MEMORANDUM

TO: Distribution A

SUBJECT: Caution - Shipping Hazardous Materials

Shipping and transporting hazardous materials by virtually any means of conveyance are highly regulated activities. In recent years, state and federal agencies have become increasingly aggressive in enforcing these laws; penalties for noncompliance are very severe. In fact, Texas A&M was recently fined $16,000 by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration for numerous regulatory violations, all stemming from one shipping incident that resulted from a faculty member making an honest mistake. From this point forward, any new violations will be considered as “repeat violations” and will be subject to escalated enforcement and much higher fines.

Hazardous materials or dangerous goods are articles or substances that are capable of posing a risk to health, safety, property or the environment. The regulations list thousands of hazardous materials by name; still more materials are subject to the regulations because they exhibit one or more dangerous properties as defined by the regulations. Examples of the types of materials that are subject to these regulations include

- Dry ice
- Diagnostic specimens
- Infectious substances
- Compressed gases
- Toxic substances
- Radioactive materials
- Oxidizing materials
- Corrosive materials
- Flammable solids or liquids
- Explosives

By law, any person who transports hazardous materials or offers a package containing hazardous materials for shipment by a commercial carrier must be trained and certified by their employer as being competent to do so. Hazardous material shipments must be properly packaged, marked, labeled and documented. Hazardous materials must never be carried aboard an aircraft on one’s person or in checked baggage. Failure to adhere to these regulations will place both the institution and the individual in legal jeopardy.
Please print and post the attached poster in all laboratories and other appropriate work areas so that it may remind employees how to access assistance with shipping of hazardous materials. Your assistance and vigilance is needed and appreciated.

Christopher M. Meyer, Director
Environmental Health and Safety
Need to Ship Hazardous Materials?

Federal and international regulations strictly regulate the transport of hazardous materials. Penalties and fines for errors (even minor mistakes) are severe. Examples of regulated hazardous material shipments are those containing:

- Dry Ice
- Diagnostic Specimens
- Infectious Substances
- Compressed Gases
- Radioactive Materials
- Oxidizing Materials
- Toxic Materials
- Corrosive Materials
- Flammable Solids or Liquids
- Explosives

Shipments by highway or by air in any of these categories must be properly packaged and labeled and the proper shipping documents must be precisely completed. Shipments may only be made by persons who have completed approved training and have been certified as HazMat shippers by the Environmental Health and Safety Department.

Help is available !!!!

For a list of trained personnel
http://finance.tamu.edu/ehsd/resources/hazmatship/trained.asp

Or

Contact EHSD by phone 845-2132

Visit http://ehsd.tamu.edu to see a list of trained individuals or contact EHSD at 845-2132. It is the right thing to do and it can save you plenty!