



## **External Cell Requests – Information Sheet** **(Excluding UK Stem Cell Bank Holdings)**

**Please read this information sheet before completing the accompanying cell request form**

### **Background**

NIBSC acts as a central resource centre, providing quality controlled banks of cells for NIBSC batch release, WHO laboratory networks, National Control laboratories, manufacturers and other NIBSC collaborators.

With the exception of human stem cell lines from the UK Stem Cell Bank NIBSC **does not** supply cells for general research applications. For stem cell lines please refer to <http://www.stemcellbank.org.uk>.

Requests for cells for general research purposes are directed to public service collections, such as;

ECACC (<http://www.hpacultures.org.uk/collections/ecacc.jsp>)

ATCC (<http://www.lgcstandards-atcc.org>)

DSMZ (<http://www.dsmz.de/>)

A full list of cell culture collections can be found at the World Federation for Cell Culture Collections website (<http://www.wfcc.info/>).

Details of cell lines available from NIBSC and restrictions which apply to their use can be found at the end of this information sheet.

### **Import and export requirements (for non-EU requests)**

All cells lines are supplied as frozen ampoules and are shipped on dry ice. *Shipping costs may be charged by NIBSC in some cases.*

### **CITES**

Certain cell lines (e.g. B95a and Vero) are derived from species covered by the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Depending on the classification of the species, a CITES export permit and/or import permit may be required. For further information about whether a permit is required, please visit [www.cites.org](http://www.cites.org) where you can find a list of contacts for each country.

### **Export permits**

Should your order require an export permit we will send an application to DEFRA on your behalf. Please note that UK export applications take approximately 3 to 4 weeks.

### **Import permits**

If an import permit is required you will need to complete the application and send the original permit to the appropriate national authority and a copy of the permit to NIBSC (contact details can be found on this information sheet).

## **GMO imports/exports**

Some cell lines are genetically modified, such as L20B cells, and therefore may be subject to further import/export and shipping regulations.

For further information about international regulations for shipping and transport of GMOs and infectious organisms please refer to the WFCC or WHO websites.

## **Health and safety**

These materials are biological in nature and represent an uncertain risk regarding contamination with microbiological agents, therefore you must ensure that appropriate procedures are followed with regards to their storage and use within the laboratory.

If your request is approved by NIBSC, you will be required to sign a Material Transfer Agreement which will include an infectious organism clause to certify that you will handle the materials with appropriate care and in accordance with your local country guidelines and regulations.

## **Cell request procedure**

- 1) Read the 'External Cell Requests – Information Sheet' and refer to the table of cell lines available and their prescribed uses to check that your request meets the requirements stated
- 2) If you think that your request is suitable for NIBSC cell dispatch fill in the 'External Cell Requests – Request Form' and send to Ross Hawkins at NIBSC
- 3) We will acknowledge receipt of your form, confirm availability of stock and begin the internal approval process
- 4) If your request is approved we will send you a Material Transfer Agreement which must be signed by both the principal investigator and an authorised signatory for your institution before the cells can be released
- 5) You must apply for appropriate import licences and send copies of the permit(s) to us (NIBSC will apply for the appropriate export permits on your behalf)
- 6) We will contact you once all the paperwork has been received to confirm a delivery date and further shipping address details as necessary

**N.B.** Straightforward applications are usually processed by NIBSC within approximately 4-5 weeks. However, time taken for licence applications is variable and is out of the control of NIBSC.

## **NIBSC contact information**

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### **Available cell lines and prescribed uses**

Please note, **apart from MRC-5 PDL 13 (660902), none** of the cells listed below are released as cell substrates for development of vaccine production

<b>Cell line name (accession number)</b>	<b>Prescribed use under NIBSC MTA</b>	<b>Who may request cells</b>
<b>FOR VACCINE QA/QC TESTING AND ISOLATION:</b>		
RD-CDC (081003) From CDC, Atlanta (1999) Hep2c (740502) From Flow Laboratories, 1974 HeLa (710101) Donated by PHLs Colindale, 1971 L20B (081102) Donated by Columbia State University, 1991	Isolation of polio virus and potency/safety testing of polio vaccines	WHO polio network members
<b>FOR VIRUS ISOLATION ONLY:</b>		
B95a (001026) Donated by PHLs Colindale, 1971	Isolation of mumps virus	WHO polio network members
MDCK (821104) From Salisbury Common Cold Unit, 1982	Isolation of influenza virus	NIBSC named collaborators
<b>FOR VACCINEE SAFETY AND EFFICACY TESTING:</b>		
Dengue-Vero (011038) From WHO, 2001	Detection of Dengue specific antibodies in vaccinee sera	WHO Dengue vaccination programme network members
<b>FOR VACCINE QA/QC TESTING ONLY:</b>		
Vero derived from WHO 10-87 (880101) From Institut Merieux, 1988	Potency/safety testing of vaccines (including batch release)	Manufacturers/ National Control Laboratories/ WHO collaborators
MRC-5 PDL 15 (660902) Produced at MRC/NIBSC, 1966	Potency/safety testing of vaccines	Manufacturers/ National Control Laboratories/ WHO collaborators
<b>FOR VACCINE DEVELOPMENT:</b>		
MRC-5 PDL 13 (660902) Produced at MRC/NIBSC, 1966	Development of vaccine production	Manufacturers/ National Control Laboratories/ WHO collaborators

**IF THE INTENDED PURPOSE FOR YOUR REQUESTED CELL LINE FALLS OUTSIDE OF THESE PRESCRIBED USES NIBSC WILL BE UNLIKELY TO PROVIDE YOU WITH CELLS**