



Statement of the Board of EQALM regarding the transport of EQA samples

The board of the European organization for External Quality Assurance providers in Laboratory Medicine (EQALM) has been made aware of the discussion surrounding the use of **Category B- Biological Substance UN 3373** notification for samples distributed by EQA organisers in laboratory medicine.

The board of EQALM states that EQA samples are not infectious substances and should be considered as **Exempt Human / Animal Specimens**. The samples are often the same material as patient samples send by physicians to medical laboratories which already benefits from this exemption.

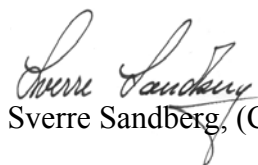
Definition of Exempt Human specimens (DGR clause 3.6.2.2.3.6) – substances which do not contain infectious substances, or substances which are unlikely to cause disease in humans or animals.

This statement applies to EQA samples of all medical laboratory disciplines.

Patients' and EQA specimens for which there is minimal likelihood that pathogens are present are not subject to the DGR and should be transported in Packaging for Exempt Specimens. This includes: a water-tight leak proof primary receptacle surrounded by absorbent material enclosed in a secondary leak –proof receptacle to protect the primary receptacle. The secondary receptacle is placed in an outer shipping package which protects it and its contents from outside influences such as physical damage and water while in transit. The packaging must be marked "**Exempt human specimen**"

On behalf of the board of EQALM

Bergen April 2nd 2012


Sverre Sandberg, (Chair)