

Cell Bank Security

How Safe are your Cell Banks?

Ever wondered what would be the consequences of a failure of your own cryostorage facility?

ECACC has for many years provided both the commercial and academic scientific community with a Safe Deposit service facility.

This facility enables organisations to store duplicate stocks of critical cell banks off-site, providing an invaluable second storage. This service is already used by more than 100 organisations within Europe including many large biopharmaceutical companies. The service offered is fully confidential and deposits are only added to the ECACC catalogue or released on receipt of a signed request on company headed paper. Full details of the terms and conditions upon which the safe deposit service operates can be found on our website www.ecacc.org.uk



Authenticated Cell Lines in a Temperature Controlled Liquid Nitrogen Tank

ECACC's standard Safe Deposit Service offers the following benefits:

- Access to safe deposit storage tanks is restricted and logged
- Temperature is maintained below -135°C , constantly monitored and logged with deviations being recorded and reported back to the client
- Regular viability checks carried out on monitor cell lines from safe deposit tanks
- Annual report confirming number of ampoules stored, and integrity of storage conditions including viability results of the monitor cell banks
- Regular internal auditing

A dedicated service is provided for the storage of "GMP" master cell banks. In addition to the benefits afforded by the standard service above this service provides the following additional features:

- Use of a fully validated storage tank
- Only certified fully QC tested (mycoplasma, bacteria, fungi and adventitious viruses) cell banks stored in the tank
- Storage in vapour phase nitrogen only
- Complete transaction logs to record all stock movements
- All stock movements witnessed by QC representatives

Expanding ECACC's Storage Capacity

The recent commissioning of ECACC's new state of the art ultra low temperature storage centre has vastly enhanced both the above services. Secure off-site storage enables ECACC to expand its storage capacity to accommodate the dramatic increase in the number of cell lines being generated for genetic disease research projects such as those funded by the Medical Research Council (UK) and Wellcome Trust (UK).

We predict that it will add to the current inventory at a rate of 75,000 cryovials per year for at least the next five years. Therefore our aim is to increase the existing capacity by at least 60% to accommodate this demand.



Working in Partnership

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The New Cell Storage Centre

The new facility will comfortably accommodate 40 large liquid nitrogen vessels with a total capacity of one million cryovials making it one of the largest cell storage facilities of its kind in Europe. There is the provision to easily expand this in the future to accommodate a further 20 vessels.

Features of this new store include:

- 20,000L liquid nitrogen dual reservoir system
- Automatic fill system for up to 40 storage vessels
- Latest telemetry alarm and temperature monitoring systems using calibrated temperature probes
- Dedicated team permanently based in the facility
- Latest oxygen monitoring systems linked to forced air ventilation
- Electronic inventory control

In addition, ECACC has a second storage facility which will enable storage of back-up stocks independent from the new cell store. As further security this site has a completely separate monitoring system and liquid nitrogen is supplied by a second, independent contractor.

How to Use the Service

Prior to sending any samples to ECACC we suggest that you visit our website where you will find a full guide on the procedures and forms which need to be completed before sending your cell banks to us. It is particularly important to note that ECACC must receive a completed biohazard assessment before it can accept any deposits. If you have queries concerning the service itself, or procedures to follow, contact ECACC's technical support direct by email at ecacc.technical@camr.org.uk or tel +44 (0) 1980 612684.



The New Cell Storage Centre at ECACC



Facility to hold over a Million Authenticated Cell Lines



20,000L Liquid Nitrogen Dual Reservoir System