



Technical Tip 15

Samples Used on ZEUS Scientific Test Systems

Subject: How to Prepare and Properly Ship Samples to ZEUS Scientific

Background: Often ZEUS is requested to perform sample evaluation testing for customers as part of Technical Service investigations or methodology conversions. It is important that the integrity of every sample shipped for testing is maintained. This will aid in ensuring accuracy while minimizing factors that may adversely affect test results – especially from the time the laboratory has first tested the sample to the time it is retested at ZEUS. It is equally important to consider those personnel who are required to “handle” the returned samples to ensure that steps have been taken at the customer end to minimize direct exposure to a sample that “leaks” in transit. Therefore, the following steps should be followed:

Instructions:

1. **Avoid shipping samples that are grossly hemolyzed, icteric or lipemic.**
2. **Do NOT ship whole blood samples. Red blood cells may burst due to shipping trauma, creating a hemolyzed sample, which may affect test results in general.**
3. **ONLY ship serum that has been previously centrifuged and removed from the clotted red blood cells. Do NOT ship serum in original blood collection tubes that have been centrifuged and that still contain the clotted red blood cells.**
4. **Do NOT ship serum samples that are in SST / serum separator tubes. This serum should be removed from the tube and shipped separately.**
5. **ALWAYS aliquot the sample to be shipped and place it into a plastic, polypropylene tube that contains a screw cap.**
6. **A minimum volume of 0.5 mLs or 500 microliters is requested.**
7. **ALWAYS ensure that the cap on the tube is securely tightened prior to shipping to prevent leakage in transit.**
8. **Place sample tubes into a double zip-lock plastic bag prior to shipping.**



9. **Do NOT include paperwork or data in the same zip-lock bag as the samples. This will minimize contamination should leakage occur. Paperwork may be included in a separate envelope or bag.**
10. **Place samples into a sturdy carton that will endure shipping and handling during transit.**
11. **Ship samples for overnight delivery. It is optimal to include cool-paks or ice-paks.**
12. **Place a note or sticker on the outside container: “Refrigerate Upon Arrival” in order to ensure immediate temperature requirements are met upon receipt.**

Please note: ZEUS Scientific, Inc. is not a licensed reference laboratory and results generated are to be used for informational purposes only. In addition, should samples arrive in poor condition or there is evidence that leakage has occurred, ZEUS reserves the right to discard and request another sample (s) from the customer.