1. **Annex 5. Item 5.1. – Chapter 1.1.9. Tests for sterility and freedom from contamination of biological materials**
2. **intended for veterinary use**
3. MEETING OF THE WOAH BIOLOGICAL STANDARDS COMMISSION
4. **Paris, 4–8 September 2023**

5

6 **CHAP T E R 1 . 1 . 9 .**

7 **T EST S F OR S T E R I L IT Y AN D F R E E D OM F R OM**

8 **C ON T A M I N AT I ON OF B I OL OGI C A L M A T E RI A L S**

9 **I N T E N D E D FOR V ET E R I NA R Y U SE**

## 10 INTRODUCTION

1. *The international trade-related movements of biological materials intended for veterinary use are subject to*
2. *restrictions imposed to minimise the spread of animal and human pathogens. Countries may impose*
3. *requirements for proof-of-freedom testing before allowing the regulated importation of materials of animal*
4. *derivation and substances containing such derivatives. Where chemical or physical treatments are*
5. *inappropriate or inefficient, or where evidence ~~is lacking~~ of the effectiveness of the treatment is lacking, there*

16 *may be general or specific testing requirements imposed by authorities of countries receiving such materials.*

1. *This chapter provides guidance on the approach to ~~such~~ regulated testing, particularly as might be applied*
2. *to the movement of vaccine master seed and master cell stocks, and to related biological materials used in*
3. *manufacturing processes. ~~The term seed stocks is used when testing live products, for killed products the~~*
4. *~~preferred reference is master cell stocks.~~ While the onus for ensuring safety of a product remains with the*
5. *manufacturer and may be regulated by therapeutic guidelines, this chapter provides procedures that are*
6. *designed in particular to minimise the risk of undetected contaminants in veterinary therapeutics and*
7. *biological reagents causing the cross-border spread of agents of concern to ~~particular~~ importing countries.*
8. *In their review “Extraneous agent detection in vaccines” Farsang & Kulcsar, 2012 reported the following*
9. *examples of contamination of vaccines with extraneous agents: a) Foamy virus (Spumaretroviridae) was*
10. *identified as a contaminant of primary monkey kidney cultures used for vaccine production in the early 1950,*
11. *b) In the 1960s it was shown that yellow fever live attenuated vaccines prepared in chicken embryo*
12. *fibroblasts were infected with avian leukosis virus (ALV). c) Calicivirus was found in Chinese hamster ovary*
13. *(CHO) cells, d) Newcastle disease vaccine strains were found in different live poultry vaccines, e) in 1990 a*
14. *live attenuated multi component canine vaccine was contaminated with a serotype of Bluetongue virus*
15. *causing abortions and death in pregnant bitches, f) Fetal calf serum transmitted Pestiviruses (BVDV types*
16. *1 and 2) are one of the most common extraneous agents in veterinary and human vaccines, g) RD114 is a*
17. *replication- competent feline endogenous gamma retrovirus which contaminated canine corona and*
18. *parvovirus vaccines , h) a notable case of human vaccine contamination may have been when in the 20th*
19. *century tens of millions of people worldwide were immunised with polio vaccines containing simian virus 40*
20. *(SV40). SV40 was found to cause cancer in animals and is associated with human brain, bone and lung*
21. *cancers, however, a clear connection was not found between this certain vaccine and any human tumour*
22. *case, i) a porcine circovirus 1 (PCV1) was found in a rotavirus vaccine widely used worldwide for children.*
23. *Farsang & Kulcsar* (*2012*) *and WHO* (*2015*) *describe case studies of veterinary and human vaccines*
24. *contaminated with extraneous agents and findings support the need of accurate and validated amplification*
25. *and detection methods as key elements for effective detection and control. Further examples are given in*
26. *Section G.* Protocol examples *below. Control of contamination with transmissible spongiform*
27. *encephalopathy* (*TSE*) *agents is not covered in this chapter because standard testing and physical*
28. *treatments cannot be used to ensure freedom from these agents. Detection methods are described in*
29. *Chapter 3.4.5. Bovine spongiform encephalopathy.*
30. *Sterility is defined as the absence of viable microorganisms, which for the purpose of this chapter, includes*
31. *viruses. It should be achieved using aseptic techniques and validated sterilisation methods, including heating,*
32. *filtration, chemical treatments, and irradiation that fits the intended purpose. Freedom from contamination is*
33. *defined as the absence of specified viable microorganisms. This may be achieved by selecting materials*
34. *from sources shown to be free from specified microorganisms and by conducting subsequent procedures*
35. *aseptically. Adequate assurance of sterility and freedom from contaminating microorganisms can only be*
36. *achieved by proper control of the primary materials used and their subsequent processing. Tests on*
37. *intermediate products are necessary throughout the production process to check that this control has been*
38. *achieved.*
39. *Biological materials subject to contamination that cannot be sterilised before or during use in vaccine*
40. *production, such as ingredients of animal origin, e.g. serum and trypsin, primary and continuous ~~cells and~~*
41. *cell lines, and viral or bacterial seed stocks, etc., should be tested for viable extraneous agents before use.*
42. *Assays to detect viral contaminants, if present, can be achieved by various culture methods, including use*
43. *of embryonated eggs, which are supported by cytopathic effects* (*CPE*) *detection/embryo death*, *fluorescent*
44. *antibody techniques and ~~other~~ suitable* (*fit for purpose*), *methods such as polymerase chain reaction* (*PCR*)
45. *and antigen detection ELISA* (*enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay*)*. As is explained in more detail in this*
46. *chapter care must be taken when using PCR and ELISA techniques for detection as such tests do not*
47. *distinguish viable from non-viable agent detection. Specific assays to detect other contaminants, such as*
48. *fungi, protozoa and bacteria* (*including rickettsia and mycoplasma*) *are also described.*
49. *~~Avian materials and vaccines are required to be inoculated on to primary avian cell cultures or eggs for the~~*
50. *~~detection of avian viruses. A combination of general tests, for example to detect haemadsorbing,~~*
51. *~~haemagglutinating and CPE-causing viruses and specific procedures aimed at the growth and detection of~~*
52. *~~specific viruses is recommended to increase the probability of detection. Assays to detect other~~*
53. *~~contaminants, such as bacteria, fungi, protozoa, rickettsia and mycoplasma are also described.~~*
54. *~~Procedures applied~~ Testing procedures should be validated and found to be “fit for purpose” following*
55. *Chapter 1.1.6.* Validation of diagnostic assays for infectious diseases of terrestrial animals*, where possible.*
56. *It is a requirement of many regulators, that a laboratory testing report notes the use of validated procedures*
57. *and describes the validated procedures in detail including acceptance criteria. This gives the regulator*
58. *transparency in the procedures used in a testing laboratory.*
59. *The validation assessment of an amplification process in cell culture should include documentation of the*
60. *history of permissive cell lines used, reference positive controls and culture media products used in the*
61. *process of excluding adventitious agents, to ensure the process is sound and is not compromised. The*
62. *validation assessment should give information* (*published or in-house*) *of the limitations that may affect test*
63. *outcomes and an assessment of performance characteristics such as analytical specificity and sensitivity of*
64. *each cell culture system, using well characterised, reference positive controls.*
65. *It is the responsibility of the submitter to ~~assure~~ ensure a representative selection and number of items to*
66. *be tested. ~~The principles of~~ Appendix 1.1.2.1* Epidemiological approaches to sampling: sample size
67. calculations *of Chapter 1.1.2* Collection, submission and storage of diagnostic specimens ~~apply~~ *describes*
68. *the principles to be applied. ~~Adequate transportation is described in~~ Chapter 1.1.2 and Chapter 1.1.3*
69. Transport of biological materials *describe transportation requirements.*

## 86 A. AN OVERVIEW OF TESTING APPROACHES

1. Although testing is seen as a key component of biosafety in biological products intended for veterinary use, testing is not
2. enough to ensure a given product is free of viable infectious contaminants, and so a holistic, multifaceted approach must
3. be taken. Such an approach includes risk assessment, risk mitigation and management strategies (Barone *et al.,* 2020).
4. In general:
5.  Primary materials must be collected from sources shown to be free from contamination and handled in such a way as
6. to minimise contamination and the opportunities for any contaminants to multiply (Figure 1).
7.  Materials that are not sterilised and those that are to be processed further after sterilisation must be handled aseptically.
8. Such materials will require further assessment of freedom of contaminants at certain stages of production to assure
9. freedom of adventitious agents.
10.  Materials that can be sterilised without their biological activities being affected unduly must be sterilised by a method
11. effective for the pathogens ~~concerned~~ of concern. The method must reduce the level of contamination to be
12. undetectable, as determined by an appropriate sterility test study. ~~(See Section D.1. below).~~ If a sterilisation process is
13. used, it shall be validated to demonstrate that it is fit for purpose. Suitable controls will be included in each sterilisation
14. process to monitor efficiency.
15.  The environment in which any aseptic handling is carried out must be maintained in a clean state, protected from
16. external sources of contamination, and controlled to prevent internal contamination. Rules governing aseptic
17. preparation of vaccines are documented in Chapter 2.3.3 *Minimum requirements for the organisation and management*
18. *of a vaccine manufacturing facility*.

