

MA – MOROCCO

MOROCCAN COORDINATED COLLECTIONS OF MICROORGANISMS (CCMM)

Laboratoire de Microbiologie et Biologie Moléculaire (LMBM)
Centre National pour la Recherche Scientifique et Technique, CNRST
Angle avenue Allal El Fassi, avenue des FAR, Quartier Hay Ryad
B.P. 8027 Nations Unies
10102 Rabat

Telephone: +212 537 56 98 77 or 56 98 10
Facsimile: +212 537 56 34
E-mail: directeur@cnrts.ma; ccmm@cnrst.ma
Internet: www.cnrst.ma; www.ccmm.ma

1. Conditions Relating to Deposit

(a) Kinds of Microorganisms Accepted for Deposit

The CCMM accept all types of bacterial strains, including actinomycetes, fungi and yeasts. The CCMM do not accept microorganisms belonging to a higher hazard group than Group 2 of the UK Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens.

(b) Requirements and Technical Procedures

(i) Form and Quantity

As a general rule, the CCMM will only accept strains that can be cultivated in technically feasible conditions.

Exceptionally, the CMM may accept deposits of mixtures of microorganisms, but undefined or non-identifiable mixtures are automatically excluded. However, the acceptance of mixtures of microorganisms is subject to decision and the fees related thereto must be fixed on a case-by-case basis after prior negotiation with the potential depositor.

The CCMM also reserve the right to refuse a deposit of microbiological material if the preservation thereof poses excess risks.

The CCMM require that the depositor provide the following: 3 active or freeze-dried cultures, whereby one of the said cultures must undergo a viability test and is subsequently used to prepare a minimum stock of 20 samples of cryopreserved and/or 20 vials of freeze-dried cells.

(ii) Required Deadline for Viability Test

The required deadline for viability tests of deposited strains is generally 3-10 working days according to the type of microorganisms (bacteria, yeast or fungus) and the culture medium used.

(iii) Depositor Checks and Renewal of Stocks

Stocks will be renewed using one of the two remaining vials originally provided by the depositor. The vial will undergo a viability test and will be used to prepare a minimum stock of 20 samples or cryopreserved and/or 20 vials of freeze-dried cells.

The CCMM guarantee the authenticity, viability and purity of their preparations. No depositor checks are required.

(c) Administrative Requirements and Procedures

(i) General

Language. The official languages of the CCMM are Arabic, French and English.

Contract. The CCMM have pre-formatted forms for each type of deposit (original, new or conversion of a previous deposit). These forms must be completed by the depositor as appropriate.

Import and/or Quarantine Regulations. The CCMM will not accept microorganisms which must be placed in quarantine.

(ii) Making the Original Deposit

In accordance with Rule 6.3(a) of the Regulations under the Budapest Treaty, before the deposit of a microorganism can be accepted, the CCMM require the following:

- The microorganism must be deposited in the form and quantity necessary for the CCMM to meet their obligations under the Regulations of the Budapest Treaty;
- The form established by the CCMM must be duly completed and furnished by the depositor for the purpose of the administrative procedures;
- The written statement referred to in Rule 6.1(a) or 6.2(a) must be drafted correctly in French or in English;
- The fee for storage referred to in Rule 12.1(a) must be paid;
- The depositor must obtain all of the required authorizations for transportation of the deposit;

(iii) Conversion of a Previous Deposit

Rule 6.4(d) allows for a deposit originally made outside the provisions of the Treaty and before the CCMM became an IDA to be converted to a deposit made under the Treaty.

The requirements for converting an existing deposit into a “Budapest Deposit” are the same as those which must be met when making an original deposit under the Treaty except that the microorganism itself, of course, will already have been sent and received. However, it must be realized that when a deposit is converted under Rule 6.4(d), for the purposes of the Treaty, the date of deposit is held to be the date on which the CCMM acquired IDA status, not the earlier date on which the collection physically received the microorganism.

The form established by the CCMM must be duly completed and furnished by the depositor for the purposes of the administrative procedures.

(iv) Making a New Deposit

Where the CCMM cannot furnish samples of the deposited microorganism, for any reason, in particular:

- a. where such microorganism is no longer viable, or
- b. where the furnishing of samples would require that they be sent abroad and the sending or the receipt of the samples abroad is prevented by export or import restrictions, the CCMM shall, promptly after having noted its inability to furnish such samples, notify the depositor of such inability, indicating the cause thereof, and the depositor shall have the right to make a new deposit of the microorganism which was originally deposited (Article 4 of the Treaty).

The new deposit shall be made with the CCMM where the original deposit was made, however

2. Furnishing of Samples

(a) Requests for Samples

The CCMM inform third parties of the procedure that is to be followed in order to establish a formal request for furnishing samples. They provide the requesting parties with the appropriate form required for such requests. The samples furnished by the CCMM may come from preparations that they have prepared themselves.

(b) Notification of the Depositor

The depositor is notified by official mail when samples have been furnished.

(c) Cataloguing of Budapest Treaty Deposits

CCMM do not list Budapest Treaty deposits of microorganisms that they have accepted in their published catalogue.

3. Schedule of Fees

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a) Preservation:	3'325
b) Issuance of a viability statement:	
- when a viability test is carried out	300
- based on the last viability test	150
c) Furnishing of a sample	500
d) Communication of information	150
e) Issuance of an attestation of an amendment to the scientific description and/or taxonomic designation of the microorganism	200
f) Preparation of a batch of freeze-dried microorganisms for long term storage (this fee does not apply if the freeze-dried is not furnished by the depositor)	2'000

Fees do not include transport costs or bank fees.

4. Guidance for Depositors

All information relating to the deposit of microorganisms for the purposes of patent procedure can be found on the following websites: www.cnrst.ma and www.cmm.ma