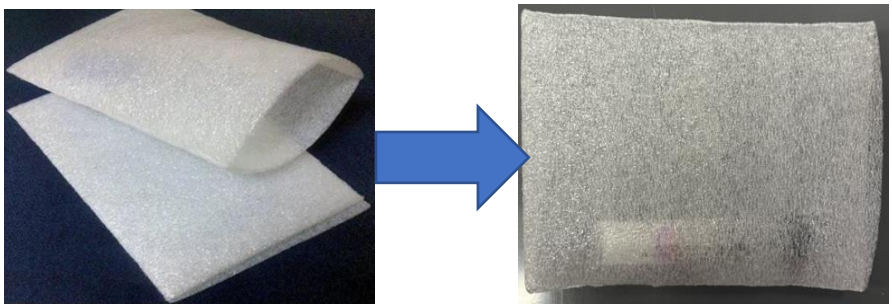
Safe Pneumatic Tube Transport of Anaerobic Systems Transport (AS) Glass Tubes

To prevent breakage and preserve specimen integrity, the following protocol is strongly recommended for AS tube transport using pneumatic systems:

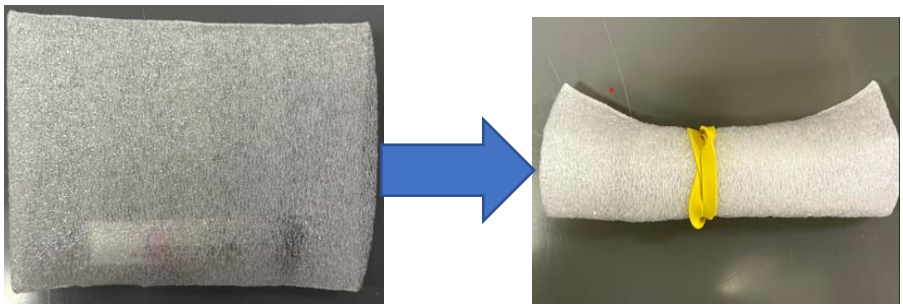
1. Packaging Protocol

- **Primary Containment**: Ensure the **AS tube (SAP# 13231**) is properly sealed, labeled, and free of external contamination.

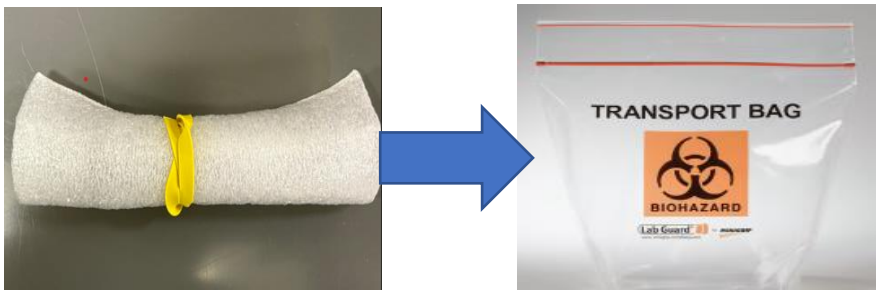
- **Secondary Containment**:
  - Place the AS tube inside a **Uline 4x6 foam pouch (SAP# 204611)**. This pouch serves dual purpose: shock absorption and fluid containment in case of breakage. ***NOTE:* Place only a single AS tube per foam pouch.**



  - Once the AS tube is inside the **center** of the foam pouch, roll and secure the foam pouch using tape or a rubber band to prevent shifting during transit.

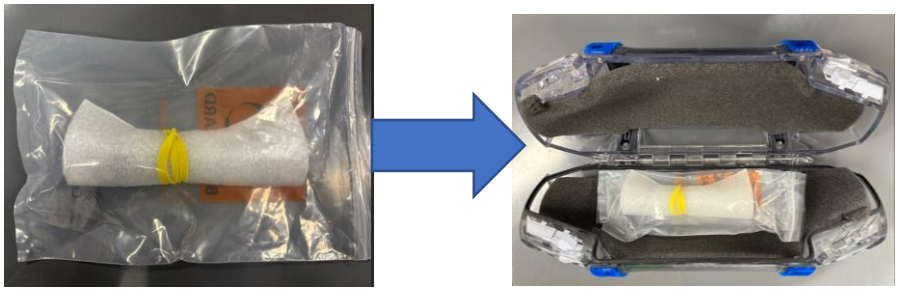


    - Place the foam-wrapped tube into a specimen transport bag.



- Insert the specimen bag into a rigid, leak-proof secondary container with additional absorbent material if needed.

- **Tertiary Containment**:
  - Place the secondary container into a hard-shell pneumatic tube carrier (below).
  - Add extra foam padding(grey) around the container to minimize vibration and impact.



2. Carrier Configuration

- **Orientation**: Position the AS tube horizontally or upright with the cap facing upward.
- **Padding**: Line the carrier with additional foam (grey) foam to dampen impact.
- **Weight Limit**: Transport only **one** AS tube per carrier when possible to reduce collision risk.

3. Transport Settings

- **Speed Control**: Select the lowest speed setting available for glass tube transport.
- **Route Selection**: Avoid high-impact routes with sharp turns or vertical drops. ***Hand-carry to the lab if necessary.**

4. Labeling and Communication

- **Specimen Labeling**: Mark the tube with "ANAEROBIC – **GLASS** – HANDLE WITH CARE."
- **Carrier Labeling**: Apply a "FRAGILE – GLASS CONTENTS" sticker if possible.
- **Notification**: Alert the receiving DCAL Specimen Management team & Microbiology prior to dispatch, especially for STAT specimens.

5. Contingency and Incident Response

- **Breakage Protocol**:
    - Follow lab exposure control and spill response procedures. Refer to E&O SOP:
      Microsoft Word - PTS User Instructions revised 6-28-21
      A-22 Pneumatic Tube System - Do and Dont
    - Document the incident and notify the pneumatic tube system administrator.
    - Recollect the specimen if appropriate and notify the provider.