



OZGENE ARC

SHIPPER AND TRANSPORT GUIDELINES

SHIPPERS

GENERAL CONTAINER REQUIREMENTS FOR NON-DOMESTIC ANIMALS, INCLUDING LABORATORY (NOT WILD) ANIMALS

- Containers can be constructed from cardboard with moisture resistant coating, plastic, corrugated plastic composite board, laminated plastic composite and aluminium. (1)
- Containers must be closed and constructed of non-toxic materials and must be able to withstand the damage from other freight and must not have gaps from which animals can escape. (1)
- Containers must be able to be stacked at least 8 high when fully loaded. Inside of containers must be of a smooth, moisture resistant durable surface. (1)
- Containers must be constructed so an accidental opening cannot occur and be leak proof. (1)
- Container must be constructed so as not to cause damage to the animals and prevent the handler from being injured. (1)
- Containers must be constructed using suitable staples or water-resistant glue. (1)
- Normal habits and freedom of movement for the species must be considered. (1)

VENTILATION – SPECIFIC PATHOGEN FREE (SPF) REQUIREMENTS

- Care must be taken to select a filtered SPF shipping container to ensure that adequate ventilation is provided through the filtered openings to maintain a suitable environment for the animals. (1)
- Container must have spacers to allow ventilation and give a minimum spacing of 19mm. (1)
- Ventilation space should be at least 14% of the surface area of the side walls. This area may be added to or replaced with ventilation in the lid if the design requires it. (1)
- Filters should be made of water and tear resistant material and be protected by wire mesh. (1)
- Containers must be guaranteed to contain the animals and shelter them from rain, snow, direct sunlight, and cold weather. (4)
- Autoclaving may increase the resistance of biocontainment filters and restrict airflow. It is a prudent course of action to avoid re-autoclaving and reuse of the containers. (6)

LID

- Containers must contain viewing windows. (1)

FLOOR

- Floor of the container must not have staples and must be covered with absorbent bedding. (1)

LABELS

- Labels must comply with IATA Standards. Container must have the consignees name, address, and phone number. (1)
- Labels must not block ventilation openings, especially on small containers. (1)



PREPARATION BEFORE DESPATCH

- Ozgene ARC follow IATA Stocking Density Guidelines for rats and mice.

BEDDING

- SPF animals must be provided with clean appropriately disinfected dry bedding material. Shaved, shredded, or chipped wood, corn cob or shredded paper can be used but must absorb moisture products produced by the animals or water sources in the container. (1)

FOOD AND WATER

- Adequate food must be provided for the number of animals and the length of the journey.
- Food can be the same as fed in the SPF conditions the animals originated from. (1)
- Food in the container must not contravene any regulations in the country where it is going. (1)
- Water must be provided in a water kit, as Agar or colloid stabilized water (gelled water) (1)
- Emergency feeding and water during transit. As SPF animals cannot be fed or watered in transit enough food and water must be available to last 24 hours more than the expected travel time. (1)

HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS

- Tranquilisation or use of medication is not recommended, but if used must be recorded on the container and a copy added to the documentation. (1)
- Special consideration must be given to animals at certain stage of their life (e.g., pregnant animals, and animals with medical conditions). (2)
- Pregnant animals should not be moved in the last 10th of their gestation, but there are recommendations that animals are not moved in the last 5th of their gestation. (Rats and mice up to 17 days). (5)
- It is recommended that pups are not moved for a week after birth. (5)
- During times of extreme temperature animal transport may be detrimental to animal welfare and may not be possible unless heated or cooled means of transport are available. (2)

TRANSPORT CONSIDERATIONS

- Complex routes over long distances with multiple transfers increase the risk of poor outcomes and should be avoided where possible. (6)
- Transport providers must use temperature-controlled vehicles and ensure animals are transferred directly between climate-controlled environments to minimise stress. (1,7)
- The cargo space of aircraft is pressurised and heated to approximately 18–21 °C; however, this temperature is only achieved once airborne. Pre-flight temperatures may reflect ambient conditions on the tarmac. (4,7)
- When moving animals from a holding area to the aircraft, airlines are required to stay within set time limits for loading and unloading. (4)
- When animals cross international borders, note that while airlines may operate 24/7 and on Public Holidays, veterinary inspection services may not. (4)
- Special care should be taken to minimise stress by reducing light, noise, and handling, and by avoiding early transfer to the aircraft before departure. (1)
- Both suppliers and recipients must ensure satisfactory delivery procedures are in place, including receipt of animals by a responsible person. (3)
- Professional judgement should be applied to determine if temperature and transport conditions are suitable for shipment. (6,7)
- Transport providers must maintain contact availability, and emergency communication between all involved parties should be established prior to shipment. (6,7)



WEATHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Ozgene ARC will postpone animal air shipments if ground temperatures seriously risk animal welfare and will strive to promptly alert impacted customers.
- Jetpets is Ozgene ARC's primary transport provider for live animal shipments.
- Jetpets supplies daily and weekly weather forecasts to Ozgene ARC for dispatch planning.
- Temperature checks are based on forecast conditions at **9:00 PM lodgement** and **11:00 PM departure** time from Perth, and **arrival time** at destination ports. (7)
- Transport decisions are based on the following temperature thresholds:

Forecast Temperature (°C)	Action
Below 29.0 °C	Shipments proceed as planned. (7)
29.1 – 34.9 °C	Ozgene ARC and Jetpets jointly assess conditions. Shipment may proceed only with customer approval and a signed waiver (indemnification form) acknowledging elevated temperature risk. (7)
≥ 35.0 °C	Shipment will not proceed . Dispatch postponed until temperatures fall below threshold. (7)

- If customers are concerned about high temperatures, they may request to delay delivery. Ozgene ARC must receive requests by **9:00 AM AWST on the day prior to despatch** so that Jetpets can be advised before flight booking.

ON ARRIVAL

- An acclimatisation period to recover from the stress of transport of up to 4 days is recommended for mice and 3 days for rats. For toxicity studies 5 days is recommended for rats. (5)
- Acute stress from successful transportation is not likely to affect the long-term health of an animal adversely, but it can substantially change important psychophysiological measures in ways that could affect the outcomes of research. (6)

TRAINING

Training should include procedures applicable to mode of transport and cover at least: (6)

- Shipper and carrier responsibilities
- Inspection of primary enclosures
- Documentation
- Acceptance, handling, and delivery
- Loading and off-loading procedures and precautions Operator and government regulations
- Emergency procedures

ANIMAL WELFARE OFFICER

- The Animal Welfare Officer (AWO) must monitor all activities relating to the care and use of animals including transport, including ensuring that identified problems and issues receive appropriate follow up. The AWO can inspect the animals so that all phases of the animal supply are monitored including transport between sites. (3)



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REFERENCES

- (1) IATA Live Animal Regulations, 47th Edition
- (2) National Research Council. *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, 8th Edition, 2011
- (3) National Health and Medical Research Council. *Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes*, 8th Edition, 2013
- (4) *Transportation of Laboratory Animals*, 2014
- (5) *Laboratory Animals - Guidance on the Transport of Laboratory Animals*, 2005
- (6) *Guidelines for the Humane Transportation of Research Animals*, 2006
- (7) Jetpets Animal Transport Pty Ltd. *Standard Operating Procedure - Transportation of Laboratory Animals including GMOs*, 2025

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