Classification Flow Chart

Sample for Classification¹

Are all micro-organisms present non-pathogenic to humans and animals? Have the pathogens present been neutralized or inactivated so they no longer pose a health risk? Is it a dried bloodspot or fecal occult blood? Is it intended for transplant/transfusion? Is it known NOT to contain an infectious substance?

NO or UNKNOWN

Is your sample in a form on the list of indicative examples of Category A Infectious substances? - or - Is your sample capable of causing permanent disability, life-threatening or fatal disease in otherwise healthy humans or animals?

YES

Does your sample affect animals only?

YES

UN 2900 Infectious substance, affecting animals

NO

UN 2814 Infectious substance, affecting humans

UN 3373 Biological substance, Category B

Exempt human specimen or Exempt animal specimen

Is it a direct patient specimen for which a professional judgment has determined that it has a minimal likelihood of containing a pathogen?

YES

Is it a dried bloodspot or fecal occult blood?

YES

UN 3245 Genetically modified organisms and micro-organisms

NO

Not Regulated

Disclaimer – This flow chart is provided as guidance only.

¹ Anyone who attempts to classify an infectious substance must be trained and certified.

² In determining if a patient specimen has a minimal likelihood that a pathogen is present, an element of professional judgment is required. That judgment should be based on known patient medical history, symptoms and individual circumstances of the source, human or animal and endemic local conditions.