

MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET

NCPV Frozen live virus

Material Safety Data Sheet for: NCPV Frozen live virus

Issued to: Users of UKHSA NCPV Frozen live viruses

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

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MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET FOR UKHSA FROZEN LIVE VIRUSES

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

Product Name: Frozen live virus.

Volume: 1mL or 0.5 mL.

Refer to the relevant virus data entry on the Culture Collections website:

www.culturecollections.org.uk

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2. Hazards Identification

Chemical Hazards: None.

Biological hazards:

All live virus cultures provided by NCPV 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). The shipping container contains dry ice which can cause severe cold burns and is an asphyxiant in high concentrations.

3. Composition/information on ingredients

Plastic cryovial containing frozen live virus culture classified as Hazard Group 2 or 3 as defined by the Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens (ACDP) 2026 Approved List of Biological Agents <http://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**

If accidental contact with the material occurs laboratory staff must follow the local first aid procedures that are normally applied following exposure to organisms of ACDP HG 2 or 3 as appropriate.

Eyes: Irrigate with physiological saline or water. Seek medical advice immediately.

Skin: Wash thoroughly with soap and water. Seek medical advice immediately.

Ingestion: Seek medical advice immediately.

Inhalation: Seek medical advice immediately.

5. **Fire-fighting measures**

No specific recommendations.

6. **Accidental release measures**

Local risk assessments should be in place prior to purchasing and handling cryovials containing NCPV viruses.

Personal precautions: Avoid direct contact with the material. Do not open the primary containers unless authorised to do so. Wear a laboratory coat or gown, protective gloves and eye protection (safety glasses).

Environmental precautions: If a spillage occurs, place absorbent material over the spillage and pour over disinfectant. Leave for 30 minutes prior to cleaning and disposal following local procedures. The preferred disinfectant is 10% v/v sodium hypochlorite. This should not be used in combination with other disinfectants. See local risk assessments or contact the manufacturer of the disinfectant for additional information.

7. **Handling and storage**

Shipping containers contain dry ice so packages should be stored in well ventilated areas.

Store frozen in a laboratory environment which, as defined by national regulations or guidelines, is suitable for handling microorganisms of HG2 or HG3 as appropriate.

For HG3 viruses, primary packaging should be opened in a Microbiological Safety Cabinet under conditions of ACDP Containment Level 3.

Details of laboratory safety procedures are provided by the Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens (ACDP) in the 2019 publication “Management and operation of microbiological containment laboratories” (<https://www.hse.gov.uk/biosafety/assets/docs/management-containment-labs.pdf>) and by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the 2020 publication “Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories (BMBL)” ([Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories \(BMBL\) 6th Edition | CDC Laboratories](#)).

8. **Exposure controls / personal protection**

Use good laboratory practice. Wear a laboratory coat or gown, protective gloves and eye protection. Avoid aerosol production and inhalation.

Engineering control measures: As detailed by ACDP for the relevant containment level.

Respiratory protection: Avoid aerosol production and inhalation.

Skin Protection: Wear protective gloves at all times.

Eye protection: Wear eye protection at all times.

9. **Physical and chemical properties**

Appearance:	Coloured liquid (typically pink or yellow).
Solid/liquid/gas:	Frozen liquid.
Additional Components:	Cell culture media.
Other Properties:	None.

10. **Stability and reactivity**

Reactivity data: Not known.

Conditions to avoid: Exposure to direct heat.

Hazardous decomposition products: Dry ice in packaging will sublime to gaseous carbon dioxide.

11. **Toxicological information**

This material is considered both infection and replication competent and therefore represents a hazard to human and/or animal health. Contents must be manipulated inside a suitable laboratory according to local risk assessment.

12. **Ecological information**

Not applicable.

13. **Disposal considerations**

Disinfection with 10% v/v sodium hypochlorite is recommended prior to disposal. Follow all national, regional and local regulations. The UK Environmental Protection Act 1990 applies. The disinfected material must be disposed of in accordance with all local and national regulations.

14. Transport information

Additional information arising from the Carriage of Dangerous Goods and Use of Transportable Pressure Equipment Regulations 2007:

UN numbers: 1845 and 3373 / 2814 / 2900

Packing Instruction: PI 650 (UN3373) or PI 620 (UN2814; UN2900)

Refer to the IATA and ADR Dangerous Goods Regulations for the transport of Infectious substances – Division 6.2. viruses 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

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.

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

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

16. Other information

All material may present unknown hazards and should be used with caution. The user should make independent assessments and decisions regarding the completeness of the information based on all sources available. It is recommended that persons using this material are fully acquainted with the hazards/safety in use procedures before handling. This data sheet does not constitute an assessment as required by the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (as amended). The information contained in this publication is provided in good faith and is accurate to the best of our knowledge.