

Quality standards by "Certificates of Deposits"

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At the 2002 Bacteriology and Applied Microbiology Congress of the International Union of Microbiological Societies in Paris, the principle of a 'confirmation of deposit' was extensively discussed. This principle was subsequently introduced into the Bacteriological Code and is now covered by Rules 27 and 30. Under Rule 30(3a) one can read: 'As of 1 January 2001 the description of a new species, or new combinations previously represented by viable cultures must include the designation of a type strain, and a viable culture of that strain must be deposited in at least two publicly accessible service collections in different countries from which subcultures must be available. The designations allotted to the strain by the culture collections should be quoted in the published description. Evidence must be presented that the cultures are present, viable, and available at the time of publication.'

Although the principle of this confirmation of deposit is clear, there is still some degree of uncertainty about the exact requirements. In addition, the requirements for a 'formal' document called 'certificate of deposit', a concept that has developed in parallel with the concept of 'confirmation of deposit' and often used synonymously, are not clear.

In a recently published Editorial (Kämpfer, 2010), the importance of a formal authentic and reliable proof of deposit of type material was again underlined. In addition, it was stressed, that along with the issuing of such a document, some essential requirements must be fulfilled. These requirements have been clearly addressed by Tindall (2008), and at the last Editorial Board meeting of the IJSEM all members of the Board supported these helpful suggestions. It was, however, also made clear, that the Editors of IJSEM can not control the authenticity of these documents. It is also far beyond the control of the Editorial Board to check whether all requirements as proposed by Tindall (2008) are fulfilled.

In this regard it is essential that higher standards are being applied to taxonomic work. Some additional 'Proposals to clarify how type strains are deposited and made available to the scientific community for the purpose of systematic research' have been made by Tindall & Garrity (2008).

A clarification on how type strains are to be deposited, i.e. 'quality standards' are essential and would benefit all involved parties, the collections and the end-users.

Kämpfer, P. (2010). Certificates of deposit – a key element of the Bacteriological Code and an indispensable prerequisite for comparative taxonomic research. Report of a case of falsification and a reply to the Letter to the Editor by Tindall (2008). *Int J Syst Evol Microbiol* 60, 475-477

Tindall, B. J. (2008). Confirmation of deposit, but confirmation of what? *Int J Syst Evol Microbiol* 58, 1785–1787.

Tindall, B. J. & Garrity, G. M. (2008). Proposals to clarify how type strains are deposited and made available to the scientific community for the purpose of systematic research. *Int J Syst Evol Microbiol* 58, 1987–1990.