

# Live Animals Regulations

## 2. PREPARATIONS BEFORE DISPATCH

There must be one species per bag.

The inner bag must be filled with water to approximately 1/3 of its capacity. The remaining 2/3 of the container is to be filled with oxygen. Use of ice cubes or chemicals such as methylene blue, volume of water and the amount of fish in the container are the shipper's responsibility. Carriers will not re-oxygenate fish shipments unless by special prearranged agreement.

Seahorses can be shipped in plastic bags as long as they can anchor themselves to something in order to minimize stress. A PVC mesh may be placed inside and weighed down with non-leaded weights. A **recommended** maximum of three animals of a length of 60 mm (or four of 45 mm) can be packed in a 250 – 380 mm bag. If shipment goes from warm to cold climate, it is suggested to add a heat pack. Conversely, if sea-horses are shipped from cold to tropical climate, ice packs should be used.

Aquatic amphibians can be shipped in the same manner as fish, but as some of them are able to breath air and will do so, the airspace above the water should consist of 50% pure oxygen and 50% normal air like in airbreathing fish. Pure oxygen can be detrimental to lung tissue. Aquatic amphibians are not to be fed 2 days prior of shipment to avoid fouling of the water.

The condition of fish and amphibians is directly affected by:

- the density, i.e. the number of fish or amphibians according to size in a given quantity of water;
- temperature of water.

For tropical fish insulation must be provided by the shipper within each unit to ensure a suitable temperature of 20°C (68°F) for the longest possible period.

Some species must be individually packed due to their sensitive reactions or aggressive tendencies.

Shippers must pack fish to survive unattended for at least 48 hours from time of acceptance by the airline.

*Note:*

*For aquatic amphibians from tropical regions like Pipa, Hymenochirus, Typhionectes, the temperature should be about 20°C (68°F). For other species like Axoloti, Newt and Salamandar la, vae, Andrias and Ciyptobranchus, the temperature should not exceed 15°C (59° F)*

The shipper must clearly mark on the container the local time and the date at which the animals were packed.

The shipper must indicate the acceptable temperature range (in Celsius and Fahrenheit) on the outside of the box in which the animals can be stored.

## 3. GENERAL CARE AND LOADING (see Chapters 5 and 10)

Animals must be held in areas where the ambient air temperature reduces the heat transfer to the absolute minimum.

No consignment of fish must be accepted if the planned journey exceeds 48 hours. Consignments of live fish must be treated as perishable items and handled accordingly.

For the purpose of providing life support for aquatic species during transport, a cylinder containing oxygen (compressed), UN 1072, packed in accordance with the IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations, may be carried to oxygenate the water with the approval of the appropriate authority of the States of origin, destination and of the operator.

# Container Requirements

## CONTAINER REQUIREMENT 52

The illustrations shown in this Container Requirement are examples only. Containers that conform to the principle of written guidelines for the species but look slightly different will still meet the IATA standards,

Applicable to:

Fishing snake                      Sharks (40 – 100 cm [16 – 40 in])

Koy Carp (40 – 75 cm  
[16— 30 in])                      Sturgeon

Other fish (up to 100 cm  
[40 in])                      Water snail

Pelagic sea snake                      Yellow—bellied sea snake

OPERATOR VARIATIONS: CO-04/05/09, JL-01, QF-01, UA-01

### 1. CONTAINER CONSTRUCTION

#### Materials

Water—resistant fibreboard, plastics or wood, polystyrene or styrofoam, strong cardboard lined with styrofoam, insulating material, 0.15 mm (0.006 in) or 0.25 mm (0.01 in) polythene bags.