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***Figure 1. ~~Testing algorithm~~ Risk assessment flowchart for vaccine production.***



1. Some procedures have been properly validated and found to be “fit for purpose”, whilst others may have undergone only
2. limited validation studies. For example, methods for bacterial and fungal sterility may have not been formally validated
3. although they have been used for many years. In particular, ~~the~~ *in-vivo* and ~~cell culture~~ *in-vitro* methods have essentially
4. unknown sensitivity and specificity (Sheets *et al*., 2012) though there is an accepted theoretical sensitivity, regarding cell
5. culture of 1 ~~colony~~ plaque-forming unit (~~CFU~~ PFU). For example, an evaluation of methods to detect bovine and porcine
6. viruses in serum and trypsin based on United States (of America) Code of Federal Regulations, Title 9 (9CFR) revealed
7. gaps in sensitivity, even within virus families (Marcus-Secura *et al*., 2011). It is therefore important to interpret, and report
8. results in the light of specific conditions of cultures employed and considering sensitivity and specificity of detection
9. systems.
10. Newer, more sensitive methods such as molecular assays may afford the ability to detect contaminants, which may not be
11. successfully amplified in traditional culturing systems. The detection range can be broadened by using family specific
12. primers and probes if designed appropriately. However, most, if not all ~~such new~~ molecular-based tests are also able to
13. detect evidence for non-infectious contaminants, such as traces of nucleic acid from inactivated contaminants. ~~Follow-up~~
14. ~~testing would be required to determine the nature of the contaminant, for example, non-infectious nucleic acid or infectious~~
15. ~~virus. Attempts at virus isolation or sequencing may remedy this.~~ Note: molecular assays if not designed as fit for purpose
16. may miss detection of contaminating agents or lack sensitivity to do so (Hodinka*,* 2013).
17. More recently metagenomic high throughput sequencing (HTS) workflows have shown potential for quality control of
18. biological products (van Borm *et al*., 2013) and vaccines (Baylis *et al.,* 2011; Farsang & Kulcsar*,* 2012; Neverov &
19. Chumakov, 2010; Onions & Kolman, 2010; Victoria *et al*., 2010) in particular for the identification and characterisation of
20. unexpected highly divergent pathogen variants (Miller *et al*., 2010; Rosseel *et al*., 2011) that may remain undetected using
21. targeted diagnostic tests. Nevertheless, targeted assays, e.g. amplification in cell culture followed by polymerase chain
22. reaction (PCR) may be superior to HTS for specific agent detection (Wang *et al*., 2014) due to lack of sensitivity of HTS at
23. this time. Chapter 1.1.7. gives an overview of the standards for high throughput sequencing, bioinformatics and
24. computational genomics. Similarly, recent improvements in protein and peptide separation efficiencies and highly accurate
25. mass spectrometry have promoted the identification and quantification of proteins in a given sample. Most of these new
26. technologies are broad screening tools, limited by the fact that they cannot distinguish between viable and non-viable
27. organisms.
28. Given the availability of new technologies, there will be future opportunities and challenges to determine presence of
29. extraneous agents in biologicals intended for veterinary use for industry and regulators. Problems can arise when the
30. presence of genome positive results are interpretated as evidence for the presence of contamination (Mackay & Kriz,
31. 2010). When using molecular technologies, it is important to understand the correlation between genome detection and
32. detection of live ~~virus~~ agent. It cannot be assumed that detection of genome corresponds to the presence of an infectious
33. agent.

## 140 B. LIVING VIRAL VACCINES FOR ADMINISTRATION BY INJECTION, OR THROUGH

141 **DRINKING WATER, SPRAY, OR SKIN SCARIFICATION**

1. 1. Materials of animal origin ~~shall~~ should be ~~(a)~~ sterilised~~, or (b)~~ and obtained from healthy animals that, in so far as is
2. possible, should be shown to be free from pathogens that can be transmitted from the species of origin to the species
3. to be vaccinated, or any species in contact with them by means of extraneous agents testing.
4. 2. Seed lots of virus, any continuous cell line and biologicals used for virus growth ~~shall~~ should be shown to be free from
5. ~~viable~~ bacteria, fungi, mycoplasmas, protozoa, rickettsia, and extraneous viruses ~~and other pathogens~~ that can be
6. transmitted from the species of origin to the species to be vaccinated or any species in contact with them. ~~There may~~
7. ~~be some exceptions for a limited number of non-pathogenic bacteria and fungi to be present in live viral vaccines~~
8. ~~produced in eggs and administered through drinking water, spray, or skin scarification.~~
9. For ~~the~~ production of vaccines in embryonated chicken eggs and the quality control procedures for these vaccines, it
10. is recommended ~~(required in many countries)~~ that eggs from specific pathogen-free birds should be used.
11. 3. Each batch of vaccine ~~shall~~ should pass tests for freedom from extraneous agents that are consistent with the
12. importing country’s requirements for accepting the vaccine for use. Some examples of published methods that
13. document acceptable testing ~~procedures~~ processes in various countries include: ~~(US) Code of Federal Regulations~~
14. ~~(2015); European Pharmacopoeia (2014); European Commission (2006); World Health Organization (WHO) (1998;~~
15. ~~2012) and Department of Agriculture (of Australia) (2013).~~
16.  Code of Federal Regulations, Title 9 (9CFR) (of the United States of America) (2015).
17.  Department of Agriculture, Forest and Fisheries (Australia) (2013).
18.  Department of Agriculture, Forest and Fisheries (Australia) (2021b) Live Veterinary Vaccines.
19.  European Medicines Agency Sciences Medicines Health (2016).
20.  European Pharmacopoeia, 10th Edition (2021).
21.  World Health Organization (WHO) (1998; 2012).
22. 4. Tests for ~~sterility~~ freedom of contamination ~~shall~~ should be appropriate to prove that the vaccine is free from viable
23. extraneous viruses, bacteria including rickettsia and mycoplasmas, fungi, and protozoa. Each country will have
24. ~~particular~~ requirements as to what agents ~~are necessary to exclude~~ should be tested for and ~~what~~ by which
25. procedures ~~are acceptable~~. Such tests will include amplification of ~~viable~~ extraneous agents using cell culture that is
26. susceptible to ~~particular~~ known viruses of the species of concern, tests in embryonated eggs, bacterial, mycoplasma
27. and fungal culturing techniques and, where ~~necessary and possible~~ there is no alternative ~~le~~, ~~tests involving~~ animal
28. inoculation. PCR, fluorescence antibody test (FAT), presence of colonies or cytopathic effects (CPE) and antigen
29. detection ELISA ~~will~~ can be used for detection purposes after amplification using culturing techniques to improve
30. specificity and sensitivity. If *in-vitro* or *in-vivo* amplification of the target agent is not possible, direct PCR may be
31. useful if validated for this purpose.

