



NCTC
National Collection
of Type Cultures



NCPF
National Collection
of Pathogenic Fungi

MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET

Material Safety Data Sheet for:

National Collection of Type Cultures (NCTC) bacterial culture products in freeze-dried format

Review by: March 2027

Issued to: Users of UKHSA NCTC freeze-dried bacterial culture products

Access: Document to be downloaded from Culture Collections website
www.culturecollections.org.uk

Culture Collections
UK Health Security Agency
Porton Down
Salisbury
SP4 0JG
UK
Telephone: +44 (0) 1980 612512
www.culturecollections.org.uk/contactus



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1. Identification of the substance/mixture and of the company/undertaking

Product name: Flame-sealed glass ampoule containing 0.15g of freeze-dried bacterial culture under vacuum.

Refer to the relevant cell line data entry on the Culture Collections website:

www.culturecollections.org.uk

Contact: Culture Collections
UK Health Security Agency
Porton Down
Salisbury
SP4 0JG, UK
Telephone (working hours): +44 (0)1980 612512
Telephone (out of hours): +44 (0)1980 612100
www.culturecollections.org.uk/contactus

2. Hazards Identification

Chemical Hazards: None

Biological hazards: All live bacterial cultures provided by NCTC must be regarded as potentially pathogenic to humans and should be handled by, or under the supervision of, competent personnel who have received appropriate training in safe working practices in microbiology.

Health Effects:

Eyes: Potentially infectious.

Skin: Potentially infectious.

Ingestion: Potentially infectious.

Inhalation: Potentially infectious.

Physical Hazards:

It is recommended that persons handling this material should wear a laboratory coat or gown, protective gloves and eye protection (safety glasses).

3. Composition/information on ingredients

Flame-sealed glass ampoule containing a freeze-dried pure culture of a bacterium, of either Hazard Group 2 or 3 (Hazard Groups 2 and 3 as defined by the Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens 2004 Approved List of Biological Agents <https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/misc208.pdf>).

A **Hazard Group 2 (HG2) organism** can cause human disease and may be a hazard to laboratory workers; it is unlikely to spread to the community and there is usually effective prophylaxis or treatment available.

A **Hazard Group 3 (HG3) organism** can cause severe human disease and may be a serious hazard to laboratory workers; it may spread to the community, but there is usually effective prophylaxis or treatment available.

4. First aid measures



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If accidental contact with material occurs, laboratory staff must follow local first aid procedures that are normally applied following exposure to such material. In the case of an organism of Hazard Group 3, appropriate medical advice should be sought and suitable prophylaxis considered.

5. **Fire-fighting measures**

Not applicable

6. **Accidental release measures**

Local risk assessments should be in place prior to purchasing and handling NCTC glass ampoules. As a guide: wear suitable gloves, pick up the ampoule with absorbent material moistened with a suitable disinfectant and discard in appropriate receptacle. Wipe area with a similarly moistened pad of absorbent material and subsequently sterilise all paper and the ampoule. In the case of a Hazard Group 3 organism, sterilisation of the safety cabinet may be appropriate.

7. **Handling and storage**

Store at 4 - 10°C prior to opening. Ampoule cultures must be processed in a laboratory environment which, as defined by national regulations or guidelines, is suitable for the handling of microorganisms of ACDP Hazard Group 2 or 3, as appropriate. Staff handling the material should have been trained in the handling of infectious biological material. The material should be treated with the same degree of care as would be exercised with routine samples. Hand-to-mouth contact should be avoided whilst working with the samples and normal hand-washing procedures relating to the handling of routine samples must be observed also with ampoule cultures.

8. **Exposure controls / personal protection**

Use good laboratory practice and wear appropriate laboratory coats, protective eye wear and gloves. Reconstitution procedures should be handled in a microbiology safety cabinet conforming to EN12469:2000 Biotechnology – Performance criteria for microbiological safety cabinets

9. **Physical and chemical properties**

Inert odourless dry material.

10. **Stability and reactivity**

Long term storage will not increase the risks of infection associated with handling the Material.

11. **Toxicological information**

Not applicable



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12. Ecological information

Not applicable

13. Disposal considerations

The used material must be disposed of using an autoclave as for routine samples containing infectious microorganisms and in accordance with all local and national regulations.

14. Transport information

Refer to the IATA and ADR Dangerous Goods Regulations for the transport of Infectious substances – Division 6.2. Bacteria will either be Category A (UN2814 – Infectious substance, affecting humans or UN2900 – Infectious substance, affecting animals) or Category B (UN3373 – Biological substance Category B) as appropriate.

15. Regulatory information

Biological agent hazard group 2

Biological agent hazard group 3

Material extracted from certain organisms may be covered by UK and international legislation including the Advisory Committee for Dangerous Pathogens, Specified Animal Pathogen Order and Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act (UK only).

For agents covered by the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) Specified Animal Pathogen Order (SAPO), a SAPO holding license is required for transfer to another laboratory (UK only).

For agents covered by Schedule 5 of the Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001, users are required to seek permissions to hold from the Home Office (UK only).

For certain agents, an export licence is required if these agents are shipped outside the UK (1C351a of Annex 1 to the EC regulations).

Note that this safety data sheet does not constitute the user's own assessments of workplace risk as required by Health and Safety legislation.

16. Other information

For further safety information concerning this product, customers are advised to read the instruction sheet accompanying the ampoule cultures.

In the event of an accident involving exposure of staff to the products contact the Culture Collections (+44 (0) 1980 612512) during normal UK working hours. the UKHSA Porton Duty Officer (+44 (0) 1980 612100) should be contacted out of hours.

For further safety information concerning this product, users are advised to read the instruction sheets available from the website: www.culturecollections.org.uk