

IMPLEMENTING THE OECD BEST PRACTICE GUIDELINES AT VKM

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Abstract:

All-Russian Collection of Microorganisms (VKM) is the largest Russian non-medical collection in terms of taxonomic biodiversity. VKM maintains more than 8500 strains of bacteria, archaea and fungi (including yeasts) in the fund offered for distribution (see the catalogue at www.vkm.ru). In an attempt to meet the BRC requirements, VKM took some steps to create its own Quality Management System (QMS). The report goes on to briefly outline the VKM efforts to implement the OECD Best Practice Guidelines. The self-audit had shown that VKM fulfilled most of the requirements that are under its own control. It concerns to documentation management standards including compliance with internal documentation and retention, accession of deposits to the BRC including receipt and handling of biological materials and quality checks on the biological material, preservation and maintenance including stock control of the preserved biological materials and storage of preserved biological materials, supply of biological material to customers in accordance with Material Transfer Agreement. Significant efforts were made to implement BRC information standards. The new created data base allowed us to improve Internet version of VKM catalogue. The full synchronization of VKM catalogue with StrainInfo not only demonstrates VKM strains data worldwide, but also allows Russian customers to reach relevant information services at StrainInfo pages. The main parts of presentation include issues concerned with organizational chart of the QMS, tools and methods used in the QMS and cost analysis. The difficulties in implementing QMS related to the country peculiar position dubbed as country "in transition" are also shown. They pertain to such issues as property (including intellectual property) rights, biosafety licensing system, custom regulations, collections affiliation with diverse host organizations within various funding governmental agencies, etc. However, it is hoped that the declared national goals such as joining OECD and WTO may eventually promote the establishing of BRCs in Russian Federation.

Key words: BRC, OECD BPG, QMS