## 173 ~~C. LIVING VIRAL VACCINES FOR ADMINISTRATION THROUGH DRINKING WATER,~~

174 **~~SPRAY, OR SKIN SCARIFICATION~~**

1. ~~1. Section B applies.~~
2. ~~2. A limited number of contaminating, non-pathogenic bacteria and fungi may be permitted (see Section I.2.2~~ *~~Genera~~l*
3. *~~Procedure for testing live viral vaccines produced in eggs and administered through drinking water, spray, or skin~~*
4. *~~scarification for the presence of bacteria and fungi~~*~~).~~

## ~~D~~ C. INACTIVATED VIRAL AND BACTERIAL VACCINES

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Each batch of vaccine shall pass a test for inactivation of the vaccinal ~~virus~~ seed and should include inactivation studies on representative extraneous agents if the virus or bacterial seed has not already been tested and shown to be free from extraneous agents. An example of a simple inactivation study could include assessment of the titre of live vaccine before and after inactivation and assessing the log10 drop in titre during the inactivation process. This would give an indication of the efficacy of the inactivation process. There is evidence that ~~virus~~ titration tests may not have sufficient sensitivity to ensure complete inactivation. In these circumstances, a specific innocuity test would need to be developed and validated to be fit for increased sensitivity. To increase sensitivity more than one passage would be required depending on the virus or bacteria of concern. An example of this approach can be found at: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/vet_biologics/publications/memo_800_117.pdf> (accessed 25 July 2023).

If studies on representative extraneous agents are required, then spiking inactivated vaccine with live representative agents and following the example of an inactivation study ~~as in D.1 above would~~ could be useful. The inactivation process and the tests used to detect live ~~virus~~ agent after inactivation must be validated and shown to be suitable for their intended purpose.

In addition, each country may have ~~particular~~ its own requirements for sourcing or tests for sterility as detailed in Section B above.

## ~~E.~~ D. LIVING BACTERIAL VACCINES

See Section B ~~applies~~.

Seed lots of bacteria shall be shown to be free from other bacteria as well as fungi and mycoplasmas, protozoa, rickettsia, and extraneous viruses. Agents required for exclusion will be dependent on the country accepting the vaccine for use. Use of antibiotics to ‘inactivate’ the living bacterial seed or vaccine prior to exclusion of viruses and fungi is recommended to ensure testing in culture is sensitive. ~~Interference testing is recommended to ensure that the~~ ~~antibiotics used do not affect the growth of the extraneous virus or fungi that is being excluded. Sonication may also~~ ~~be useful~~

~~Interference testing is required to ensure that antibiotics used (or sonication) does not affect the growth of extraneous~~ ~~virus or fungi being excluded, compromising the test outcome.~~

Due to the difficulties and reduced sensitivity in exclusion of extraneous bacteria and some mycoplasma, protozoa, and rickettsia from high-titred seed lots of bacteria, the use of narrow-range antibiotics aimed specifically at reducing seed lot bacteria is ~~recommended~~ useful if antibiotics do not affect the growth of bacteria being excluded. The optimal concentration of antibiotics can be determined in a dilution experiment such as documented in 9CFR Section 113.25(d). Other methods of exclusion of extraneous bacteria from bacterial seeds may include filtering for size exclusion such as removing bacteria seed to look for mycoplasma contamination and use of selective culturing media. Such processes would require ~~validation~~ verification to ensure the process does not affect the sensitivity of exclusion of extraneous agents of concern.

1. 3. Sonication of a living bacterial seed may be useful when excluding specific viral agents. Once again, the inactivation
2. procedure would require a verification process to ensure the adventitious virus being excluded is not affected by the
3. treatment. Use of a suitable reference virus control during the exclusion process would be required.
4. 4. Direct PCR techniques may be useful when culturing processes fail to be ~~sensitive~~ successful in detecting extraneous
5. bacteria from live bacterial seeds or vaccines.

## 218 ~~F. INACTIVATED BACTERIAL VACCINES~~

1. ~~1. Section D applies. It should not be necessary to test for extraneous viruses that would not grow in bacteriological culture~~
2. ~~media as long as freedom from contamination of all starting materials can be assured. Complete inactivation of the~~
3. ~~vaccinal bacteria should be demonstrated by means of titration and innocuity tests – in some cases general bacteria~~l
4. ~~sterility testing (Section I.2.1) may suffice.~~

## ~~G~~ E. SERA, PLASMA AND DIAGNOSTIC AGENTS FOR ADMINISTRATION TO ANIMALS

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Section B~~.1~~ applies for sera/diagnostic agents that are not inactivated. Section C applies for ~~non-~~inactivated sera/diagnostic agents.

Some countries require quarantine, health certification, and tests for specific diseases to be completed for all serum and plasma donor animals, for example, 9CFR (2015) and Australian Quarantine Policy and Requirements for the Importation of Live and Novel Veterinary Bulk and Finished Vaccines (1999). For some diseases, for example equine infectious anaemia, the product (plasma) must be stored until the seroconversion period has been exceeded and the donors tested negative.

1. ~~3. It is recommended that each batch of non-inactivated serum be assessed for viable extraneous agents, including~~
2. mycoplasma. Each batch of serum shall pass a test for freedom from extraneous agents. Suitable test methods have
3. been published for various countries, for example, European Pharmacopoeia (2014); 9 CFR (2015) and Australian
4. Quarantine Policy and Requirements for the Importation of Live and Novel Veterinary Bulk and Finished Vaccines
5. ~~(1999) and Department of Agriculture (of Australia) (2013).~~
6. ~~4. Inactivated serum, Section D applies.~~
7. ~~5. Section B or D may apply if a virus is used in the production of the diagnostic agent; Section E or F may apply if a~~
8. ~~bacterium is used.~~

## 240 ~~H.~~ F. EMBRYOS, OVA, SEMEN

1. Special precautions must be taken with relation to the use of embryos, ova, semen (Hare, 1985). Most countries will have
2. regulatory guidelines for import of these biologicals for veterinary use. Such guidelines can be found at various websites
3. such as the European Commission (2015), FAO and Department of Agriculture Forest and Fisheries (2021a; 2021b),
4. though ~~many such~~ some guidelines may give more detail in regard to the food safety aspect.

## 245 ~~J.~~ G. PROTOCOL EXAMPLES

#### 1. ~~General procedures~~ Introduction ~~to protocol examples~~

1. This section provides some examples to illustrate scope and limitations of testing protocols. It is not intended to be
2. prescriptive or exhaustive. Examples are based on standards and published methods to increase the sensitivity for
3. exclusion of live adventitious agents, using general and specific techniques.
4. In principle, proposed testing represents ~~an~~ attempted isolation of viable agents in culturing systems normally considered
5. supportive of the growth of each specified agent or group of general agents. After amplification, potential pathogens can
6. be detected further, by sensitive and specific diagnostic tests such as FAT or PCR ~~if~~ as required. General detection systems
7. can include haemabsorbance and CPE by immunohistochemistry staining methods. The example procedures for ~~sterility~~
8. detection of contamination testing and general detection of ~~viable~~ virus, fungi, protozoa and bacteria (including rickettsia
9. and mycoplasma~~, fungi and viruses~~) described below are derived from standards such as the 9CFR (2015), European
10. Pharmacopoeia, ~~(2014)~~ 10th Edition (2021), European ~~Commission (2006), WHO~~ Medicines Agency Sciences Medicines
11. Health (2016), Department of Agriculture, Forest and Fisheries (Australia) (2013) and World Health Organization (1998;
12. 2012).
13. Individual countries or regions should adopt a holistic, risk-based approach to determine the appropriate testing protocols
14. based on their animal health status. As well as applying general testing procedures documented in national or regional
15. standards as mentioned above, it may be necessary to apply rigorous exclusion testing for specific agents that are exotic
16. to the ~~particular~~ country or region of concern.
17. General procedures ~~will~~ do not necessarily detect all extraneous agents that may be present in biological material; however,
18. they are useful as screening tests. Some examples of agents that may require specific methods for detection in biologicals
19. refer to Table 1 below. Procedures documented in the Review of Published Tests to Detect Pathogens in Veterinary
20. Vaccines Intended for Importation into Australia (2013) available from the Department of Agriculture, Forest and ~~Water~~
21. ~~Resources, Australia~~ Fisheries are able to address such agents in offering sensitive testing approaches based on reputable
22. publications. A ~~CVMP~~ reflection paper published ~~written~~ by the ~~European Medicines Agency Sciences Medicines Health~~
23. Committee of Veterinary Medicinal Products (CVMP) in (2016), ~~adopted in May 2017, documents~~ lists specific test method
24. approaches for a number of agents~~, listed in Table 1,~~ that cannot be excluded using general test procedures (Table 1).
25. Exclusion of specific agents requires procedures that maximise sensitivity by providing ideal amplification and detection of
26. the pathogen in question. Extraneous agents, for example, Maedi Visna virus~~, bovine immunodeficiency virus,~~ (and other
27. retroviruses), *Trypanosoma evansi* and porcine respiratory coronavirus are difficult to culture even using the most sensitive
28. approaches. In these circumstances, application of molecular assays directly to the biological material ~~in question to~~
29. ~~assess~~, assessing for the presence of nucleic acid from adventitious agents offers an alternative~~. Refer to Table 1.~~
30. ~~Consideration must be noted as described in Section A.6 as~~, though detection of the presence of non-viable and host
31. associated agents ~~may~~ is also ~~be detected using this procedure~~ possible.
32. Table 1 gives examples of causative infectious agents that may be present in animal biologicals intended for veterinary
33. use, for example PCV-1 in a rotavirus vaccine (WHO, 2015). BVDV is well known for its presence in many bovine
34. associated biologicals, including cell culture. More recently, non-CPE pestivirus, BVD type 3 (HoBi-like) are found in foetal
35. calf serum and cell culture. Classical Swine fever has contaminated various porcine cell lines used for African swine fever
36. and FMDV diagnosis, and thus the potential for contamination of porcine based vaccines. PEDV is linked to spray-dried
37. porcine plasma used for feed. This is not an exhaustive list of agents of concern or by any means required for exclusion
38. by every country based on risk, they are just examples of infectious agents that are not culturable using general culturing
39. procedures and require ~~a more~~ use of specialised culturing processes and specific detection ~~process by means of the~~
40. indirect fluorescent antibody test, PCR or ELISA, where applicable processes. Notably, some subtypes of an agent type
41. may be detectable by general methods, and some may require specialised testing for detection. For example, bovine
42. adenovirus subgroup 1 (serotypes 1, 2, 3 and 9) can be readily isolated using general methods (Vero cells) however bovine
43. adenovirus subgroup 2 (serotypes 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 10) are not readily isolated and required specialised methods for
44. isolation.
45. ***Table 1.*** *~~Some~~ Examples of infectious agents of veterinary importance*
46. *that require ~~specialist~~ specialised culturing and detection techniques*

