



## International Shipping – Live Animal Diagnostic Services

At Charles River, we understand that shipping your live animals across borders oftentimes presents a variety of challenges. In order to help you streamline this process, we have compiled the information that you need to import live animals for the collection of diagnostic samples into the United States.

### Species of live animals accepted and included in these guidelines:

- Mice
- Rats
- Hamsters
- Gerbils
- Guinea pigs
- Rabbits

### Checklist

#### On the outside of the container:

- 1 address label
- The words “LIVE ANIMALS - HANDLE WITH CARE”
- 1 laboratory animals label
- 1 label that lists the scientific and common name of animal as well as quantity of animals inside the container

#### An envelope containing (outside of the box):

- 4 copies of the customs invoice
- 1 copy of the USDA-required statement

#### On the inside of the container:

- 1 copy of the Charles River Health Monitoring Submission Form

*Please be sure to make copies of all documentation for your files before shipping.*

*Please note that when referring to specific US and international regulations and guidance cited below, any Patient Specimen is regarded as, “any human or animal material including, but not limited to excreta, secreta, blood, and its components, tissue and tissue fluids, and body parts being transported for purposes such as research, diagnosis, investigational activities, and disease treatment or prevention.”*

## Required Documentation and Labeling

The following documents are necessary in order to ship live laboratory rodents or rabbits to Charles River in the United States:

1. **Customs Invoice\***. This document states the number of samples and the declared monetary value of the shipment. A total of four (4) copies of this invoice are necessary. The invoice must be printed on facility letterhead (stationery with the name and physical address of the facility) and placed on the **outside** of the container. Please contact your international carrier, freight forwarder, or customs broker for additional details.
2. **Document for the USDA\***. This document must be placed on the **outside** of the container. It is a **signed** document on facility letterhead (stationery with the name and physical address of the facility) that provides the following:
  - A written statement confirming that the live laboratory animals have not been exposed to or inoculated with any livestock or poultry disease agents exotic to the United States.
  - A written statement confirming that the live laboratory animals do not originate from a facility where work with exotic disease agents affecting livestock or poultry is conducted.

*\*These documents should **NOT** be placed inside the shipping containers, but rather should accompany each shipment on the outside of the container and be accessible for review by the specialists at the US port of arrival.*

A **USDA CITES permit will not be required** for the importation of laboratory rodent, rabbit, and ferret materials provided that they meet the criteria listed above. For additional information on USDA documentation guidelines, please refer to their website: [www.aphis.usda.gov](http://www.aphis.usda.gov). Please reference "Guidelines for Importation #1103 (Live Laboratory Mammals and Their Material [for research

purposes])" and "Guidelines for Importation #1120 (Cell Cultures/Lines, Recombinant Cell Cultures/Lines, and Their Products [for in vitro use])".

3. **Completed Charles River Health Monitoring Submission Form**. This document should be placed **inside** the container and can be found at [www.criver.com/info/diagnostic\\_sample\\_submission](http://www.criver.com/info/diagnostic_sample_submission).
4. Please **mark on the outside of the shipping container** "**LIVE ANIMALS - HANDLE WITH CARE**". These markings must be at least one inch high and appear on the top and one additional side of the shipping container. Charles River provides complimentary shipping materials to our customers. Please visit [www.criver.com/info/quotes](http://www.criver.com/info/quotes) to request materials using our shipping materials request form.
5. Attach a **laboratory animals label** on the outside of the shipping container. These labels can be purchased from the IATA website at <http://www.iata.org/ps/publications/dgr/handling-labels.htm>.
6. Attach **two "This End Up" labels** on two **opposite** sides of the shipping container. These labels can be purchased from the IATA website at <http://www.iata.org/ps/publications/dgr/handling-labels.htm>.
7. Attach a **separate label** which lists the scientific and common name of the animal as well as the quantity of animals must appear on the **outside** of the shipping container. This can be arranged with your international shipping company. To obtain a shipping container, please contact our Technical Services Department at 1-800-338-9680 or [comments@crl.com](mailto:comments@crl.com).

For more specific information on shipping your samples, please reference our sample submission information sheet: [www.criver.com/info/diagnostic\\_sample\\_submission](http://www.criver.com/info/diagnostic_sample_submission).

We have two diagnostic laboratories in the United States. Our diagnostic laboratory in the United States is located in Wilmington, MA.

Live animals must be scheduled prior to submission. Charles River is a firm advocate of animal health, safety, and well-being. In adherence to our strict animal welfare policy, we request that all live animal submissions be scheduled in advance with Technical Services. Advanced scheduling will ensure that your animals arrive safely and are received in a timely fashion.

Please ship samples and accompanying sample submission form to:

Research Animal Diagnostic Services  
Health Monitoring Laboratory  
Charles River  
251 Ballardvale Street  
Wilmington, MA 01887  
USA

Further information on air transport of animals can be found on the International Air Transportation Association (IATA) website: [www.iata.org](http://www.iata.org). Copies of their Live Animals Regulations can be obtained for a fee from IATA.

These instructions are intended to be used as a guide. To the best of our knowledge, these are the documents necessary to ship your samples to the United States. Prior to shipping, however, please verify these guidelines with the organizations listed above. It is the responsibility of the shipper to verify these guidelines and correctly classify, identify, mark, label, and document the specimens to be shipped.

If you require further information, such as details regarding our diagnostic services capabilities, or to obtain complimentary labels and shipping forms, please contact our Technical Services Department at 1-800-338-9680 or [comments@crl.com](mailto:comments@crl.com).