#### Principles of Design

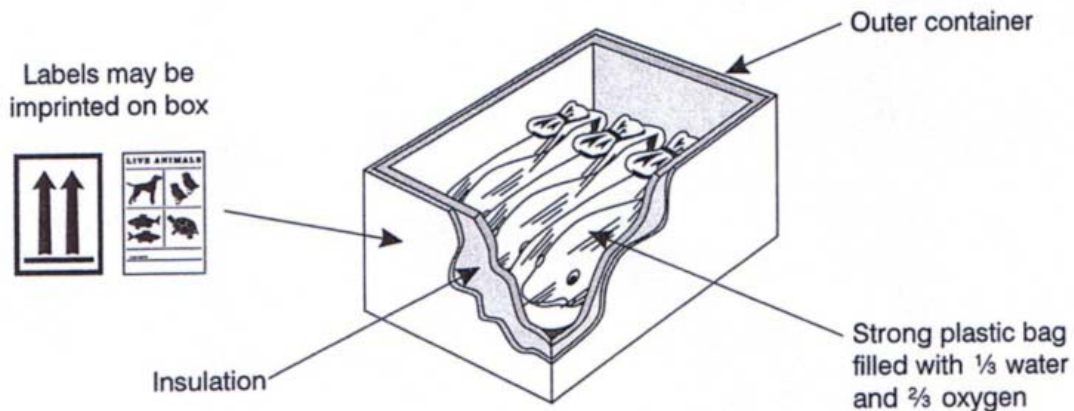
The following principles of design must be met in addition to the General Container Requirements outlined at the beginning of this chapter.

#### Outer Container

The outer container can be constructed of fibreboard, wood or wood products, polystyrene, or similar, lined strong cardboard or plastic material of adequate strength. Purpose—built containers of expanded polystyrene or styrofoam must be of adequate strength to contain the weight of water and to resist crushing. For small sharks, prone to biting, a pressurised polyester—resin coated container may be used. The inner surface of the outer container must be smooth, non—abrasive and free from all projections. The container must be leak—proof or plastic—lined.

#### EXAMPLE:

Labels may be



#### Inner Container

Strong plastics (polyethylene) bag with full width opening at the top and deep enough so that the portion above the water can be twisted and doubled over in order to be sealed—with elastic bands, wire or metal strip. It is preferable that each bag is placed in a second bag in case of breakage or leakage.

**Note:**

*States may require the physical inspection of the contents of shipments tendered by shippers meeting a specific state mandated criteria as determined by the transporting carrier.*

**Insulation**

In cold water the use of expanded polystyrene containers or the use of expanded polystyrene sheeting around the container on all sides including the top and bottom is recommended. During warm weather or when transportation is via hot climates, crushed ice must be packed around the plastic bags containing the fish within the outer container which must then be of expanded polystyrene or styrofoam.

**2. PREPARATIONS BEFORE DISPATCH (see Chapter 5)**

There must be one species per bag.

The bag must be filled with water to one-third of its capacity and this must cover the fish completely. There must be sufficient space around the fish so that it can undulate freely but not turn round. The remaining two-thirds of the bag space must be filled with oxygen by the shipper before the bags are sealed for shipment. The shipper must pack the fish to survive unattended for at least 18 hours from the time of acceptance by the airline. Facilities for re-oxygenation must be arranged at the destination, in the event of the transport process being extended beyond the anticipated time frame. In warm climates a supply of bags of crushed ice must be placed around the fish bags in order to maintain the correct temperature.

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The container must be clearly marked with the time and date at which the fish were packed. The time and date of acceptance must also be added to the container. The fish logo on the IATA Live Animals Label may be highlighted to draw attention.

The shipper must clearly mark the container with the acceptable temperature range for the species in the container both in Celsius and Fahrenheit in which the container can be stored.

Species of sea snakes must be placed in salt water with oxygen in the same manner as fish.

### **3. GENERAL CARE AND LOADING (see Chapters 5 and 10)**

Fish must be fasted for a few days prior to shipment in order to reduce excreta and subsequent ammonia formation. The plastic bags with the fish must be handled carefully to prevent the fish from thrashing excessively. Keeping the bags as near the horizontal as possible and reducing noise and light will all help at the time of packaging. Bubbling oxygen through the water also acts as a sedative. The use of special waste absorbent material packed with the fish may help to maintain a healthy water environment.

The shipment of larger fish or the bottom dwelling species, such as the pelagic sharks, that need to swim constantly, requires the use of specially designed transport containers with a submersible pump and a constant oxygen supply in order to meet the physiological requirements of these species. An attendant who is conversant with such equipment must accompany these shipments.

The shipment of live fish in direct contact with ice is unacceptable on humane grounds as the tissues become devitalised.

For the purpose of providing life support for aquatic species during transport, a cylinder containing oxygen (compressed), UN 1072, packed in accordance with the IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations, may be carried to oxygenate the water with the approval of the appropriate authority of the States of origin, destination and of the operator.