



Importing and exporting biological samples: Do's and don'ts

The importing and exporting of biological samples to and from a US bioanalytical lab requires strict regulations, planning, and coordination. Therefore, pharma companies and bioanalytical partners must proactively work together to secure the correct import or export licenses and/or permits prior to shipment. This ensures international samples arrive intact and on time.

Read below to learn the top 5 do's and don'ts of effectively navigating the import and export of your biological samples.

DO	DON'T
<p>Plan for approvals with realistic timelines</p> <p>Speed to market is always critical. However, permit and license approvals can take longer than you think; not budgeting appropriate timelines can cause unnecessary program delays. Often, a strong bioanalytical partner can help you accurately plan timelines.</p>	<p>Think that speed is the only factor to success</p> <p>Preparation and planning are key to ensure that the import and export of your biological samples don't hinder your program. Not budgeting the right length of time can lead to frustration, missed clinical slots, damaged samples, and costly delays.</p>
<p>Take a single-partner approach</p> <p>Working with a single vendor, you can streamline all licenses, documentation, communication, activities, and processes to drive efficiencies within your drug program.</p>	<p>Cause chaos trying to manage many partners</p> <p>Importing and exporting biological samples is already an arduous process. Don't add complexity by trying to manage projects and different partners, especially since each partner operates differently.</p>
<p>Develop a strategic and tactical plan</p> <p>Strategic and tactical planning go hand in hand for optimizing your process, which helps ensure that your project goes smoothly. One benefit of working with a strong bioanalytical partner is that they can help you with this part by giving you recommendations, sharing key learnings, etc.</p>	<p>Immediately start executing</p> <p>As tempting as it might be to jump into the import/export process, there are a lot of lock steps. Without the appropriate strategy and tactical plan in place, you will experience inefficiencies within your program, which will result in delays and costly rework.</p>
<p>Coordinate the logistics with your partner</p> <p>Proper coordination and collaboration of logistics, permits, and licensing are critical to importing/exporting. Thorough execution will ensure that your samples are being handled appropriately and that your project is running according to plan. This results in peace of mind for you and your samples.</p>	<p>Send your samples without proper coordination</p> <p>Don't just send your samples without a plan and coordination. A haphazard approach carries numerous risks, such as samples getting stuck or lost in customs, causing them to thaw.</p>
<p>Research and select the right courier for you</p> <p>There are many courier options. Do your research to find one that is reliable and has a proven track record to ensure that the integrity of your samples is not compromised. The right bioanalytical partner can give you recommendations.</p>	<p>Settle for just any courier</p> <p>It might be easier and quicker to select any available courier without proper investigation. However, a poorly chosen courier may also lead to damaged or lost samples due to delays or handling mishaps.</p>

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