

Guidelines for the Transportation of GMOs

Transportation off Campus by Road, Rail or Air

All packaging and paperwork for the transportation of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) must meet the relevant transport codes, (eg road, rail, and air) whether the material is being self-delivered, or sent by courier via the Distribution Centre. See the following for information:

The Australian Dangerous Goods Code 7th Edition

http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/transport/australia/dangerous/dg_code_7e.aspx

Australia Post – Prohibited and Dangerous Goods

http://www.auspost.com.au/statutorydocuments/generalpostalservices/APT&C_Body-04.htm

Please refer to the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator (OGTR) *Guidelines for the Transport, Storage and Disposal of GMOs* ([hyperlink to document](#)) for detailed information and guidance for transport of PC1, PC2 and PC3 GMOs. An excerpt summarising the requirements for transporting PC2 GMOs is provided below.

1. Couriers

Packages should be sent by accredited courier only. Please contact the Distribution Centre for details of accredited couriers available.

Note the package will need to be prepared by an accredited packer if going by air. A list of accredited packers can be found at the following web link <http://www.uow.edu.au/research/rso/ethics/genetechreview/index.html> Courier declaration forms for transportation by accredited courier are available from the Distribution Centre. A copy should be held by the Unit.

2. Packaging and transport of PC2 GMOs

Packaging should include the following essential elements:

(a) An inner packaging comprising

1. A sealed unbreakable primary container(s);
2. Absorbent material in sufficient quantity to absorb the entire contents placed between the primary container(s) and the secondary packaging; if several primary receptacles are placed in a single secondary packaging, they should be individually wrapped so as to prevent contact between them.

(b) An outer packaging of adequate strength for its capacity, mass and intended use, comprising:

The primary container wrapped in absorbent material packed inside a sealed, unbreakable secondary container. Secondary containment is not required for small animals containing GM micro-organisms (e.g. mice) when transported in a sealed cage fitted with HEPA-filtered vents.

- (c) The outer layer of packaging should be clearly labeled to indicate that it contains GMOs, and must clearly show the name, address and contact details of the sender, so that the sender can be contacted should the container be lost, damaged or misdirected.

This is not required where transport takes place entirely within a building.

- (d) The external surface of the primary and secondary container must be decontaminated prior to and after transport.

