

# MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET

**Material Safety Data Sheet for:**

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

**Review date:** 14 April 2023

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

**Access:** Document to be downloaded from PHE Culture Collections website at [www.phe-culturecollections.org.uk](http://www.phe-culturecollections.org.uk)

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## 1. Identification of the product and the establishment

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

Establishment: Culture Collections  
Public Health England  
Porton Down  
Salisbury  
SP4 0JG, UK

Telephone (9.00 – 17.00 hours) +44 (0) 1980 612512

Telephone (Out of working hours) +44 (0) 1980 612100

## 2. Hazards identification

Physico-chemical hazard: Not applicable

Health hazard: Minimal risk of infection provided good laboratory practice is observed and appropriate containment facilities are used for organisms of Hazard Group 3.

Environmental hazard: Not applicable

## 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 organism may cause human disease and may be a hazard to laboratory workers, but is unlikely to spread to the community, whereas a Hazard Group 3 organism may cause human disease and be a hazard to laboratory workers as well as being likely to spread to the community. The organism is held within a cryoprotectant to prevent damage to the microbial cells during the freeze-drying process; the cryoprotectant is not classified as dangerous material.

## 4. First aid measures

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

## 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

EC	Biological agent hazard group 2
EC	Biological agent hazard group 3

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 PHE 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.phe-culturecollections.org.uk](http://www.phe-culturecollections.org.uk)