



DIAGNOSTIC SERVICE **INSTRUCTIONS FOR SHIPING BIOLOGICAL MATERIALS**

The Laboratorio Central de Veterinaria (LCV), as EU Reference Laboratory for African horse sickness and Bluetongue, and OIE Reference Laboratory for African horse sickness, provides diagnostic services for African horse sickness and Bluetongue, as well as differential diagnosis for related pathogens. Samples are tested using techniques described in the OIE Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals, being most of them [accredited to ISO/IEC 17025](#).

Prior to sample submission to the reference laboratory, please contact us in order to discuss the reason for testing (clinical suspicion, animal trade, etc.) and any other matter regarding the specimens, such as storage temperature (if possible, store under refrigeration conditions) or transport regulation. *Please, note that Laboratories other than European Union National Reference Laboratories must enclose their samples with a request signed by the Official Veterinary Services of the country of origin.*

The sample submission form must be completed and included in the shipment.

In the interest of animal health, biological materials collected from animals must be transported safely, efficiently and legally. Samples must be classified, packaged, labeled and accompanied by documentation according to the international regulations for the transport of infectious substances.

The World Health Organization (WHO) guidance document on “[Transport of Infectious Substances](#)” summarises the different transport regulations.

Regarding infectious substance classification, take into account that if your samples contain (or are reasonably expected to contain) an *African horse sickness or Bluetongue virus*, they are classified as dangerous goods for transportation:

CATEGORY B – UN3373 (BOTH CLINICAL OR CULTURES SAMPLES)

Nevertheless, if pathogens have been neutralized or inactivated; are not subject to dangerous goods regulations (**EXEMPT**).