

**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 WOAHA Resolution No. 21 (2017),

REITERATING the importance of reducing the risk posed by rinderpest virus containing material 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 the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (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. 27 (2022) extended the designation of all the previously designated Rinderpest Holding Facilities for a one-year period.
5. Resolution No. 27 (2023) extended the designation of all the previously designated Rinderpest Holding Facilities for a three-year period, based on four site inspections undertaken in 2022.
6. The Mandate for Rinderpest Holding Facilities from Resolution No. 27 (2023) has been updated to reflect that the definition of essential rinderpest virus containing material includes only vaccine strains listed in the WOAHA Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines, manufactured vaccines, and materials for vaccine production (Appendix I).
7. Resolutions No. 27 (2022) and No. 27 (2023) mandated Rinderpest Holding Facilities to work towards an ever-reducing inventory.
8. Resolution No. 22 (2025) recommended that Members, including those hosting designated Rinderpest Holding Facilities, destroy all non-essential rinderpest virus containing material, noting that field strains, plasmids, and other materials not mentioned in preambulatory clause no. 6 are considered non-essential. Further, Resolution No. 22 (2025) designated one new Rinderpest Holding Facility for a one-year period and concluded, with high praise, the designation of one Rinderpest Holding Facility.
9. In April 2026, an independent team of experts commissioned by WOAHA and FAO carried out the site inspection of a Rinderpest Holding Facility which had been designated in 2016, re-inspected in 2022, and had recently moved to a different location.
10. In 2026, the FAO-WOAHA Joint Advisory Committee for Rinderpest has assessed the compliance of the eight designated Rinderpest Holding Facilities with the Mandate, as well as the implementation of corrective actions to resolve findings and recommendations from the respective site inspections.

THE ASSEMBLY

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 WOA, 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. China Institute of Veterinary Drug Control/China Veterinary Culture Collection Center (IVDC), Beijing, People's Republic of China.
3. Indian Council of Agricultural Research – National Institute for High Security Animal Diseases, Bhopal, India.
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) at the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility, Manhattan, Kansas, United States of America.
6. The Pirbright Institute, Surrey, United Kingdom.

B) Rinderpest 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.

To designate the following facility as approved for holding rinderpest virus containing material (Category B) for the period of three years, on behalf of WOA, and subject to equivalent action by FAO.

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

1. Indian Council of Agricultural Research – National Institute for High Security Animal Diseases, Bhopal, India.

MANDATE FOR A FACILITY DESIGNATED TO HOLD RINDERPEST VIRUS CONTAINING MATERIAL

The facilities designated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) 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 WOAHO Reference Laboratory for rinderpest and a FAO Reference Centre for morbillivirus.

Although the decision to designate a Rinderpest Holding Facility lies with the WOAHO World Assembly of Delegates, the Member's WOAHO 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 Holding Facility for storing only manufactured vaccines, vaccine stocks and material solely for their production.

A) Rinderpest 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 WOAHO through the designated web-based system.
2. To send an annual report to FAO and WOAHO 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 WOAHO Members for safe storage and/or for destruction.
5. To notify FAO and WOAHO before receiving RPV-containing material from other institutes for FAO to assist in shipping if needed and to ensure chain of custody.

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.

6. To provide RPV-containing material to other institutes for the research or vaccine manufacture that has been approved by FAO and WOA. H.
7. To contribute, when requested by FAO and WOA. H, 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 WOA. H, should a breach of biocontainment happen, with or without release of RPV-containing material.
9. To notify immediately FAO and WOA. H 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 WOA. H 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 essential material² to safeguard the global freedom.
12. To participate in scientific meetings in its capacity as FAO-WOA. H Rinderpest Holding Facility and using that title.
13. To undergo regular inspections and inventory audits by FAO and WOA. H, 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 WOA. H carry out a site inspection.
15. To provide technical advice and/or training to personnel from other FAO and WOA. H 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 holding facilities 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 WOA. H through the designated web-based system.
2. To send an annual report to FAO and WOA. H through the designated web-based system.
3. To validate or destroy stocks of expired vaccines and to share such information with FAO and WOA. H through the designated web-based system.
4. To accept vaccine virus seeds or stocks from FAO and WOA. H Member Countries for safe storage and/or for destruction.

² Essential rinderpest virus containing material means only vaccine strains listed in the WOA. H Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines, manufactured vaccine and materials for vaccine production. Field strains, plasmids, and other materials are deemed "non-essential" and should be destroyed.

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 essential material (vaccine seed and manufactured vaccines listed in the WOAHA Manual of Diagnostic Tests and 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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