of Wildlife Samples and/or Biomedical Samples) or 3-200-37e (see CITES/ESA species list) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ USFWS Import/Export information: https://www.fws.gov/service/importing-and-exporting ○ “Do I Need a Permit?” guidance
	Export from the United States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have receiver secure an import permit, if required. • Contact MSU Export Control: https://www.montana.edu/research/export-control/index.html • USFWS Import/Export information: https://www.fws.gov/service/importing-and-exporting
	Interstate or Intrastate transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USDA (VS 16-3) permit application to import or transport animal products, organisms and vectors: https://efile.aphis.usda.gov/s/
Plants Plant material (seeds, tubers, tissue cultures, plantlets, and leaves) Plant pests (pathogens, insects, arthropods, other invertebrates) Plant products (timber/timber products, fruits, vegetables, rice/related articles, corn/related plants, sugarcane, foreign cotton/covers, cut flowers) Soil Biocontrol organisms Biofilms	Import into the United States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USDA permit PPQ526 for live plants pests, fruit flies, bees, butterflies, moths, snails, slugs, earthworms, or parasitic plants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant-imports • USDA Agricultural Commodity Import Requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://acir.aphis.usda.gov/s/ • USDA PPQ permits for plants/plant products <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant-imports • USDA Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://www.aphis.usda.gov/biotechnology • USDA permit PPQ526 for regulated organisms, soil, noxious weeds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://www.aphis.usda.gov/organism-soil-imports ○ Montana Noxious Weed List
	Export from the United States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have receiver secure an import permit, if required. • Montana Department of Agriculture, Export Certification, including Phytosanitary Certification <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://agr.mt.gov/Export-Certification • Contact MSU Export Control: https://www.montana.edu/research/export-control/index.html
	Interstate and Intrastate transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure receiver also has permit, if applicable. • USDA permit PPQ526 for live plants pests, fruit flies, bees, butterflies, moths, snails, slugs, earthworms, or parasitic plants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant-imports • USDA PPQ permits for plants/plant products <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant-imports • USDA Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://www.aphis.usda.gov/biotechnology • USDA permit PPQ526 for regulated organisms, soil, noxious weeds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://www.aphis.usda.gov/organism-soil-imports ○ Montana Noxious Weed List • Montana Department of Agriculture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://agr.mt.gov/

Material	Shipment	Instructions and Information
Amino acids, antibodies, DNA/RNA, enzymes, plasmids, purified proteins	Import into the United States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USDA permit may be applicable if material is from or is exposed to animals, animal materials, or animal pathogens. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Use the Veterinary Services Permitting Assistant for permit determination: https://efile.aphis.usda.gov/s/vs-permitting-assistant • CDC permit may be applicable if material is from human, animal, laboratory-derived, or the environment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://www.cdc.gov/import-permit-program/php/index.html ○ Use the CDC IPP eTool Decision Tree for permit determination: https://www.cdc.gov/import-permit-program/media/pdfs/2024/08/IPP-eTool-Decision-Tree_508.pdf
	Export from the United States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have receiver secure import permit, if required. • Contact MSU Export Control: https://www.montana.edu/research/export-control/index.html
	Interstate or Intrastate transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same USDA or CDC permits may be applicable.

Other important information:	What to do...
Shipping training <i>may be applicable</i>	Shipping training is mandatory for any MSU personnel shipping biological materials, dry ice, preservatives, etc., and can be accomplished online through CITI Program's course Shipping Regulated Biological Materials.
Material Transfer Agreement <i>Required step for shipments originating from MSU</i>	Contact MSU's Technology Transfer Office for more information: tto@montana.edu
IBC protocol requirements <i>may be applicable</i>	Inclusion of information regarding shipping biological/infectious material or dry ice to non-MSU locations, including a brief description of what is being shipped, may be necessary. Contact MSU's Biosafety Officer.
Biosafety Officer communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact MSU's Biosafety Officer for any questions pertaining to transporting biological materials to or from campus. • Send all permits or letters of conditions to MSU Biosafety Officer upon receipt. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://www.montana.edu/ric/
Shipping live animals	• Contact MSU's Biosafety Officer. https://www.montana.edu/ric/
Shipping or receiving Select Agents or Toxins	• Contact MSU's Biosafety Officer. https://www.montana.edu/ric/

References and Resources:

MSU [Biosafety Manual](#)

MSU [IBC Manual](#)

Any questions, contact the MSU Biosafety Officer <https://www.montana.edu/ric/>