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| **Rotaviruses** | **Pestiviruses (non-CPE)** | **Turkey rhinotracheitis** |
| Porcine epidemic diarrhoea virus | Bluetongue virus | *Brucella abortus* |
| Porcine circoviruses (PCV 1, 2) | Swine pox virus | Rickettsias |
| Swine/equine influenza, some strains | Some adenoviruses | Protozoa |
| Bovine respiratory syncytial virus | Rhabdoviruses (e.g. rabies virus) | Some fungi (e.g. *Histoplasma*) |

#### 2. Example of detection of bacteria and fungi ~~contamination~~

##### 2.1. General procedure for assessing the sterility of viable bacteria and fungi

1. Standard tests for detecting extraneous bacteria and fungi (sterility testing) in raw materials, master cell stocks, or
2. final product are the membrane filtration test or the direct inoculation sterility test.
3. For the membrane filtration technique, a filter having a nominal pore size not greater than 0.45 µm and a diameter of at
4. least 47 mm should be used. Cellulose nitrate filters should be used if the material is aqueous or oily; cellulose acetate
5. filters should be used if the material is strongly alcoholic, oily or oil-adjuvanted. Immediately before the contents of the
6. container or containers to be tested are filtered, the filter is moistened with 20–25 ml of Diluent A or B.
7. 2.1.1. Diluent A
8. Diluent A is for aqueous products or materials. Dissolve 1 g peptic digest of animal tissue in water to
9. make 1 litre, filter, or centrifuge to clarify, adjust the pH to 7.1 ± 0.2, dispense into containers in 100 ml
10. quantities, and sterilise by steam.
11. 2.1.2. Diluent B
12. Diluent B is for oil-adjuvanted products or materials: Add 1 ml polysorbate 80 to 1 litre Diluent A, adjust
13. the pH to 7.1 ± 0.2, dispense into containers in 100 ml quantities, and sterilise by steam.
14. If the biological being tested has antimicrobial properties, the membrane is washed three times after
15. sample application with approximately 100 ml of the appropriate diluent (A or B). The membrane is then
16. transferred ~~whole~~ to culture media, aseptically cut into equal parts and placed in media, or the media is
17. transferred to the membrane in the filter apparatus. If the test sample contains merthiolate as a
18. preservative, fluid thioglycolate medium (FTM) is used and the membranes are incubated at both 30–
19. 35°C and 20–25°C. If the test sample is a killed biological without merthiolate preservative, FTM is used
20. at 30–35°C and soybean casein digest medium (SCDM) at 20–25°C. If the sample tested is a live viral
21. biological, SCDM is used at both incubation temperatures. It has been suggested that sulfite-polymyxin-
22. sulfadiazine agar be used to enhance the detection of *Clostridium* spp. when the membrane filtration
23. technique is used (Tellez *et al*., 2005).
24. If direct inoculation of culture media is chosen, a sterile pipette or syringe and needle are used to
25. aseptically transfer the biological material directly into liquid media. If the biological being tested has
26. antimicrobial properties, the ratio of the inoculum to the volume of culture medium must be determined
27. before the test is started, for example as explained in 9CFR 113.25(d) and detailed testing procedures
28. can be found for example in supplemental assay method USDA SAM 903
29. <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/vet_biologics/publications/sam903.pdf> (accessed 24 July
30. 2023) (SAM) 903 USDA SAM 903, See
31. ~~https://~~[~~www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\_health/vet\_biologics/publications (accessed 4 July 2022)~~.](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/vet_biologics/publications%28accessed4July2022%29) To
32. determine the correct medium volume to negate antimicrobial activity, 100 CFU of the control
33. microorganisms listed in Table 2 are used. If the test sample contains merthiolate as a preservative, FTM
34. is used in test vessels incubated at both 30–35°C and 20–25°C. Growth should be clearly visible after
35. an appropriate incubation time (see Section I.2.1.3 *Growth promotion and test interference*). If the test
36. sample is a killed biological without merthiolate, or a live bacterial biological, FTM is used at 30–35°C
37. and SCDM at 20–25°C. If the test sample is a live viral biological, SCDM is used at both incubation
38. temperatures. If the inactivated bacterial vaccine is a clostridial biological, or contains a clostridial
39. component, the use of FTM with 0.5% added beef extract (FTMB) in place of FTM is preferred. It may
40. also be desirable to use both FTM and SCDM for all tests.
41. ***Table 2.*** *Some American Type Culture Collection* [*31*](#_bookmark105) *strains with their respective*
42. *medium and incubation conditions*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | Incubation |  |
| Medium | Test microorganism |  |
|  |  | Temperature (°C) | Conditions |
| FTM | *Bacillus subtilis* ATCC # 6633 | 30–35 | Aerobic |
| FTM | *Candida krusei* ATCC # 6258 | 20–25 | Aerobic |
| SCDM | *Bacillus subtilis* ATCC # 6633 | 30–35 | Aerobic |
| SCDM | *Candida krusei* ATCC # 6258 | 20–25 | Aerobic |
| FTMB | *Clostridium sporogenes* ATCC # 11437 | 30–35 | Anaerobic |
| FTMB | *Staphylococcus aureus* ATCC #6538 | 30–35 | Aerobic |

