

DRAFT RESOLUTION No.27

Extension to the Designation of Facilities Holding Rinderpest Virus Containing Material to Maintain Global Freedom from Rinderpest

ACKNOWLEDGING the declaration of global freedom from rinderpest in May 2011 and the commitment made by Members to maintaining this status, reaffirmed through WOAHP Resolution No. 21 (2017),

REITERATING the importance of reducing the risk posed by rinderpest virus containing material stocks through its safe destruction, including all the non-essential material held by designated facilities (hereinafter 'Rinderpest Holding Facilities'),

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Resolution No. 23 (2014) requested the Director General to put in place, jointly with FAO, a system to designate, inspect, monitor and evaluate Rinderpest Holding Facilities,
2. Resolution No. 24 (2019) extended the designation of the Rinderpest Holding Facilities first designated through Resolution No. 25 (2015) for a three-year period,
3. Resolution No. 23 (2019) designated two new Rinderpest Holding Facilities for a three-year period.
4. Resolution No. 22 (2022) extended the designation of all the previously designated Rinderpest Holding Facilities for a one-year period.
5. An international team carried out site inspections of five FAO-WOAH designated Rinderpest Holding Facilities in four countries in 2022,
6. In the absence of a site inspection, the remaining two FAO-WOAH designated Rinderpest Holding Facilities provided a written report on the previous designation period to demonstrate compliance with their mandate and agreed to receive a site inspection in 2024.

THE ASSEMBLY RECOMMENDS THAT

Members destroy all rinderpest virus containing material held within and outside FAO-WOAH designated Rinderpest Holding Facilities, with the exception of vaccine seed, manufactured vaccines, and essential diagnostic materials used by WOAHP Reference Laboratories for rinderpest.

RESOLVES

To extend the designation of the following facilities as approved for holding rinderpest virus containing material for the period of three years, on behalf of the WOAHP, and subject to equivalent action by FAO.

A) Rinderpest Holding Facility for storing rinderpest virus containing material, excluding vaccine stocks:

1. African Union Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (AU-PANVAC), Debre-Zeit, Ethiopia.
2. Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement (CIRAD), Montpellier, France.
3. China Institute of Veterinary Drug Control/China Veterinary Culture Collection Center (IVDC), Beijing, People's Republic of China.
4. High Containment Facilities of Exotic Diseases Research Station, National Institute of Animal Health, Kodaira, Tokyo, Japan.
5. USDA-APHIS, Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (FADDL), Plum Island, New York, United States of America.
6. The Pirbright Institute, Surrey, United Kingdom.

B) Rinderpest Vaccine Holding Facility for storing only manufactured vaccines, vaccine stocks and material solely for their production:

1. African Union Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (AU-PANVAC), Debre-Zeit, Ethiopia.
2. Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement (CIRAD), Montpellier, France.
3. China Institute of Veterinary Drug Control/China Veterinary Culture Collection Center (IVDC), Beijing, People's Republic of China.
4. Building for Safety Evaluation Research, Production Center for Biologicals; Building for Biologics, Research and Development (storage), National Institute of Animal Health, Tsukuba, Ibaraki, Japan.

Mandate for a Facility Designated to Hold Rinderpest Virus Containing Material

The facilities designated by FAO and WOAHP to hold rinderpest virus (RPV)-containing material¹ (hereinafter 'Rinderpest Holding Facilities') have a mandate which justifies their function and ensures safe storage of this material.

The Rinderpest Holding Facility has a separate mandate and approval mechanism to that of a WOAHP Reference Laboratory for rinderpest and a FAO Reference Centre for morbillivirus.

Although the decision to designate a Rinderpest Holding Facility lies with the WOAHP World Assembly of Delegates, the Member's WOAHP Delegate must support the application and be fully aware of the Mandate, and the country hosting the Rinderpest Holding Facility should have an up-to-date contingency plan for rinderpest.

The following text describes the Mandates of the two categories of Rinderpest Holding Facility:

- A) Rinderpest Holding Facility for storing rinderpest virus containing material, excluding vaccine stocks.
- B) Rinderpest Vaccine Holding Facility for storing only manufactured vaccines, vaccine stocks and material solely for their production.

A) Rinderpest virus holding facilities for storing rinderpest virus containing material, excluding vaccine stocks:

1. To retain an up-to-date inventory of RPV-containing material and sequence data (including recording entry and exit of this material into and out of the facility), and to share this information with FAO and WOAHP through the designated web-based system.
2. To send an annual report to FAO and WOAHP through the designated web-based system.
3. To safely hold RPV-containing material at an appropriate level of biocontainment and ensure appropriate measures are taken to prevent its accidental or deliberate release.
4. To accept RPV-containing material from FAO and WOAHP Members for safe storage and/or for destruction.

