

SHIPPING ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

Shipping environmental samples is considered the most difficult type of submission due to the required temperature range and viability restrictions.

- **Elevated Temperatures** - When an environmental sample is received at a temperature of $>10^{\circ}\text{C}$, it is considered compromised by NQAC Dublin's integrity definition. To prevent this issue from occurring, sufficient ice packs will be needed to keep the swab samples cool during the shipping process.
- **Frozen Swabs** - when environmental swab samples are received $< 0^{\circ}\text{C}$ or frozen to the touch, the samples are also considered compromised. ***To avoid environmental samples becoming frozen, plastic bubble wrap or cardboard can be used to separate samples from direct contact with the ice packs.***

