

- Wash hands and exposed skin thoroughly with soap and water.
- Call BSO at (202) 806-9710 to report the size, location, and composition of the spill.

### **3.11 SHIPPING OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS**

Import, export, and interstate transport of hazardous materials are subject to requirements and laws from several regulatory agencies. The U.S. Public Health Service (PHS), U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and U.S. Postal Service, regulate transport of hazardous materials by rail, air, vessel, and public highway. The guidelines and regulations of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and International Civil Aviation Organization also apply when shipping substances by air. Import/Export Permit requirements are regulated by the Bureau of Customs; the Department of Commerce, CDC, and USDA require permits for certain materials. Materials considered hazardous and regulated for shipping purposes include hazardous chemicals, wastes, etiologic agents, infectious substances, diagnostic specimens, and dry ice.

The PHS defines etiologic agents as viable microorganisms that cause disease in humans; infectious substances are those substances that contain etiologic agents. This terminology is used by the DOT and IATA. Diagnostic specimens are anything that the shipper reasonably believes to contain an infectious substance. Diagnostic and infectious specimens are regulated by the USDA, U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), PHS, and IATA. Biological product means a product prepared in accordance with regulations that govern the manufacture of vaccines, reagents, or all viruses, serums, toxins, etc. intended for use in the diagnosis, treatment, or prevention of diseases in humans or animals. Biological products are regulated by the USDA, FDA, PHS, DOT, and IATA.

Laboratory staff may receive awareness training from EH&S office for the shipment of hazardous materials. Individuals packaging specimens/hazardous materials for shipment must receive function-specific training. The training is required every two years or when there is change in the regulations. For assistance regarding training and other requirements necessary for the legal shipping of hazardous materials, please contact EH&S office at (202) 806-1033.