1. For both membrane filtration and direct inoculation sterility tests, all media are incubated for no fewer
2. than 14 days. At intervals during incubation, and after 14 days’ incubation, the test vessels are
3. examined for evidence of microbial growth. Microbial growth should be confirmed by subculture and
4. Gram stain.
5. 2.1.3. Example of growth promotion and test interference
6. The sterility of the media should be confirmed by incubating representative containers at the
7. appropriate temperature for the length of time specified for each test.
8. The ability of the culture media to support growth in the presence and absence of product, product
9. components, cells, seeds, or other test material should be validated for each product to be tested,
10. and for each new batch or lot of culture media for example as outlined in 9CFR 113.25(b). Detailed
11. testing procedures can be found for example in USDA SAMs 900-902, See [USDA APHIS |](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/veterinary-biologics/biologics-regulations-and-guidance/SA_SAMS/CT_Vb_sams_900_series)
12. [Supplemental Assay Methods - 900 Series](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/veterinary-biologics/biologics-regulations-and-guidance/SA_SAMS/CT_Vb_sams_900_series) (accessed 22 July 2023)
13. <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/vet_biologics/publications> (accessed 4 July 2022).
14. American Type Culture Collection, 10801 University Boulevard, Manassas, Virginia 20110-2209, USA.
15. To test for ability to support growth in the absence of the test material, media should be inoculated
16. with 10–100 viable control organisms of the suggested ATCC strains listed in Table 2 and incubated
17. according to the conditions specified.
18. To test for ability of the culture media to support growth in the presence of the test material, containers
19. should be inoculated simultaneously with both the test material and 10–100 viable control organisms.
20. The number of containers used should be at least one-half the number used to test the product or
21. product component. The test media are satisfactory if clear evidence of growth of the control
22. organisms appears in all inoculated media containers within 7 days. In the event that growth is
23. evident, the organism should be identified to confirm that it is the organism originally added to the
24. medium. The sterility test is considered invalid if any of the media show inadequate growth response,
25. or if the organism recovered, is not the organism used to inoculate the material.
26. If the material being tested renders the medium turbid so that the presence or absence of microbial
27. growth cannot be readily determined by visual examination, 14 days after the beginning of incubation
28. transfer portions (each not less than 1 ml) of the medium to fresh vessels of the same medium and
29. then incubate the original and transfer vessels for not less than 4 days.

##### ~~2.2. General procedure for testing live viral vaccines produced in eggs and administered~~

1. **~~through drinking water, spray, or skin scarification for the presence of bacteria and fungi~~**
2. Each batch of final container biological should have an average contamination of not more than one bacterial or
3. fungal colony per dose for veterinary vaccines. From each container sample, each of two Petri dishes are inoculated
4. with vaccine equal to ten doses if the vaccine is recommended for poultry, or one dose if recommended for other
5. animals. To each plate 20 ml of brain–heart infusion agar are added containing 0.007 IU (International Units) of
6. penicillinase per ml. One plate should be incubated at 30–35°C for 7 days and the other at 20–25°C for 14 days.
7. Colony counts are made at the end of each incubation period. An average colony count of all the plates representing
8. a batch should be made for each incubation condition. If the average count at either incubation condition exceeds
9. one colony per dose in the initial test, one retest to rule out faulty technique may be conducted using double the
10. number of unopened final containers. If the average count at either incubation condition of the final test for a batch
11. ~~exceeds one colony per dose, the batch of vaccine should be considered unsatisfactory.~~

##### 2.~~3~~2. Example of general procedure for testing seed lots of bacteria and live bacterial

1. **biologicals for purity**
2. Each seed lot of bacteria or batch of live bacterial biological should be tested for purity by inoculation of SCDM, which
3. is incubated at 20–25°C for 14 days, and FTM, which is incubated at 30–35°C for 14 days. Using good practices in
4. sterile technique to avoid laboratory contamination, a sterile pipette or syringe and needle is used to aseptically
5. transfer the quantity of biological directly into the two types of culture medium. The minimum ratio of inoculum to
6. culture medium is 1/15. Both positive and negative controls are set up as well.
7. If the inoculum or growth of the bacterial vaccine renders the medium turbid so that the absence of atypical microbial
8. growth cannot be determined by visual examination, subcultures should be made from all turbid tubes on day 3
9. through until day 11. Subculturing is done by transferring 0.1–1.0 ml to differential broths and agar and incubating for
10. the balance of the 14-day period. Microscopic examination by Gram stain should also be done.
11. If no atypical growth is found in any of the test vessels when compared with a positive control included in the test, the
12. lot of biological may be considered satisfactory for purity. If atypical growth is found but it can be demonstrated by a
13. negative control that the media or technique were faulty, then the first test ~~may~~ should be repeated. If atypical growth
14. is found but there is no evidence invalidating the test, then a retest ~~may~~ should be conducted. Twice the number of
15. biological containers and test vessels of the first test are used in the retest. If no atypical growth is found in the retest,
16. the biological could be considered to be satisfactory for purity but the results from both the initial and retest should
17. be reported for assessment by the individual countries relevant regulatory agency if the laboratory is sure that the
18. first test result was not due to in-laboratory contamination. If atypical growth is found in any of the retest vessels, the
19. biological is considered to be unsatisfactory for purity. If, however, it can be demonstrated by controls that the media
20. or technique of the retest were faulty, then the retest ~~may~~ should be repeated.
21. **2.~~4~~3~~. An~~ Example of a specific test procedure for exclusion of *Brucella sp.* including *B. abortus***
22. **(where general testing is not sufficient) ~~for detection of~~ *~~Brucella abortus~~***
23. It should be confirmed that each batch of culture medium supports the growth of *B. abortus* by inoculating plates and
24. flasks of biphasic medium with a known number of cells (around 100) of the fastidious *B. abortus* biovar 2. If the
25. media supports the growth of this biotype it will support all other biovars.
26. Inoculate 1.0 ml of prepared master or working ~~viral~~ live agent or cell seed material (not containing antibiotics) by
27. inoculating 50 µl of the test product into each of 10 flasks containing biphasic medium. At the same time 10 plates of
28. serum dextrose agar (SDA) are inoculated with 50 µl of inoculum and spread with a sterile bent glass Pasteur pipette
29. or hockey stick. An un-inoculated serum dextrose agar plate and a biphasic flask are also set up at the same time as
30. negative controls.
31. For assessment of inhibitory substances 50 µl of previously prepared master or working viral or cell seed material
32. and 10–100 CFU of *B. abortus* are inoculated on to duplicate SDA plates. Positive controls are prepared by inoculating
33. 10–100 CFU of *B. abortus* on to duplicate SDA plates.
34. All plates and flasks are incubated at 37°C in a 5–10% CO2 environment. Plates are incubated with the agar
35. uppermost and flasks with the agar slope vertical. Flasks are incubated with the cap loose.
36. Plates are checked for growth of colonies at days 4 and 8 of incubation. The biphasic medium is examined every 4 to
37. 7 days for 28 days. After each examination of the flasks, they are tilted so that the liquid phase runs over the solid
38. phase, then righted and returned to the incubator.
39. During the incubation period, SDA plates with positive control and test material are visually compared with plates with
40. the positive control only and if there is no inhibition of growth of the organism in the presence of the test material, the
41. interference testing test is successful, and testing can be assured to be sensitive.
42. Any signs of growth of suspicious contaminating microorganisms on SDA plates, cloudiness or colonies in biphasic
43. flasks require follow-up testing by PCR to confirm whether *B. abortus* is present.

##### 2~~.5~~4~~. An~~ Example of a general procedure for detection of *Salmonella* ~~contamination~~

1. Each batch of ~~live virus~~ biological reagents made in eggs should be free from contamination with *Salmonella*. This
2. testing must be done before bacteriostatic or bactericidal agents are added. Five samples of each batch should be
3. tested; 5 ml or one-half of the container contents, whichever is the lesser, of the sample should be used to inoculate
4. 100 ml of tryptose broth and tetrathionate broth. The inoculated broths should be incubated for 18–24 hours at 35–
5. 37°C. Transfers from these broths should be made on to MacConkey and *Salmonella–Shigella* agar, incubated for
6. 18–24 hours, and examined. If no growth typical of *Salmonella* is noted, the agar plates should be incubated an
7. additional 18–24 hours and again examined. If colonies typical of *Salmonella* are observed, further subculture on to
8. suitable differential media should be made for positive identification. Sensitive PCR tests are available for the
9. detection of *Salmonella* spp. in cultured material. If *Salmonella* is detected, the batch is determined to be
10. unsatisfactory.

