

- o Collect at least two mediastinal lymph nodes.
- o Photographs and questionnaires should be employed where appropriate.

Packaging Biomedical Samples: Place the mylar bag(s) or sample container in a plastic bag. Remove excess air and seal tightly. Mark the container with a sample identification number. Place 1-2 inches of packing material (vermiculate, foam, etc.) around the sample bag in a rigid container. Wrap jars, tubes, or specimen cups in a bubble wrap or other suitable material so they do not move in the container. Place a lid on the container and seal with the wide tape.

Transport of Samples: Place the environmental and biomedical samples in an insulated chest ensuring that the sample is packed tightly and an adequate supply of refrigerant is available. Seal the chest with appropriate tamper-resistant seals and label accordingly. The procedure should further meet the specifications for etiologic agents and toxic material shipments. All sample transfer must be documented with appropriate courier receipts to ensure a legal chain of custody of the shipment.

Conclusions

Procedures for sample management to assure credible evidence with compliance of the terms of the draft convention to ban chemical weapons use or production have been developed. It is hoped that a set of procedures can be standardized which will be usable for all potential circumstances. Such procedures are necessary to provide confidence in the overall verification of such a convention. The foregoing discussion presents a number of factors that need to be considered in developing them, and, in some cases suggests procedures that might be utilized. In all cases, the procedures should be standardized for use in all situations.