

FI - FINLAND

VTT CULTURE COLLECTION (VTTCC)

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1. Requirements for Deposit

(a) Kinds of Microorganisms that May Be Deposited

Bacteria (including actinomycetes) and fungi (including yeasts) which can be preserved without significant damage to or loss of their properties or viability in liquid nitrogen or by freeze-drying.

VTTCC accepts only organisms belonging to risk groups 1 or 2 according to Directive 2000/54/EC on the protection of workers from risks related to exposure to biological agents at work, and genetically modified microorganisms belonging to class 1 according to Council Directive 98/81/EC on the contained use of genetically modified microorganisms.

Biological material cannot be accepted, if it is contaminated by foreign organisms. Mixtures or microbial cultures of more than two microorganisms will not be accepted. Mixtures of two microorganisms will be accepted in case these a) cannot be cultivated separately as pure cultures and b) can easily be distinguished macroscopically or microscopically.

VTTCC reserves the right to refuse to accept for deposit any material which in its view represents an unacceptable hazard or which it cannot process.

(b) Technical Requirements and Procedures

(i) Form and Quantity

Bacteria, yeasts and filamentous fungi submitted for deposit in VTTCC should be supplied as three active or freeze-dried cultures of the same batch. Cultures submitted for deposit should be free

of foreign organisms. International regulations for packaging and shipping of microorganisms should be followed in the consignment.

(ii) Time Required for Viability Testing

The minimum time required for viability testing of the kinds of microorganisms accepted by VTTCC is 7 days. Depositors should consider that viability testing of slow growing organisms and organisms with special growth requirements may take longer.

(iii) Depositor Checks and Renewal of Stocks

VTTCC prepares frozen and/or freeze-dried batches of the deposited organism by subculturing the material supplied by the depositor. The depositor is requested to check the authenticity of a sample from each batch prepared from the material supplied. A portion of the original material is retained and stored by freezing or freeze-drying. New batches are prepared for renewal of stocks when necessary.

(c) Administrative Requirements and Procedures

(i) General

Language. The official language of VTT Culture Collection is English. Written statements and completed forms have to be in English, but communications are also accepted in Finnish and Swedish.

Contract. The form BP/1 for patent deposit in VTTCC is a contract between the depositor and VTTCC and it must be signed by the depositor. By signing the contract the depositor undertakes

- to supply VTTCC the sample and all the related necessary information requested by VTTCC;
- not to withdraw its deposit during the required storage period;
- to pay VTTCC all necessary fees related to the deposition under this contract;
- to authorize VTTCC to supply samples in accordance with the requirements and purposes of the patent procedure applicable;
- not to hold VTTCC liable for any damages related to deterioration of samples during storage when all precautions indicated by the depositor in respect of storage have been taken by VTTCC;
- to compensate VTTCC for any damage it may sustain as a consequence of dealing with the samples when all precautions indicated by the depositor in respect of dealing with the samples have been taken by VTTCC.

Import and/or Quarantine Regulations. The kinds of microorganisms accepted for deposit by VTTCC are not subject to import or quarantine regulations.

(ii) Making the Original Deposit

Requirements to Be Met by the Depositor. The depositor is required to complete the form BP/1 for patent deposit in VTT Culture Collection, available at the internet site of the collection. In

the event of later indication or amendment of the scientific description and/or proposed taxonomic designation, the depositor must complete form BP/7.

Official Notifications to the Depositor. The receipt and viability statement are issued on mandatory international forms BP/4 and BP/9, respectively. Attestation of receipt of a later indication or amendment of the scientific description and/or proposed taxonomic designation is issued on form BP/8. Notification of the furnishing of samples to third parties is issued on form BP/14.

Unofficial Notifications to the Depositor. If requested, VTTCC communicates the date of deposit and the accession number before the official receipt is issued, but only after a positive viability test. Likewise VTTCC communicates the finding of the viability test before the official viability statement is issued.

Supply of Information to a Patent Agent. If requested, VTTCC will send copies of the receipt and viability statement to both the depositor and his/her patent agent.

(iii) Converting a Previous Deposit

Deposits made outside the provisions of the Budapest Treaty may be converted by the original depositor to deposits under the Budapest Treaty, whether or not they were originally made for patent purposes. Any earlier deposit is subject, on conversion, to the storage fee normally charged for deposits made under the Budapest Treaty. The administrative requirements for conversion are the same as those to be met for an original deposit made under the Treaty.

(iv) Making a New Deposit

The depositor is requested to complete the equivalent of model form BP/2 when making a new deposit, and to supply copies of the relevant documents required by Rule 6.2. The receipt and viability statement for a new deposit are issued on mandatory international forms BP/5 and BP/9.

2. Furnishing of Samples

(a) Requests for Samples

VTTCC advises third parties of the correct procedures to be followed to make a valid request. In case of requests requiring proof of entitlement, VTTCC will provide requesting parties with copies of model request form BP/12. Samples will only be furnished to recognized microbiological laboratories and not to private addresses. When requests are received from abroad, VTTCC assumes that the requesting party has met the import requirements of his/her country.

All samples of deposited microorganisms furnished by VTTCC are from batches prepared by VTTCC.

(b) Notification of the Depositor

Depositors are notified on form BP/14 when samples of his/her microorganisms have been furnished to third parties.

(c) Cataloguing of Budapest Treaty Deposits

VTTCC does not list Budapest Treaty deposits in its published catalogue.

3. Schedule of Fees

	<u>EUR</u>
1. (a) Accession and deposit (including initial viability check, preservation and storage for 30 years)	1,200
(b) Conversion of a deposit made outside of the Budapest Treaty into a deposit according to Budapest Treaty	1,200
(c) Prolongation of the duration of storage, per year	100
2. Issuance of viability statement:	
(a) Where a viability test is requested	180
(b) On the basis of the last viability test	80
3. Furnishing of a sample (plus current freight costs)	230
4. Communication of information	70
5. Issuance of an attestation	160

Fees do not include VAT, transport costs or bank fees.

4. Guidance for Depositors

VTTCC does not publish specific information for the guidance of depositors under the Budapest Treaty. Depositors are encouraged to contact VTTCC prior to making the deposit for further information on the procedure.