Collection of Institut Pasteur (CIP)

I/ Bacterial strain information

• Orders
Strains can only be supplied to public or private establishments which have a bacteriology laboratory. All orders must be written (sent by post or fax), and include the name and address of the organization making the request. The description of the requested strain must be as follows: name of the strain, CIP or CRBIP numbers (see catalogue) or acronym in another collection, quantity, billing and delivery addresses if different, and order n° (the ordering establishment’s own reference).

• Packaging
The CIP uses accredited packaging for the transport of infectious material according to current legislation.

• Responsibilities
The CIP will consider all complaints received within one month for freeze-dried cultures and 48 hours for frozen strains, from the date of reception. In case of complaint, the client should keep all documents bound to the delivery and, if possible, the packaging, to help the CIP to deal with the complaint.

II/ Storage and culture conditions for strains

Microorganisms should be handled only by qualified microbiologists

• Recommendations for storing strains prior to use
  - Freeze-dried culture
The ampoules or vials should be stored at +4°C in the dark until use.
  - Frozen culture
Upon receipt, the strain should be let at room temperature for defrosting for a while, then immediately plated. It can be placed in a freezer, preferably at -80°C until use. The period for which the strains can be stored is shorter at -18°C.
  - Active culture
On reception, plate out the strain under appropriate culture conditions (temperature, media and atmosphere).

• Recommendations for re-growing strains

Agar slant is recommended on the beginning for re-growing strains, whatever the conditioning

  - Ampoules
  • The exterior of the ampoule should be disinfected with alcohol and open the neck of the vial scored.
  • Open the ampoule in standard aseptic conditions (work closed to Bunsen burner or with biosafety cabinet).
  • Resuspend the contents of the ampoule with about 0,2 ml of broth.
  • Use the 0,2 ml of suspension to inoculate an appropriate medium (see catalogue) : broth or agar slant.
  • Incubate under appropriate temperature and atmospheric conditions.
  - Vials
  • First remove the aluminium tab, then withdraw the bung under standard aseptic conditions.
  • Resuspend the contents in about 0,2 ml of broth, and use the 0,2 ml of suspension to inoculate appropriate medium (see catalogue): broth or agar slant.

The strain should be plated again before use.