



ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DANGEROUS PATHOGENS

Approved List of Human pathogens 2012

Issue

Following discussion at the previous ACDP meeting and additional information provided by members a revised draft of the Approved List of Biological Agents is provided for members consideration.

Background

Members agreed a new version of the Approved List of Human Pathogens was required and should be published to reflect current scientific developments and taxonomic changes to biological agents since the previous publication in 2004. A number of changes to the 2004 list have now been included and this is reflected in the current draft.

The style and structure of the latest revision of the Approved List has remained similar to the previous version although the introductory section is now structured under the headings:

- Preface;
- What is the Approved List?
- How are biological agents added to the List?
- Use of the Approved List to carry out risk assessments and apply control measures;
- Work with biological agents which have not been assigned a classification in the Approved List;
- Further information; also
- An information box summarizing Hazard Group definitions

The explanatory notes also refer to Annex 1 in the Approved List which explains how those agents to which it applies may be derogated under the EU Biological Agents Directive to reduce control measures deemed unnecessary.

There continues to be tables listing biological agents, their Hazard Group categorization (2, 3 or 4) and explanatory notes if required. These notes include supplementary information on whether they produce harmful toxins and whether vaccines are generally available for treatment of infections.

In a change from the previous version, the explanatory notes now also provide more information on taxonomic changes, for example by listing previous species names. For use as a downloaded electronic document or on HSE web site, hyperlinks have been included to navigate from old species names listed to new species names.

Biological agents are now listed alphabetically under the headings bacteria, fungi, helminths and protozoans (these last two were not separated in the previous version). Prions are subdivided into lists of human and animal forms. Viruses are listed alphabetically by family names then, where applicable, alphabetically by genus and then alphabetically by species. A similar structure was used in the previous version, but in this revision it has been made clearer by the better use of fonts and bold type in headings.

Changes to individual biological agents mainly reflect taxonomic changes for viruses, and ACDP has already been consulted to provide their views on changes necessary. For example, to aid clarity it has been recommended by ACDP members that some viruses, previously included in 'catch-all' groups under a genus, should be listed individually. In doing this, some additional species are now listed by name that were previously included only as part of 'catch-all' groups. This has not resulted in any changes to Hazard classification.

There are some viruses that are **new** to the Approved List as proposed for inclusion during earlier consultation. When adding these to the List they have

been assigned a classification taking into consideration latest scientific evidence of pathogenicity. This information has been cross-referenced with data from the EU Biological Agents Directive to ensure that any additions or changes made to the Approved List applicable in GB do not apply higher Hazard Groups than those under the Directive. However, it must be noted that the Directive provides a less comprehensive list than the Approved List in the previous or this revision.

A recently published document by the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (Wittek R., Dorsch-Häsler K., Link J. 2011: Classification of Organisms: Viruses. Status July 2011. Federal Office for the Environment, Bern. The environment in practice no. 1115: 32 pp www.bafu.admin.ch/uv-1115-e) also provides an up to date source of classification of viruses according to infection hazard.

Annex 1 provides a summary of the changes or additions to viruses in the updated List, together with the 2004 List entry where applicable, the corresponding entries in EU and Swiss FOEN lists, an explanation and justification of classification and the 2012 List entry.

Also included in the table is a summary of the actions required from ACDP.

The table should be read in cross-reference with the latest draft of the Approved List in which the agents requiring action are contrast colour highlighted

Abstracts of some papers that may support classifications are provided at the end of this document. It is also expected that wider consultation will be required to confirm these new entries.

Action

Members are asked to consider and approve the revised Approved List of Biological Agents at annex 2.