



The University of Sheffield

Safety Services



Transport and Movement

The transport of radioactive materials by road is covered by special transport regulations. The regulations themselves and guidance on the transport of small quantities of material can be located on the following pages:-

- [2002 transport regulations](#)
- [transport guidance notes](#)
- [AURPO transport guidance](#)

The **movement** of radioactive materials shall be taken to mean all movements by hand inside a University building or outside a building but not in a public place.

To meet the requirements of movement the item should be in a suitable receptacle. It is not permissible to take a vial, flask or sample tube containing radioactive substances from one laboratory to another without first putting it in a suitable receptacle.

A suitable receptacle must provide adequate shielding for the person carrying it, and be robust enough not to break on being dropped. If there is the possibility of a spill, then sufficient absorbent material should be enclosed in the receptacle to contain it, or the receptacle should be adequately sealed to prevent leakage.

The following containers, or combinations of them, could be considered suitable:-

- (a) a screw top plastic or metal container - Amersham cans ideal;
- (b) a plastic snap top container;
- (c) a push fit plastic or metal container adequately taped up;
- (d) a lead pot adequately taped up (would require absorbent packing for liquids in glass vials if used on its own); and
- (e) for sealed sources, the lockable money boxes already in use would be suitable.

Although the radioactive substance itself should be adequately labelled, no additional information or specific labelling of the receptacle is required for the movement of

radioactive substances. However, if the material is likely to remain in its receptacle for some time, or left unattended, then some indication of its contents would be advisable.

Any packaging/receptacle used for the transport of excepted or Type A packages in line with IAEA Transport Regulations can be taken to be suitable for the movement of a radioactive substance.