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A friendly reminder on
HOW TO SHIP FORMALIN FIXED SAMPLES

Properly packaging shipments of formaldehyde solutions will minimize the chance of leakage during transportation and maximize safety for all personnel handling shipments.

Packaging for excepted quantities of formaldehyde solutions must have three basic components:

1. Inner (primary) packaging, such as a vial, tube, jar, etc. Do not completely fill inner packagings; allow 10% head-space for liquid expansion. Closures of inner packagings must be held securely in place with tape, parafilm, metal crimps, or other positive means.
2. Intermediate (secondary) packaging, such as a ziplock or other plastic bag. Use good quality bags that are well sealed. Intermediate packaging must also contain enough absorbent material to absorb all contents and must not react with the formaldehyde.
3. Outer packaging, such as a cardboard box. Formaldehyde solutions may not be shipped in envelopes, padded paks, or other non-rigid mailers alone. Pad, line, or fill the box with enough foam, bubble wrap, or paper so that the primary container stays stationary.

PLEASE NOTE: When any of these three basic components are not present, the sample has an increased potential for leakage during transportation, compromising safety and the diagnostic quality of your samples. Improperly packages samples risk being destroyed by shipping companies due to the hazardous materials and chemicals present.

Zoo Exotic Pathology Service provides all clients with pre-filled formalin histology mailers that are designed with all of these regulations in mind.

If you have any questions or have a sample too large to fit in one of our mailers please contact the lab at (916) 339-6999 or zooexotic@icloud.com and we will be happy to instruct you on the safest way to package and ship your samples.