

RESOLUTION No. 21

**Amendments to the annex  
“Guidelines for Rinderpest Virus Sequestration”,  
of Resolution No. 18 of 25 May 2011  
“Declaration of Global Eradication of Rinderpest and Implementation of Follow-up Measures  
to Maintain World Freedom from Rinderpest”**

ACKNOWLEDGING the efforts made by Members, non-Members, OIE, FAO, IAEA, other international organisations, regional organisations, the veterinary profession, the scientific community, donors and other partners to eradicate rinderpest,

CONSIDERING the contributions made by OIE and FAO towards global freedom from rinderpest,

NOTING the conclusions of the Final Report of the Joint FAO/OIE Committee on Global Rinderpest Eradication that rinderpest virus has ceased to circulate in animals,

REITERATING the importance of reducing the number of existing rinderpest virus stocks through the destruction of virus in a safe manner and/or the transfer of virus stocks to internationally recognised reference institutions,

MINDFUL of the need for the international community and the responsibility of national authorities to take the necessary measures to ensure that the world remains free from rinderpest,

RECALLING the Resolution No. 23, adopted by the OIE World Assembly of Delegates during the 82nd General Session which specifies the approval procedure and mandate for facilities holding rinderpest virus containing material,

FULLY AWARE of the scientific deliberations on rinderpest from the relevant Specialist Commissions and the FAO-OIE Rinderpest Joint Advisory Committee since the declaration of Global Eradication of Rinderpest in 2011,

THE ASSEMBLY

1. PROCLAIMS to adopt the attached Guidelines for Rinderpest Virus Sequestration;
2. ACCEPTS to cancel and replace the “Guidelines for Rinderpest Virus Sequestration” which were an appendix to Resolution No.18 adopted during the 79th General Session in 2011.

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.../Appendix

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 23 May 2017  
in view of an entry into force on 26 May 2017)

Appendix

**GLOBAL RINDERPEST ERADICATION:  
GUIDELINES FOR RINDERPEST VIRUS SEQUESTRATION**

Endorsed with amendments on 28 January 2010  
by the Biological Standards Commission of the OIE

Endorsed with amendments on 14 April 2010  
by the Joint FAO/OIE Committee on Global Rinderpest Eradication

Endorsed with amendments on 10 February 2017  
by the Biological Standards Commission of the OIE

**Introduction**

The global eradication of rinderpest creates a duty for the international community to prevent the re-emergence of the disease through release of virus from laboratory sources. To this end FAO and OIE shall establish the principle of international oversight and regulation of facilities holding rinderpest virus containing material. The objective of the present guidelines is to ensure secure handling and sequestration of rinderpest virus in the post-eradication era. FAO and OIE and Member states undertake to reduce the number of virus repositories in order to minimise the risk of accidental release.

FAO and OIE, in collaboration with Member states, will put in place global contingency plans and will ensure approval of a minimum number of repositories and Reference Centres/Reference Laboratories necessary to maintain preparedness against releases of the virus into the environment. These plans will include, amongst others, vaccine production, vaccine banks and deployment of vaccines in case of emergency. Vaccines should be available to countries for immediate dissemination in case of emergency. The following guidelines deal with biosafety and bio-containment measures to be observed in laboratories and other facilities holding rinderpest virus containing material.

**Definitions**

For the purpose of these guidelines the following definitions apply:

An approved rinderpest holding facility is a facility that is jointly approved by FAO and OIE. The facility should comply with mandates underlined in Resolution No. 23 adopted at the 82nd General Session (2014) and undertake a risk assessment for rinderpest using Chapter 1.1.4. in the OIE *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals* as guidance. The *Veterinary Authority* must be aware and support the mandate stipulated in Resolution No. 23 adopted at the 82nd General Session (2014).

Rinderpest virus-containing material means field and laboratory strains of rinderpest virus; vaccine strains of rinderpest virus including valid and expired vaccine stocks; tissues, sera and other clinical material from infected or suspect animals; and diagnostic material containing or encoding live virus. Recombinant morbilliviruses (segmented or non-segmented) containing unique rinderpest virus nucleic acid or amino acid sequences are considered to be rinderpest virus. Full length genomic material including virus RNA and cDNA copies of virus RNA is considered to be *rinderpest virus-containing material*. Sub-genomic fragments of morbillivirus nucleic acid that are not capable of being incorporated in a replicating morbillivirus or morbillivirus-like virus are not considered as *rinderpest virus-containing material*.

Veterinary Authority means the Governmental Authority of an OIE/FAO Member, comprising veterinarians, other professionals and para-professionals, having the responsibility and competence for ensuring or supervising the implementation of animal health and welfare measures, international veterinary certification and other standards and recommendations in the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* in the whole territory.

## Guidelines for rinderpest virus sequestration

1. All manipulation of *rinderpest virus-containing materials*, including vaccine production and testing for quality control, shall be forbidden unless approved by FAO and OIE, supported by the *Veterinary Authority*, and is taking place at an *approved rinderpest holding facility*.
2. All countries shall either destroy or transfer all remaining *rinderpest virus-containing material* to an *approved rinderpest holding facility* under biologically secure conditions and under supervision from the *Veterinary Authority*, ensuring that the OIE and FAO are notified in advance. The *Veterinary Authority* shall be kept aware of and be held responsible for any activity involving *rinderpest virus-containing material*.
3. Should there be the need to manufacture additional stocks of rinderpest vaccine, the production must take place under strict biosecurity and biosafety measures in an *approved rinderpest holding facility*.
4. All rinderpest virus containing materials must be maintained in an approved rinderpest holding facility.
5. Transfers of *rinderpest virus-containing material* to an *approved rinderpest holding facility* located in another country must be notified to FAO and OIE beforehand; such material may remain the property of the country of origin.
6. Transport (intra and inter-country) arrangements for *rinderpest virus-containing material* shall be agreed by the relevant *Veterinary Authorities* in advance and be done in accordance with the related FAO-OIE Standard Operating Procedure<sup>1</sup> and chapter 1.1.3. of the OIE *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals*, pertaining to *Transport of Specimens of Animal Origin*.
7. FAO and OIE shall establish and maintain a single global inventory on all existing *rinderpest virus-containing materials*, including vaccine stocks and the facilities holding such stocks and any movement of such materials. The global database shall be kept up-to-date on a permanent basis.
8. FAO and OIE shall develop a mechanism to facilitate and standardise reporting of *rinderpest virus-containing material* by *Veterinary Authorities* to update the global database.
9. FAO and OIE shall widely publicise the availability of internationally accessible rinderpest vaccine stocks to assist in convincing national authorities that they do not need to continue holding *rinderpest virus-containing material*.
10. FAO and OIE shall develop a set of guidelines and standard operating procedures to govern the maintenance of rinderpest vaccine stocks and their use for emergency purposes.
11. FAO and OIE, through their Reference Centres and Reference Laboratories, (including the laboratory of the Joint FAO/IAEA division) shall advise regional, national and international partners on laboratory-related issues having to do with rinderpest virus, including virus sequestration, destruction and disinfection protocols and diagnostic quality control.
12. FAO and OIE shall oversee the development of diagnostic kits that do not require the use of live virus within the kit itself or during the manufacture of the kit.

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<sup>1</sup> Handling, Packaging and Shipping of Rinderpest virus Containing Materials