

REVIVAL OF CULTURES

Active cultures

Subculture the organism immediately to recommended medium and incubate at recommended temperature and at aerobic/anaerobic conditions as specified in the information sheet. Information about growth medium and conditions about each culture is also available in the MTCC catalogue of strains.

Freeze – dried cultures

1. Care should be taken in opening the ampoule as the contents are in a vacuum.
2. Mark on the ampoule near the middle of the cotton wool with a sharp file.
3. Disinfect the surface around the mark with alcohol.
4. Wrap thick cotton wool (or gauze) around the ampoule and break at the marked area.
5. Gently remove the pointed top of the ampoule. Snap opening will draw the cotton plug to one end; hasty opening will release fine particles of dried organisms into the air of the laboratory.
6. Carefully remove the cotton plug and add about 0.3 to 0.4 ml of specified medium to make a suspension of the culture. Avoid frothing or creating aerosols. **For fungal cultures, suspension should be made in about 0.4 ml sterile water and let it stand for 20 minutes before transferring on to solid medium.**
7. Streak a few drops of the suspension to recommended liquid medium (solidified with agar) in a Petri plate.

[Optional: Rest of the suspension may be transferred to 5 ml of recommended liquid medium in a test tube].
8. Incubate at appropriate temperature and under conditions recommended for the culture.
9. If our instructions are strictly followed, growth of the culture should be visible within a few days. Some fungi require long incubation periods of even up to 15 days.
10. All the remains in the original ampoule should be sterilized before discarding.

Common microbiological and safety procedures should be followed while handling cultures.

MICROBIAL TYPE CULTURE COLLECTION AND GENE BANK (MTCC)

Instructions for opening the freeze-dried ampoule



