

Hazard Group 1 Safety data sheet

To accompany organisms not assigned to hazard groups 2-4

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Information on supplied Cultures as required under COSHH regulations and HSW Acts 6(4)(c)

The culture(s) supplied (as listed on the enclosed Delivery Note) are not categorised as Risk Group 2, 3 or 4 under EU Directive 90/679/EEC; Classification of Biological Agents, and implemented in the UK through The Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens, and therefore fall into Risk Group 1, i.e. a biological agent that is most unlikely to cause human disease. However, all microorganisms should be handled with care.

Avoid all contact with the organism, growth media or materials on which they have grown.

To avoid these possible hazards and reduce the risk in handling, normal aseptic microbiological techniques should be employed.

All parcels containing microorganisms should be opened in a laboratory with Containment Level 1 as described by the Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens (*Categorisation of pathogens according to hazard and categories of containment*, 4 edition London HMSO) and summarised below.

CONTAINMENT LEVEL 1

Containment level 1 is suitable for work with organisms of hazard group 1. Laboratory personnel must have received instruction in the procedures conducted in the laboratory.

1. The laboratory should be easy to clean. Bench surfaces should be impervious to water and resistant to acids, alkalis, solvents and disinfectants.
2. If the laboratory is mechanically ventilated, it is preferable to maintain an inward airflow into the laboratory by extracting room air to the atmosphere.
3. The laboratory must contain a wash-basin or sink that can be used for hand washing.
4. The laboratory door should be closed when work is in progress.
5. Laboratory coats or gowns should be worn in the laboratory and removed when leaving the laboratory suite.
6. Eating, chewing, drinking, smoking, storing of food and applying cosmetics must not take place in the laboratory.
7. Mouth pipetting must not take place.
8. Hands must be disinfected or washed immediately when contamination is suspected, after handling viable materials, and also before leaving the laboratory.
9. All procedures must be performed so as to minimise the production of aerosols.
10. Effective disinfectants must be available for immediate use in the event of spillage.
11. Bench tops should be cleaned regularly after use.
12. Used laboratory glassware and other materials awaiting sterilisation must be stored in a safe manner. Pipettes if placed in disinfectant, must be totally immersed.

13. All waste material which is not to be incinerated should be rendered non-infective before disposal.
14. Materials for disposal must be transported in robust containers without spillage.
15. All accidents and incidents must be reported.

Opening cultures and ampoules : all parcels containing microorganisms must be opened in a laboratory by trained personnel and, ideally, in a cabinet that will prevent inhalation of aerosols.

Details of suitable media, incubation temperatures for the growth of the strains and any known special hazard are given with the strain(s) supplied.

Transport : if the materials are to be transported to another laboratory they should be packaged with enough absorptive material to absorb all contents of the containers in case of breakage. They should be placed in containers that will prevent breakage and all postal regulations of the recipient country must be followed

Disposal : all cultures, media and containers should be sterilised by autoclaving at 121°C for 15 min before disposal by suitable means such as incineration.

Procedures in case of spillage : if the culture is spilt or its container broken, thoroughly wet with a disinfectant, such as 4% sodium hypochlorite, and allow 30 min before swabbing up and transferring into a container for autoclaving.