¹ *RPV-containing material* means field and laboratory strains of RPV; vaccine strains of RPV including valid and expired vaccine stocks; tissues, sera and other material from animals known or suspected to be infected; laboratory-generated diagnostic material containing live virus, recombinant morbilliviruses (segmented or nonsegmented) containing unique RPV nucleic acid or amino acid sequences, and full length genomic material including virus RNA and its cDNA copies. Subgenomic fragments of RPV genome (either as plasmid or incorporated into recombinant viruses) that cannot be incorporated into a replicating morbillivirus or morbillivirus-like virus are not considered to be RPV-containing material, neither are sera that have been either heat-treated to at least 56°C for at least two hours, or shown to be free from RPV genome sequences by a validated RT-PCR assay.

5. To notify FAO and WOAHA before receiving RPV-containing material from other institutes for FAO to assist in shipping if needed and to ensure chain of custody.
6. To provide RPV-containing material to other institutes for the research or vaccine manufacture that has been approved by FAO and WOAHA.
7. To contribute, when requested by FAO and WOAHA, to the Global Rinderpest Action Plan and the global rinderpest vaccine reserve.
8. To maintain a system of quality assurance, biosafety and biosecurity, and to notify FAO and WOAHA, should a breach of biocontainment happen, with or without release of RPV-containing material.
9. To notify immediately FAO and WOAHA of any release or contamination of RPV-containing material in other virus stock or material stored at the facility.
10. To seek approval from FAO and WOAHA before manipulating RPV-containing materials for the purposes of research or any other purposes, including in private sector institutions, or before shipping RPV-containing materials to other institutes.
11. To work towards an ever-reducing inventory of RPV-containing material from the time of adoption of the resolution, aiming to keep only critical material (diagnostic material) to safeguard the global freedom .
12. To participate in scientific meetings in its capacity as FAO-WOAHA Rinderpest Holding Facility and using that title.
13. To undergo regular inspections and inventory audits by FAO and WOAHA, at the institute's expense, to ensure that storage is secure and that safe operating conditions are met.
14. To fully cooperate by providing all the relevant reports and information when FAO and WOAHA carry out a site inspection.
15. To provide technical advice or training to personnel from other FAO and WOAHA Member Countries on the destruction, safe shipment of RPV-containing material, and/or decontamination of facilities.
16. To establish and maintain a network with other Rinderpest Holding Facilities.

B) Rinderpest Vaccine Holding Facility for storing only manufactured vaccines, vaccine stocks and material solely for their production:

1. To retain an up-to-date inventory of vaccine stocks including current and expired vaccines and any materials solely for vaccine production and to share such information with FAO and WOAHA through the designated web-based system.
2. To send an annual report to FAO and WOAHA through the designated web-based system.
3. To validate or destroy stocks of expired vaccines and to share such information with FAO and WOAHA through the designated web-based system.

4. To accept vaccine virus seeds or stocks from FAO and WOAHA Member Countries for safe storage and/or for destruction.
 5. To notify FAO and WOAHA before receiving RPV-containing material from other institutes for FAO to assist in shipping if needed and to ensure the chain of custody.
 6. To provide vaccine virus seeds or vaccines to other institutes (public or private sector) for research or vaccine manufacture that has been approved by FAO and WOAHA.
 7. To contribute, when requested by FAO and WOAHA, to the global rinderpest vaccine reserve and the Global Rinderpest Action Plan, including through the emergency manufacture and preparation of vaccines in accordance with WOAHA standards and the FAO-WOAHA Criteria for Rinderpest Vaccine Manufacturers.
 8. To maintain a system of quality assurance, biosafety and biosecurity, and to notify FAO and WOAHA, should a breach of biocontainment happen, with or without release of RPV-containing material.
 9. To notify immediately FAO and WOAHA of any release or contamination of RPV-containing material in other virus stock or material stored at the facility.
 10. To seek approval from FAO and WOAHA before manipulating RPV-containing materials for the purposes of vaccine production or any other purposes, or before shipping RPV-containing materials to other institutes.
 11. To regularly test the quality of the vaccines in accordance with the WOAHA guidelines.
 12. To maintain and follow procedures approved by FAO and WOAHA for managing vaccine stocks (storing packaged and manufactured vaccine).
 13. To work towards an ever-reducing inventory of RPV-containing material from the time of adoption of the resolution, aiming to keep only the critical material (vaccine seed and manufactured vaccines) to safeguard the global freedom.
 14. To undergo regular inspections and inventory audits by FAO and WOAHA, at the institute's expense, to ensure that storage is secure and that safe operating conditions are met.
 15. To fully cooperate by providing all the relevant reports and information when FAO and WOAHA carry out a site inspection.
 16. To establish and maintain a network with other Rinderpest Holding Facilities.
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