Case Study – Complexity in Research Logistics

From the Arctic to the Lab: Baker Solves a Complex Research Logistics Challenge

The Challenge:



A community college conducting field research at a remote station in the Arctic Circle needed to bring temperature-sensitive soil samples back to the United States for further study.

The challenge went well beyond shipping. **Foreign soil is highly regulated by USDA**, the samples required strict temperature control, and the remote research station was not served by traditional parcel carriers. The college had little experience navigating these specialized import and logistics requirements, so it turned to **Baker** for a solution.

The Solution

Baker first addressed the regulatory requirements, determining that the samples required a **USDA import permit and inspection** and ultimately had to be delivered to a **USDA-licensed facility**.

Obtaining the necessary facility approval could take approximately six months—far too long for the college's research timeline. Baker identified an alternative: partner with a nearby research university that already operated a licensed laboratory. The university agreed to serve as the importer and host the research, eliminating a potentially significant delay.

Baker then developed the import plan, providing instructions for the specialized USDA documentation, labeling, inspection, and routing requirements needed to move the soil compliantly from Sweden to the licensed U.S. laboratory.

Solving the Logistics Puzzle

The next challenge was transportation. Major parcel carriers did not provide pickup service from the remote Arctic research station, and the samples had to remain within a defined temperature range throughout transit.

Leveraging its international network and working with the research station, Baker identified a **local Scandinavian courier connected to DHL's international network** that could provide door-to-door cold-chain service.

Baker worked directly with the carrier to map the entire transportation route, coordinating pickup schedules, Swedish connections, international flights, transit times, and temperature-control requirements to minimize the risk of delays that could compromise the samples.

The Result

The Arctic soil samples were **successfully transported from the remote Swedish research station, cleared through the required U.S. regulatory process, and delivered to the collaborating university's licensed laboratory**.

By combining regulatory expertise, creative problem-solving, and international logistics capabilities, Baker turned a shipment with no obvious path forward into a successful research import.

The Baker Difference

Specialized research shipments often require much more than freight and Customs clearance. They require a partner who can connect **regulatory compliance, transportation, and practical problem-solving** into one workable solution.

When research takes you to the ends of the earth, Baker helps make sure your samples make it home.