#### 3. Example of detection of *Mycoplasma* ~~contamination~~

##### 3.1. An example of a ~~general~~ specific procedure for ~~detection~~ exclusion of *Mycoplasma*

1. ***mycoides* subsp. *mycoides* (where general testing is not sufficient)**
2. Each batch of live viral vaccine, each lot of master seed virus (MSV), each lot of primary and master cell stock (MCS),
3. and all ingredients of animal origin not steam-sterilised should be tested for the absence of mycoplasmas. Solid and
4. liquid media that will support the growth of small numbers of test organisms, such as typical contaminating organisms
5. *Acholeplasma laidlawii*, *Mycoplasma arginini*, *M. fermentans*, *M. hyorhinis*, *M. orale*, and *M. synoviae* should be
6. used. The nutritive properties of the solid medium should be such that no fewer than 100 CFU should occur with each
7. test organism when approximately 100–200 CFUs are inoculated per plate. An appropriate colour change should
8. occur in the liquid media when approximately 20–40 CFUs of each test organism are inoculated. The ability of the
9. culture media to support growth in the presence of product should be validated for each product to be tested, and for
10. ~~each new batch or lot of culture media.~~
11. One sample of each lot of vaccine, e.g. MSV or MCS, should be tested. Four plates of solid medium are inoculated
12. with 0.25 ml of the sample being tested, and 10 ml of the sample inoculated into 100 ml of the liquid medium. An
13. alternative is to inoculate each of the plates with 0.1 ml and to inoculate 100 ml of liquid medium with 1 ml of the
14. sample being tested. Two plates are incubated at 35–37°C aerobically (an atmosphere of air containing 5–10% CO2
15. and adequate humidity) and two plates are incubated anaerobically (an atmosphere of nitrogen containing 5–10%
16. CO2 and adequate humidity) for 14 days. On day 3 or day 4 after inoculation, 0.25 ml from the liquid media are
17. subcultured on to two plates of solid media. One plate is incubated aerobically and the second anaerobically at 35–
18. 37°C for 14 days. The subculture procedure is repeated on day 6, 7, or 8 and again on day 13 or 14. An alternative
19. method is to subculture on days 3, 5, 10, and 14 on to a plate of solid medium. All the subculture plates are incubated
20. for 10 days except for the 14-day subculture, which is incubated for 14 days. Liquid media is observed every 2–3
21. ~~days and, if any colour change occurs, has to be subcultured immediately.~~
22. **~~3.2. Interpretation of~~ *~~Mycoplasma~~* ~~test results~~**
23. ~~At the end of the incubation period (total 28 days), examine all the inoculated solid media microscopically for the~~
24. ~~presence of mycoplasma colonies. The test sample passes the test if the growth of mycoplasma colonies has~~
25. ~~occurred on the positive controls, and if growth has not occurred on any of the solid media inoculated with the test~~
26. ~~material. If at any stage of the test, more than one plate is contaminated with bacteria or fungi, or is broken, the test~~
27. is invalid and should be repeated. If mycoplasma colonies are found on any agar plate, a suitable confirmatory test
28. ~~on the colonies should be conducted, such as PCR. Some mycoplasmas cannot be cultivated, in which case the~~
29. ~~MSV and MCS have to be tested using an indicator cell line such as Vero cells, DNA staining, or PCR methods.~~
30. ~~Further detailed procedures can be found in Veterinary Medicinal Products, VICH GL34:~~
31. [~~http://www.ema.europa.eu/docs/en\_GB/document\_library/Scientific\_guideline/2013/03/WC500140352.pdf~~](http://www.ema.europa.eu/docs/en_GB/document_library/Scientific_guideline/2013/03/WC500140352.pdf)
32. Prior to beginning testing it is necessary to determine that each batch of media promotes the growth of *M. mycoides*
33. subsp*. mycoides* ~~SC~~ (*Mmm*~~SC~~) type strain PG1. General mycoplasma broth and agar are used but contain porcine
34. serum as a supplement. Each batch of broth and agar is inoculated with 10–100 CFU of *Mmm*~~SC~~. The solid medium
35. is suitable if adequate growth of *Mmm*~~SC~~ is found after 3–7 days’ incubation at 37°C in 5–10% CO2. The liquid
36. medium is suitable if the growth on the agar plates subcultured from the broth is found by at least the first subculture.
37. If reduced growth occurs another batch of media should be obtained and retested.
38. 1 ml of cell or virus seed to be tested is inoculated into 9 ml of the liquid medium and 100 µl on to solid mycoplasma
39. agar. The volume of the product is inoculated so that it is not more than 10% of the volume of the medium. The liquid
40. medium is incubated at 37°C in 5–10% CO2 and 100 µl of broth is subcultured on to agar at days 7, 14 and 21. The
41. agar plates are incubated at 37°C in 5–10% CO2 for no fewer than 14 days, except those corresponding to day 21
42. subculture, which are incubated for 7 days. An un-inoculated mycoplasma broth and agar plate are incubated as
43. negative controls. For assessment of inhibitory substances, inoculate 1 ml of sample to be tested into 9 ml of the
44. liquid medium and 100 µl on to solid medium and add 10–100 CFU of *Mmm*~~SC~~ to each. Prepare positive control by
45. inoculating 9 ml of mycoplasma broth and a mycoplasma agar plate with 10–100 CFU of *Mmm*~~SC~~. Incubate as for
46. samples and negative controls.
47. During incubation time, visually compare the broth of the positive control with sample present with the positive control
48. broth and, if there is no inhibition of the organism either the product possesses no antimicrobial activity under the
49. conditions of the test, or such activity has been satisfactorily eliminated by dilution. If no growth or reduced growth of
50. *Mmm*~~SC~~ is seen in the liquid and solid medium with test sample when compared with the positive control, the product
51. possesses antimicrobial activity, and the test is not satisfactory. Modifications of the conditions to eliminate the
52. antimicrobial activity and repeat test are required.
53. If antimicrobial activity is present it is necessary to dilute the test product further. Repeat the test above using 1.0 ml
54. of sample in 39 ml of mycoplasma broth and then inoculate with 10–100 CFU of *Mmm*~~SC~~ *a*nd incubate as above. All
55. broths and plates are examined for obvious evidence of growth. Evidence of growth can be determined by comparing
56. the test culture with the negative control, the positive control, and the inhibition control.
57. If evidence of microbial growth is found in the test samples the contaminating bacterium will be identified and
58. confirmed as *Mmm*~~SC~~ by specific PCR assay.
59. **3.2 General testing for exclusion of *Mycoplasma* sp.**
60. General testing for exclusion of *Mycoplasma* sp. that are less fastidious may require up to 28 days in culture, using
61. general mycoplasma media. Some mycoplasmas cannot be cultivated, in which case the live biological sample will
62. have to be tested using an indicator cell line such as Vero cells, DNA staining, or PCR methods.
63. Further detailed procedures can be found in Veterinary Medicinal Products, VICH GL34:
64. <http://www.ema.europa.eu/docs/en_GB/document_library/Scientific_guideline/2013/03/WC500140352.pdf>
65. and
66. USDA SAM 910: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/vet_biologics/publications/910.pdf>, (both accessed 25
67. July 2023).

#### 4. Example of detection of rickettsia and protozoa

1. There are no general test procedures for exclusion of rickettsia or protozoa. Procedures to exclude specific agents of
2. concern such as *Coxiella burnetti* (Q fever), *Ehrlichia canis, Trypanosoma evansi* and *Babesia caballi* can be found for
3. example, in the Review of Published Tests to detect pathogens in veterinary vaccines Intended for Importation into
4. Australia (Department of Agriculture [of Australia] [, Forest and Fisheries (2013]). The review is based on the reading and
5. interpretation of applicable published papers from reputable journals and are regarded as examples of sensitive methods
6. for detection of specified agents.

##### 4.1. ~~An~~ Example of a specific test protocol based on published methods for exclusion of *Babesia*

1. ***caballi* and *Theileria equi***
2. *Babesia caballi* and *Theileria equi* can be cultured *in vitro* in 10% equine red blood cells (RBC) in supportive medium
3. supplemented with 40% horse serum and in a micro-aerophilic environment. Culture isolation of *T. equi* is more
4. sensitive than for *B. caballi*. Giemsa-stained blood smears are prepared from cultures daily for 7 days (Avarzed *et*
5. *al*., 1997; Ikadai *et al*., 2001). *Babesia caballi* is characterised by paired merozoites connected at one end. *Theileria*
6. *equi* is characterised by a tetrad formation of merozoites or ‘Maltese cross’. Confirmation of the diagnosis is by PCR
7. (see Chapter 2.5.8 *Equine piroplasmosis*). Molecular diagnosis is recommended for the testing of biological products
8. that do not contain whole blood or organs. Molecular diagnosis by PCR or loop-mediated isothermal amplification
9. (LAMP) assay are the most sensitive and specific testing methods for detection of the pathogens of equine
10. *piroplasmosis* (Alhassan *et al*., 2007).

