## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q:** *How do I ship plasmid DNA?*

**A:** Unless the plasmid DNA contains a toxin or a pathogen, it is considered non-hazardous and is not regulated for shipping purposes. It is recommended that non-hazardous research materials should be sent with an air waybill that specifies that the shipment is non-hazardous.

**Q:** *Is a human cell line expressing GFP a GMO?*

**A:** No. Only entire organisms or microorganisms that have been genetically modified are considered GMO/GMMO. Depending on the source of the cells, a human cell line expressing GFP may be shipped as Category B or an Exempt Specimen.

**Q:** *When is a human specimen exempt?*

**A:** When a human specimen has a minimal likelihood of containing pathogens, it is considered exempt. For example, screened bank blood is considered exempt. If the sample could reasonably be expected to contain pathogens, then it must be shipped as Category A or B.

**Q:** *How do I ship formalin/formaldehyde used as a fixative?*

**A:** It may be considered a class 3, 8, or 9 hazard, depending on the concentration of formaldehyde in the solution and whether or not the solution is flammable. Check the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for your solution to find the flashpoint and concentration. You should have an SDS for any hazardous chemical in your laboratory.

If you are shipping formalin solution that is less than 10% formaldehyde by volume, it is not considered a “dangerous good” for shipping purposes. It must still be packaged in sealed, leak-proof containment, and your secondary packaging should contain enough absorbent material to completely absorb the contents of the inner packaging. The air waybill should contain a description of what you are shipping (e.g. 10% buffered formalin) and the words “non-hazardous.”

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| **Solution (% by volume)** | **Hazardous (Y/N)** | **UN#** | **Hazard Class** | **Proper Shipping Name** |
| > 25% formaldehyde, flashpoint > 60 C | Y | 1198 | 3(8) | Formaldehyde solution, flammable |
| > 25% formaldehyde, flashpoint < 60 C | Y | 2209 | 8 | Formaldehyde solution |
| > 10% but <25% formaldehyde | Y | 3334 | 9 | Aviation regulated liquid, n.o.s. |
| < 10% formaldehyde | N | N/A | N/A | N/A |