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REPORT
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CR 12894:1997

May 1997

English version

Biotechnology - Microorganisms - Examination of the
various existing lists of animal pathogens and
production of a report

Biotechnologie - Microorganismes - Examen
des différentes listes existantes de pathogènes
pour les animaux et production d'un rapport

Biotechnik - Mikroorganismen -
Überprüfung der unterschiedlichen Listen von
tierpathogenen Organismen und Erarbeitung
eines Berichtes

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Foreword

This report was prepared by the Technical Committee CEN/TC 233 "Biotechnology", the secretariat of which is held by AFNOR.

Introduction

A very large majority of microorganisms used in industry are safe and harmless. Very few of them - usually used for manufacturing vaccines or diagnostics - are potentially pathogenic to humans or animals. These pathogenic microorganisms are used in contained processes according to the level of hazard.

One of the main biosafety problems facing users of pathogenic microorganisms is to identify the hazard level of the microorganisms employed in various fields of activities in order to apply the most appropriate safety measures.

1 Scope

This CEN Report examines the existing lists of pathogens of domestic animals and gives recommendations that a classification into three classes/categories/groups be established.

Different criteria of classification are described.

Genetically modified microorganisms (GMM) have been deliberately excluded. Only wild type species are considered.

2 Examination of the various existing lists and systems of classification of animal pathogens

2.1 General

For the purpose of this CEN Report, an existing list is defined as a list issued from a consensual agreement by an Expert Committee and which has been officially published by national competent authorities of a CEN Member State, or by national or international nomenclature groups.

Three main sources were therefore considered :

- the Office International des Epizooties (OIE) ;
- the Commission of the European Communities ;
- the national publications.

The situation in different European countries is also examined.

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