SIF Transportation Rules

Because you must use public roads to access the SIF, the Department of Transportation and the Department of Energy require your sample to be properly packaged for transport. When you complete your MESA form, the Ames Laboratory shipping office will indicate whether your sample needs to be packaged by them or if you are free to package the sample yourself. If your form indicates you are allowed to package the sample yourself, you must do so in the following way:

You will need to have the following items on hand to ensure proper packaging for transportation:

1. Your sample or material labeled and sealed in a vial with electrical tape. Per shipping rules each sample or material cannot exceed 1 gram or 1 milliliter.
2. A field box. If you do not want to purchase a field box, you are welcome to check one out at the Ames Laboratory shipping department located at 160 Spedding Hall.
3. A zip-top bag such as a Ziploc.
5. Zip ties

Assemble your package in the following manner:

1. Put your sample or material in the vial and seal it with tape.
2. Put the vial into the zip-top bag and seal.
3. Put the cushioning material into the field box, place the zip-top bag with the sample on top and add cushioning as necessary to secure. The entire contents of your package cannot exceed 100 grams or 100 milliliters.
4. Close and latch the box. The box must remain closed during transit.
5. Zip tie the box to ensure it remains closed in transit.

You will need to repeat these steps upon return.