

## 2.6 Sample Handling

### 2.6.1 Packaging

The body-fluid samples had been collected in 10 ml tubes (blood) and 18 ml vials (urine), and these were placed in plastic bags when placed in the cooler (partially filled with locally-obtained loose ice); and, later, these plastic bags were put in cardboard containers for storage in the refrigerator. However, condensation caused some smearing of labels and the cardboard container to weaken and deteriorate somewhat. To counter this problem, the tubes/vials were transferred to dry racks. For the trip to Canada, the tubes/vials in the dry racks were simply placed in each cooler, covered with plastic bags, which were covered with the pre-frozen ice packs, and then the latch-cover of each cooler was secured in place with two luggage straps each. Materials were placed in the cooler in such a way as to minimize movement.

Each of the two loaded coolers weighed approximately 52 kg for the return trip. Unnecessary equipment (extra tubes, vials, needles etc.,) was simply left behind.