#### 5. Example of detection of virus ~~viruses in biological materials~~

1. In brief, general testing usually includes the use of continuous and primary cell lines of the source species~~, e.g.~~; cells of
2. known susceptibility to ~~the~~ likely viral contaminants, which are inoculated for usually a period of ~~up to~~ 3–4 weeks with
3. weekly subcultures. Virus seeds also require testing on a primary cell line of the species in which the final product is
4. intended. At Day 21 or 28, assessment of the monolayers is done using ~~H&E~~ appropriate histology staining procedures to
5. assess CPE, and haemadsorption with guinea-pig and chicken RBC to assess the presence of haemadsorbing agents.
6. Note that general testing is useful as a screening tool though not sufficiently sensitive enough to detect all viruses of
7. concern to all countries.
8. Specific testing requires test material to be inoculated on to sensitive, susceptible cells lines for the virus to be excluded;
9. the amplification process in cell culture is usually up to 28 days but depending ~~of~~ on the virus, may require longer culturing
10. times. Detection of specific viral contaminants is by recognition of CPE in conjunction with more sensitive antigen detection
11. or molecular tests such as FAT and PCR and ELISA after the amplification process in cell culture is completed.
12. All testing using cell lines to amplify for target viruses is contingent on the sensitivity of the cells for the target agent and
13. the ability to recognise the presence of the agent in the cells. The quality, characteristics, and virus permissibility profile of
14. cell lines in use should be determined as fit for purpose and appropriately maintained. ~~Positive and negative controls should~~
15. ~~be used at all passages of cell culture to determine sensitivity and specificity. Interference testing should be performed at~~
16. ~~first pass to ensure that the test sample does not inhibit the growth of the virus being excluded for.~~

##### ~~5.1. An example of general testing for the exclusion of viruses from virus and cell seed stocks~~

1. **~~used in production of veterinary vaccines~~**
2. ~~If the test virus inoculum is cytopathogenic~~ If a virus seed is known to cause cytopathic effect (CPE) in a permissive
3. cell line, the effect must be specifically neutralised without affecting the likelihood of isolation of the target agent. ~~For~~
4. ~~affected cell type, 1 ml of the test master (or working) virus seed (MVS) is thawed or reconstituted and neutralised~~
5. ~~with the addition of 1 ml mono-specific antiserum.~~ The serum must be shown to be free from antibodies against any
6. agents for which the test is intended to detect. Antiserum ~~must~~ should be tested for nonspecific inhibiting affects. For
7. a general test, this can be difficult to ascertain. Serum should be of sufficiently high titre to neutralise the seed virus
8. effectively with the use of an approximately equal volume or less of serum. A microplate block titration is ~~used~~ useful
9. to determine the ~~titre~~ amount of the antiserum required to neutralise ~~the MVS~~ a known amount of ~~concern. The~~
10. ~~antiserum~~ CPE causing virus seed. This is ~~allowed to neutralise the MVS at 37°C for 1 hour. The MVS and antiserum~~
11. ~~mixture is then inoculated on to a 75 cm~~2 ~~flask with appropriate cells. If the MVS is known to be high-titred or difficult~~
12. ~~to neutralise, the blocking antiserum can be added to the growth medium at a final concentration~~ done in the normal
13. conditions required of ~~1–2%.~~each test system (e.g. time, temperature, cell type etc.).
14. ~~Master cell~~ If a virus seed is known to be high-titred or difficult to neutralise, antiserum can be added to the growth
15. medium in a test system at a final concentration of 1–2%.
16. Cell seed stocks do not require a neutralisation process.

##### 5.1. Example of general testing procedures for the exclusion of viruses from virus and cell seed

1. **stocks used in production of veterinary vaccines**
2. 5.1.1 Example of amplification in cell culture
3. ~~The cells should be passaged weekly up to a 28-day period.~~ Continuous and primary, 75 cm2 area
4. monolayers of the source species (and intended species as applicable) are infected with 1 ml of seed
5. stocks and passaged weekly for ~~between~~ up to 21–28-days. Depending on the procedure followed,
6. monolayers can be subcultured between passes or freeze/thawed to disrupt cells. Negative and positive
7. controls should be also set up at each pass using the same cell population. Certain relevant viruses may
8. be selected as indicators for sensitivity and interference (positive controls) but these will not provide
9. validation for the broader range of agents targeted in general testing. The final culture is examined for
10. cytopathology and haemadsorption.
11. 5.1.2 Example of general detection procedures: cytopathology
12. May–Grünwald–Giemsa or H&E staining procedures are used to assess for cytopathological changes
13. associated with virus growth. Monolayers must have a surface area of at least 6 cm2 and can be prepared
14. on appropriate chambered tissue culture slides and incubated for 7 days. The plastic wells of the slides
15. are removed leaving the rubber gasket attached to the slide. The slides are rinsed in Dulbecco’s
16. phosphate buffered saline (PBS), fixed in acetone, methanol or formalin depending on the stain used
17. and placed on a staining rack. For May–Grünwald–Giemsa staining: the slides are stained for 15 minutes
18. at room temperature with May–Grünwald stain diluted 1/5 with absolute methanol. The May–Grünwald
19. stain is removed by inverting the slides. The slides are then stained for 20 minutes with Giemsa stain
20. diluted 1/15 in deionised water. The Giemsa stain is removed by inverting the slides and rinsing them in
21. deionised water for 10–20 seconds. The slides are air-dried and mounted with a coverslip using paraffin
22. oil. The May–Grünwald–Giemsa stain differentially stains ribonucleoprotein (RNP); DNA RNP stains red-
23. purple, while RNA RNP stains blue. The monolayers are examined with a conventional microscope for
24. the presence of inclusion bodies, an abnormal number of giant cells, or other cytopathology attributable
25. to a viral contaminant of the test product. The inoculated monolayers are compared with suitable control
26. non-inoculated monolayers. If specific cytopathology attributable to an extraneous virus is found, results
27. are reported, and additional specific testing may be conducted.
28. 5.1.3 Example of general detection procedures: haemadsorption
29. Testing for haemadsorption ~~uses~~ requires the use of 75 cm2 area monolayers established in tissue
30. culture flasks after the 28-day passage period described above. Guinea-pig, chicken, and any other
31. blood for use in this assay is collected in an equal volume of Alsever’s solution and may be stored at 4°C
32. for up to 7 days. Immediately prior to use, the stored erythrocytes are again washed by adding 5 ml of
33. blood in Alsever’s solution to 45 ml of calcium and magnesium-free PBS (PBSA) and centrifuging in a
34. 50 ml centrifuge tube at 500 ***g*** for 10 minutes. The supernatant is aspirated, and the erythrocytes are
35. suspended in PBSA and re-centrifuged. This washing procedure is repeated at least twice until the
36. supernatant is clear. Erythrocytes from each species are combined by adding 0.1 ml of each type of
37. packed blood cells to 100 ml of PBSA. The erythrocytes from different species may be kept separate or
38. combined, as desired. To each flask, add 5 ml of the erythrocyte suspension, and incubate the flasks at
39. 4°C for 30 minutes. Monolayers are washed twice with PBSA and examined for haemadsorption. If no
40. haemadsorption is apparent, 5 ml of ~~the~~ fresh erythrocyte suspension is added to each flask; the flasks
41. are incubated at 20–25°C (room temperature) for 30 minutes, rinsed as before, and examined for
42. haemadsorption. Separate flasks may be used for each incubation temperature if desired. Monolayers
43. are examined for the presence of haemadsorption using an illuminated light box and microscopically.
44. Non-inoculated monolayers are used as negative controls. The PBSA and fresh erythrocytes should
45. prevent most nonspecific haemadsorption from occurring. If specific haemadsorption attributable to an
46. extraneous agent is found, results are reported, and additional specific testing may be conducted.
47. ~~Specific testing requires specialised test procedures that are sensitive to amplifying a particular agent in~~
48. ~~culture and then detection of that agent by means of fluorescence, antigen-capture ELISA or PCR;~~
49. ~~whichever is more sensitive. Specific testing is usually required when general procedures are not~~
50. ~~adequate for effective exclusion of more fastidious, viruses Some examples are listed in Table 1.~~

