

## Case Study

Alpha Laboratories recently introduced a busy pathology department to the unique SpecSafe® secondary packaging system. The team is sending away around 1000 samples every month, that include a mixture of 10.5ml vacutainers, 2ml screw cap tubes and 30ml universal containers.

### Time-Consuming Processes

These were originally packaged into boxes, which were supplied flat packed. It took up valuable time to assemble the boxes. What's more this was only one of the components used for packaging. Constructing the multiple layers required for legal compliance took up a lot of precious time.

### Financial Savings of 50%

This pathology department ran a pilot test to work out what savings could be made. By introducing SpecSafe they discovered that around £21,000 can be saved on sample transport costs over the course of a year. This equates to almost 50% of their total spend on send-away samples. The SpecSafe and accompanying polythene envelopes are cost neutral and the savings come from reduced postal costs, using large letter rates rather than small parcel rates.



Size	Weight up to and including	1st Class	2nd Class
		Price	Price
<b>Letter</b>	100g	67p	58p
<b>Large Letter</b>	100g	£1.01	79p
	250g	£1.40	£1.26
	500g	£1.87	£1.64
<b>Small Parcel</b>	750g	£2.60	£2.22
	1kg	£3.45	£2.95
	2kg	£5.50	£2.95
<b>Medium Parcel</b>	1kg	£5.75	£5.05
	2kg	£8.95	£5.05
	5kg	£15.85	£13.75

\*Royal Mail prices as published March 2018



## Compare the Costs

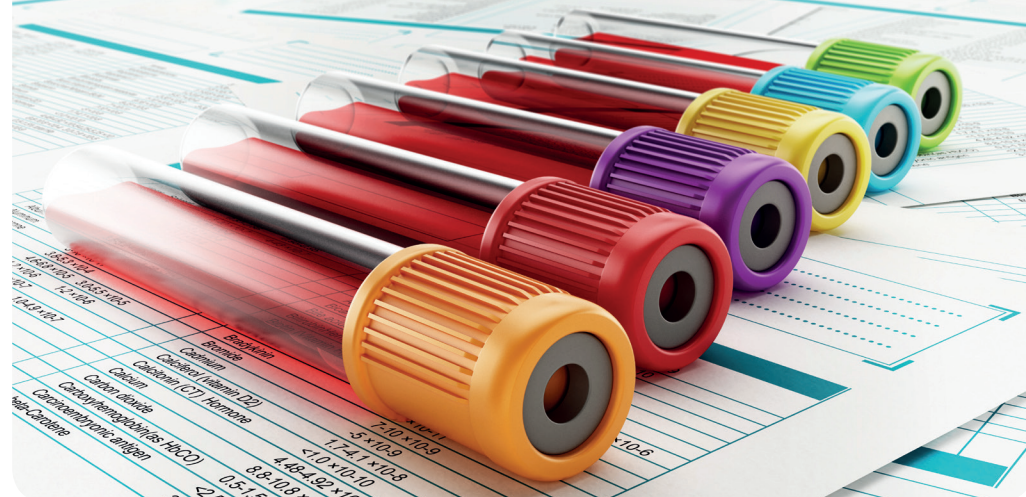
By reducing the bulky packaging required for compliant mailing of biological samples, SpecSafe brings significant cost savings. For example a pack of 5 blood tubes weighs less than 250g and when packaged in SpecSafe and a UN3373 marked poly envelope, can be mailed at large letter rate, saving £2.05\* (first class) compared to the small parcel rate necessary for a bulky package of multiple wrapped tubes.

## SpeciSafe® for a Wide Range of Samples

SpeciSafe packs are available in a wide range of design options covering the most commonly used 95kPa sample vessels. This unique packaging concept helps make compliance with the UN3373 packaging instruction easy, using minimal components, and saves you time and money.

We have recently updated our website and added a lot of useful resource material to help you with your sample transport compliance and packaging requirements. To find out more visit [www.UN3373.co.uk](http://www.UN3373.co.uk)

The packaging solution described is suitable for road transport.  
For air transport using SpeciSafe please see our website: [www.alphalabs.co.uk/specisafe-ifu](http://www.alphalabs.co.uk/specisafe-ifu)



## To Box or Box Clever?

### That is the Question

#### How do you package your send-away pathology samples?

Are you spending too much time and money on packaging your samples correctly?

If you are currently using boxes or PathoPaks and transporting samples by courier or Royal Mail parcel rates, this could be costing you a lot more and taking much longer than necessary.

#### UN3373 Compliance

The Transport of Dangerous Goods Regulations require patient specimens and other biological samples to be transported according to UN3373 Biological Substance Category B stipulations.

Compliance to UN3373 is essential but requires multiple elements that can result in a bulky package. It can also be very time consuming to construct a correctly packaged sample.

#### 3-Layer System for Compliance

For road transport, UN3373 compliance requires the leak-proof primary container to be held in a secondary leak-proof container. One of these must be 95kPa compliant.

The secondary packaging must include enough absorbent materials to soak up all the contents should leakage occur. When shipping multiple primaries these must be individually wrapped or separated so they do not come into contact with each other. Either the secondary or outer packaging must be rigid to protect the primaries from damage in transit.

Finally the outer packaging must contain suitable cushioning material and withstand a 1.2m drop test with no damage to the primary container. It must be clearly marked with the UN3373 diamond adjacent to the marking "BIOLOGICAL SUBSTANCE, CATEGORY B".

#### SpeciSafe® The Complete Secondary Packaging Solution

- Primary 95kPa containers fit into pre-moulded positions so are separated from each other
- Sufficient absorbent material is contained for the maximum primary container volume
- The SpeciSafe provides protection and cushioning
- It is leak-proof when closed
- The SpeciSafe is rigid so only requires a flexible outer for road transport

#### SpeciSafe also delivers further benefits:

- It is very quick and easy to use
- The transparent front means any leakages from the primary container are easily visible
- Patient information is easily seen and can be read by barcode readers without unpacking
- Samples can be posted by Royal Mail at large letter rates which could save over £2 per package, provided the primary container is less than 25mm in diameter and the sample volume does not exceed 50ml