

## Toxicology Specimen Guide for Lead, Copper and Zinc

Sample requirement for all animals:

- Lead: No less than 25 microliters ( $\mu\text{L}$ ). Heparin (green) or EDTA (lavender/purple) **whole blood**.
- Copper: No less than 150  $\mu\text{L}$ . Serum (red), or Heparin or EDTA plasma.
- Zinc: No less than 25  $\mu\text{L}$ . Serum or Heparin plasma. (We suggest not using EDTA plasma.)

Avoid “Vacutainer”-type tubes with rubber stoppers, except the ‘Royal Blue.’ An all plastic sample tube/vial is acceptable.

If drawing blood with a syringe, transfer the sample into a vial right away to avoid zinc contamination from the tip of the plunger.

Heparin hematocrit tubes are OK, sealed at least on one side. Some sealants may contain zinc and contaminate the sample. (CritoSeal and StatSpin are OK.)

A single sample consisting of **heparinized whole blood** (not spun) may be submitted for Lead and Zinc and Copper. It should contain at least 250 microliters of whole blood and be in a vial approved for zinc testing. If only Lead and Zinc are to be tested, then a sample that is no less than 150 microliters of **Heparin blood** is sufficient for both tests.

### Documentation

Please fill out a LADDL submission form and submit along with your sample. You must include your name, address, phone number, email, fax number (if available), and tests requested.

“Specimen Submission Form” can be found under “forms” on our website, [www.laddl.org](http://www.laddl.org)

Mail samples to the following address:

LADDL - LSU  
River Road, Rm 1043  
Baton Rouge, LA 70803

*If you have any questions, or need further assistance please contact us (225) 578-9777.*