

July 11, 2018

## Update: NIOSH Product Shipping

Updated packing method for hazardous or potentially hazardous drugs goes into effect on ASD Healthcare orders placed today, Monday, June 11, 2018.

The U.S. Pharmacopeial Convention (USP) issued new guidance and quality standards (General Chapter <800> Hazardous Drugs—Handling in Healthcare Settings), which will **go into effect on December 1, 2019**. This guidance applies to hazardous or potentially hazardous drugs defined by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

ASD Healthcare, part of AmerisourceBergen, is dedicated to the highest safety and security standards to maintain the integrity of the pharmaceutical supply chain. All pharmaceuticals are handled, stored and shipped in compliance with the specifications mandated by the drug manufacturer on product packaging and/or the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). We are required to comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations. As such, hazardous materials are handled, stored and shipped according to EPA, OSHA and DOT regulations.

While pharmaceutical wholesalers are not directly impacted by this guidance, we are taking this opportunity to better support our customers in their adherence to these standards.

An updated packing method will be used for NIOSH items ordered beginning today, **Monday, June 11, 2018**. You will receive NIOSH 1 (N1) items in a separate box with N1 indicated on the shipping label. NIOSH 2 (N2) and NIOSH 3 (N3) items will be shipped in the same box and the highest hazardous class will be identified on the shipping label. For example, if a box contains both N2 and N3 items, N2 will be indicated on the shipping label.

### NIOSH 1, 2, and 3 items are defined as:

| Term         | Definition   |
|--------------|--|
| NIOSH 1 (N1) | Many of these drugs may pose a reproductive risk for susceptible populations   |
| NIOSH 2 (N2) | Some of these drugs may also pose a reproductive risk for susceptible populations  |
| NIOSH 3 (N3) | Drugs that primarily pose a reproductive risk to men and women who are actively trying to conceive and women who are pregnant or breastfeeding because some of these drugs may be present in breast milk |

When receiving NIOSH classified products, please look for the classification on the UPS and FedEx labels as pictured below:



**Please note:** if the box does not include a NIOSH item, there will not be any NIOSH indicators on the shipping label. A UPS label will have an empty reference field, while a FedEx label will contain a PO number in the reference field.

For additional information regarding NIOSH USP 800 Requirements, please refer to the following frequently asked questions, or contact Customer Service at 800.746.6273.

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) – NIOSH USP 800 Requirements

### What is AmerisourceBergen doing to support customers in their adherence to new USP 800 requirements?

AmerisourceBergen has implemented a separation and identification solution to help our customers identify shipments of NIOSH items. These changes were implemented based on feedback from a customer focus group discussion identifying the challenges in a healthcare setting.

AmerisourceBergen also offers USP 800 consulting as part of a variety of consulting services through our Pharmacy Healthcare Solutions (PHS) team, designed to meet your unique needs—including risk and facility assessments to process development and redesign.

### What are other companies owned by AmerisourceBergen doing to support adherence to new USP 800 requirements?

As much as possible, AmerisourceBergen is aligning our approach to these important requirements across our different businesses. Where there are differences in our operational processes, systems and staffing, there may be differences in how each AmerisourceBergen company provides and identifies NIOSH products. If you are impacted by these differences, you will receive a communication with details about how products will be identified and whom to contact with questions.

### How will I know if an ASD Healthcare shipment contains a NIOSH item?

ASD Healthcare shipping labels will be labeled with N1, N2 or N3 to identify shipments with NIOSH items. NIOSH 1 (N1) items will be shipped in a separate box and indicated on the shipping labels as N1. NIOSH 2 (N2) and NIOSH 3 (N3) items will be shipped in the same box and the highest hazardous class will be identified on the shipping label. For example, if a box contains both N2 and N3 items, N2 will be indicated on the shipping label.

N2 and N3 items may be shipped in a box along with products not classified on the NIOSH table. In this event, N2 and N3 items will be placed in an antineoplastic bag, and the highest NIOSH classification included in the box will be printed on the shipping label.

### Where does the NIOSH reference number appear on ASD Healthcare shipping labels?

Please refer to the sample shipping labels below:





3101 Gaylord Parkway  
Frisco, TX 75034

☎ 800.746.6273  
🌐 [asdhealthcare.com](http://asdhealthcare.com)

**When will I start to receive shipments with the changed NIOSH packing method and shipping labels?**

The change to the NIOSH packing method and shipping labels will go into effect on orders placed Monday, June 11, 2018. Facilities will begin receiving NIOSH labeled boxes Tuesday, June 12, 2018.

**How do I manage damaged NIOSH products that may be leaking and were purchased from ASD Healthcare?**

If you receive damaged NIOSH products, please contact ASD Healthcare Customer Service at 800.746.6273 to be issued a credit for any impacted items. Customer Service will instruct you on the safe return or disposal of damaged products at that time.

**Will you accept returns of undamaged NIOSH items?**

ASD Healthcare's standard returns policy will apply to certain undamaged NIOSH items, depending on manufacturer standards for returns. Please send these products back in an antineoplastic bag.

**Who should I contact with questions about ASD Healthcare's processes for NIOSH products?**

Please contact your sales representative or ASD Healthcare Customer Service with any additional questions. Customer service can be reached at 800.746.6273.