##### 5.2. ~~An~~ Examples of specific ~~virus~~ agent exclusion testing ~~from~~ of biologicals used in the

1. **production of veterinary vaccines**
2. 5.2.1. Example of porcine epidemic diarrhoea virus (PEDV)
3. Trypsin presence is required at inoculation and in the culture medium for isolation of porcine epidemic
4. diarrhoea virus (PEDV) in Vero cells (CCL81, ATCC) to ensure the virus can enter host cells. Just
5. confluent monolayers ~~(100%)~~ are required; as under confluent monolayers (<90%) are more sensitive
6. to the presence of trypsin ~~and will be destroyed well before the 7 days required for each passage in~~
7. ~~culture~~. An over confluent or aging monolayer will not be sensitive for growth of PEDV. Maintenance
8. media (MM) formulation consists of Earle’s MEM (minimal essential medium) (with 5.6 M HEPES [N-
9. 2-hydroxyethylpiperazine, N-2-ethanesulphonic acid] and glutamine) + 0.3% Tryptose phosphate
10. broth, 0.02% yeast extract and 4 µg/ml TPCK treated trypsin. The addition of the trypsin into ~~the~~ MM
11. should occur on the day the media is to be used.
12. Prior to inoculation, confluent 75 cm2 monolayers are washed twice with ~~the~~ MM ~~(with trypsin added)~~
13. to remove growth media containing FCS. Virus or cell seed (1 ml) is added with 1 ml of MM to each
14. monolayer; incubate at 37°C for 2 hours, then add 30 ml/flask of MM. Negative control monolayers
15. of the same size are set up prior to inoculation of test material. Positive and interference controls are
16. set up last, and where possible, in a separate laboratory ~~area~~ to avoid contamination. Assessment
17. for sensitivity and interfering substances requires ~~assessment~~ use of ~~PEDV~~ reference virus of known
18. titre. A control for interference using co-inoculation of test sample and PEDV needs only to be set up
19. on the first pass. Positive controls ~~must~~ should be set up at every pass to ensure each monolayer
20. used gives expected sensitivity. PEDV virus is titrated in log dilutions starting at 10–1 to 10–6 in MM
21. (depending ~~of~~ on the endpoint titre of reference virus) in duplicate rows of 6 wells of a 24-well tissue
22. culture plate. For the interference test, PEDV is titrated in the same dilution series but using MM
23. spiked with a 10% volume of test material. Decant off the growth media and discard. Wash plates to
24. ensure no FCS is present. Two washes using approximately 400 µl/well MM (with trypsin added) are
25. sufficient.
26. Add 100 µl of diluted virus on to each of two duplicate wells. Rock inoculated plates to distribute the
27. inoculum evenly over the surface of the monolayer. Incubate at 37°C with 5% CO2 for 2 hours then
28. add a further 1 ml volumes/well of MM.
29. After 7 days, 75 cm2 monolayers have cells disrupted using two freeze–thaw cycles at –80°C. Positive
30. control plates are read for end-point titres, and these are compared with virus in the presence of test
31. material to ensure titres are comparable and interference has not occurred. Freeze–thaw lysates are
32. clarified at 2000 ***g*** for 5 minutes and re-passed on to newly formed monolayers as for the first
33. passage. Passages are repeated until a total of four passages are completed at which point cell
34. lysates are assessed by PCR for detection of PEDV and day 7 monolayers in 24-well plates are fixed
35. and stained ~~by IFA~~ for FAT. If a seed virus is to be tested and requires neutralisation using antiserum,
36. extra care in the isolation of PEDV needs to be considered. Trypsin is rendered inactive in the
37. presence of serum proteins and without trypsin present, PEDV ~~is unable to grow in cell culture~~ grows
38. poorly, or not at all. Washing off the inoculum with two MM washes is required after an extended
39. adsorption time of up to 4 hours to ensure acceptable sensitivity.

## 644 ~~J~~ H. INFORMATION TO BE SUBMITTED WHEN

645 **APPLYING FOR AN IMPORT LICENCE**

1. When undertaking risk analysis for biologicals, [~~Veterinary Authorities~~](http://www.oie.int/eng/normes/mcode/en_chapitre_1.1.1.htm#terme_autorite_veterinaire) ~~should follow the~~ [*~~Terrestrial Manual~~*](http://www.oie.int/eng/normes/mcode/en_chapitre_1.1.1.htm#terme_manuel_terrestre)the manufacturer
2. should follow the requirements of the importing country. Requirements for each importing country should be accessible
3. and published online. The manufacturer or the [Veterinary Authority](http://www.oie.int/eng/normes/mcode/en_chapitre_1.1.1.htm#terme_autorite_veterinaire) of the [exporting country](http://www.oie.int/eng/normes/mcode/en_chapitre_1.1.1.htm#terme_pays_exportateur) should make available detailed
4. information, in confidence ~~if~~ as necessary, on the source of the materials used in the manufacture of the product (e.g.
5. substrates). They should make available details of the method of manufacture (and where appropriate inactivation) of the
6. substrates and component materials, the quality assurance procedures for each step in the process, final product testing
7. regimes, and the pharmacopoeia with which the product must conform in the country of origin. They should also make
8. available challenge organisms, their biotypes and reference sera, and other means of appropriate product testing.
9. For detailed examples of a risk-based assessment of veterinary biologicals for import into a country refer to:
10.  European Commission (2015). The Rules Governing Medicinal Products in the European Union. Eudralex. Volume 6.
11. Notice to applicants and regulatory guidelines for medicinal products for veterinary use
12.  Department of Agriculture, Forest and Fisheries of Australia (2021b). Live veterinary vaccines Summary of information
13. required for biosecurity risk assessment, Version 6 and Inactivated veterinary vaccines, Version 8.
14.  Outline of the Regulatory System of Veterinary Drugs in Japan (2015) Assurance of the Quality, Efficacy, and Safety
15. Based on the Law for Ensuring the Quality, Efficacy, and Safety of Drugs and Medical Devices.
16. When applying for an import licence other regulatory requirements may need to be addressed depending on the type of
17. sample and if the sample needs to be shipped out of country to a testing laboratory. For example, cell seeds may come
18. under certain requirements for permits such as the Convention for International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild
19. Fauna and Flora (CITES), where a cell line is derived from an endangered species, e.g. the cell line and its derivatives.
20. Applying for such a permit is time consuming and requires input from both the exporting and importing country.
21. Genetically modified organisms (GMOs) are becoming more frequent in use with changes in manufacturing technologies
22. and specialised, time-consuming procedures need to be in place. A laboratory that accepts a GMO product for testing shall
23. follow the procedures of the Office of the Gene Regulator (OGTR) to allow the GMO to be dealt with.

## 669 I. RISK ANALYSIS PROCESS

1. Risk analysis should be as objective and transparent as possible and should be performed in accordance with Section 2
2. of the [*Terrestrial Code*,](http://www.oie.int/eng/normes/mcode/en_chapitre_1.1.1.htm#terme_code_terrestre) and certification in line with Section 5 of the [*Terrestrial Code*.](http://www.oie.int/eng/normes/mcode/en_chapitre_1.1.1.htm#terme_code_terrestre) Of necessity, assessment of the
3. country and commodity factors and risk reduction measures will be based largely on manufacturers’ data. These data
4. depend on quality assurance at all stages of manufacture, rather than on testing of the final product alone.
5. Domestic exposure may be influenced by the approved usage of the product. [Veterinary Authorities](http://www.oie.int/eng/normes/mcode/en_chapitre_1.1.1.htm#terme_autorite_veterinaire) may place limits on
6. usage of some products (e.g. restricting usage to institutions of appropriate biosecurity).

## 676 ~~L~~ J. BIOCONTAINMENT

1. Suitable biocontainment may be necessary for many forms of biologicals. In particular, the importation of exotic micro-
2. organisms should be carried out in accordance with Chapter 1.1.4 *Biosafety and biosecurity: standard for managing*
3. *biological risk in the veterinary laboratory and animal facilities*.
4. Laboratories using high risk agents should have well researched and documented risk assessments in place prior to
5. working with such agents to ensure the safety of their staff and laboratory.

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