

Dept of Medical Microbiology, Division of Clinical Microbiology, Galway University Hospitals		
Specimen Rejection Policy	Version: 1	Ref: NSRLLP002
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National *Salmonella* Reference Laboratory Specimen Rejection Policy

Specimens sent to the NSRL will be rejected if:

- isolates are sent on agar plates, plastic universals or large bijoux
- specimens contain a mixed bacterial culture
- specimen slope is broken
- specimen form and/or slope are unlabelled, mismatched or incomplete
- transportation of samples to the NSRL is not followed correctly, i.e.
 - slopes not enclosed in a crushproof container
 - external packaging not labeled correctly
- if for any other reason the specimen is not in a safe condition for processing and/or can not be clearly identified.
- NSRL request forms must be completed in legible handwriting or typing and all details must be entered.
 - Human isolates
The patient name and referring lab number must be on both the form and side of slope.
 - Non-human isolates
The referring lab number and isolate source must be on both the form and side of slope
Isolate source must be clearly stated, e.g. pork, chicken, bovine, otherwise a report will not be issued.

Transportation of samples

Slopes must be packaged and transported according to IATA regulations.

- Grow isolate overnight on a small nutrient agar slope and remove any fluid accumulating at the bottom of the slope using a sterile Pasteur pipette.
- Place slope(s) into an inner crushproof hard plastic container and place this into a cardboard box or envelope.
- Label with an emergency contact number for the sender and an Infectious substance label.
- Label box with UN3373 and add sticker with "BIOLOGICAL SUBSTANCE, CATEGORY B".