UL defines minimum requirements for shipment of material samples (liquid, powders, gases, and hazardous other materials) and products/components (ex: batteries) used in UL certified end products as part of UL's certification requirements.

This document applies to all customers of UL's product certification services for the U.S. and Canadian markets, i.e., UL/C-UL/ULC Mark certifications.

Why this requirement is important?
Safety is a key element in the shipment of samples to UL therefore samples must be shipped in proper containers for the safe transport of the material with clear identification of the material for handling by personnel, and any subsequent “in route” emergency and disposal needs.

Failure to comply with the minimum requirements for shipment of samples can result in delays, extra expenses, spills, injury, and damage to property.

REQUIREMENTS
Responsibility
It is a manufacturer’s responsibility to assure that all material samples of liquid, powders, gases, and hazardous materials and products/components (ex: batteries) are properly labeled and shipped with the appropriate Safety Data Sheet (SDS) and provided in compliant containers as follows.

Safety Data Sheet (SDS) and containers for material samples of liquid, powders, gases, and hazardous other materials and products/components (ex: batteries) samples. The following process shall be followed when selection of liquid Representative Samples are required:
- Samples must always be provided in proper containers.
- Containers shall be new, never before used and clean so that there is no chance of contamination and contain a locking top to prevent leakage in shipment.
- Plastic bottles with narrow throats may only be used for liquid samples that remain in the liquid state at ambient temperatures.
- Metal containers with wide throats must be used for liquids that cure to a solid state at ambient temperatures (the wider throat is necessary to remove the sample in its solid form and the metal container permits the heating of the sample to a liquid state, if necessary).
- To comply with applicable governmental regulations the manufacturer shall:
  - Provide the appropriate Safety Data Sheet (SDS) or other such documents and complete these documents in accordance with applicable governmental requirements. Whenever possible or as required the applicable governmental required documents must be attached to the sample container, along with the sample tag.
  - Properly label the containers per local requirements of the ship to country such as the USA OSHA Hazard Communication requirements for shipments within and to the USA. Note: Many countries, including the USA have adopted the Globally Harmonized labeling system though require labels in the local language.
  - Ship samples in accordance with International Air Transportation Association (IATA) and US Department of Transportation regulations.
SDS Exemptions for Liquid Samples
If a manufacturer’s sample does not require shipment with a SDS the manufacturer is required to provide the UL Field engineer with supporting documents showing that the liquid in question is exempt from requirements. The UL Field engineer will enter remarks on the sample tag "Manufacturer Verified that SDS or applicable governmental documents are Not Required".

SDS Exemptions for Liquid Samples
When UL Markings are required to be sent along with the sample and the markings are only on large (1 gallon or more) preprinted containers - the liquid sample must be packaged in a smaller separate container with the prescribed volume of liquid and shipped with the large empty container with the UL Markings.

Check List - Before You Ship

☐ Understand the Shipping Requirements. Reference the latest documents: IATA, US DOT, and all applicable local standards.

☐ The container with the sample must be labeled per local country such as OSHA Hazard Communication Standard (29CFR1910.1200) for shipment in USA.

☐ A SDS MUST be with the shipping paper work on the outside of the package.

☐ Package must have proper IATA & US DOT labeling. Information found on SDS, Section 14: DOT Shipping Name, UN/NA number, DOT labels.

☐ Package must be over packed as needed. Outer box and fill to protect the inner box with sample and fill.

☐ Need help? Ask a local in country expert (e.g. FedEx, UPS, Certified Exporter, etc.)

☐ Still need help? Use a certified exporter to package, label, and prepare proper documentation.