

Frequently Asked Questions

- ***What is the purpose of the NIAID Reference Reagent Repository?***

The establishment of the Repository dates back to early 1961 when the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) first created the Virus Reagent Program. The primary purpose of the Program was to organize, store and distribute to researchers worldwide, reference standards to support comparative viral research. The program successfully met its original goal of producing virus reference standards, and was subsequently broadened to include other reference materials. In the late 1970's many of the Enterovirus, Adenovirus, and Rhinovirus seed stocks and monoclonal antiserum developed under this program were transferred to the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) for distribution. However, the NIAID Repository retained most of the less common virus reagents. At the present time more than 2,000 different products are stored in the Repository, including antisera against a wide variety of viruses and other infectious organisms, viral antigens, mycoplasmas, allergenic and immunologic reagents, and Interferons. The NIAID is a designated World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Center for Antiviral Drugs and Interferon; the Repository is responsible for the international distribution of the WHO Interferon reference standards.
- ***What is the source of reagents?***

The majority of the reagents that comprise the Repository inventory were produced by the NIAID in collaborative efforts with academic institutions and private industry.
- ***Who is eligible and what is required to obtain reagents from the repository?***

Anyone engaged in scientific research is encouraged to use this valuable resource of reference reagents and biological standards. Requestors will be required to furnish information with respect to 1) their identification and qualifications; 2) use of the reagents; 3) responsibility for shipping arrangements; and 4) individual and institutional agreements for indemnification and reporting. The Repository provides ordering forms and reagent catalogues to all potential users. The ordering and indemnification forms can be downloaded from this web site in a PDF (*.pdf) format. To view files in PDF you will need Adobe Acrobat Reader. Visit the Adobe web site @ to download a free copy and follow the instructions for installation.
- ***Who is a requestor?***

A requestor is the person who is ultimately responsible for any reagent(s) or standard(s) obtained from the NIAID Reference Reagent Repository. Typically, the requestor is a Principal/Senior Investigator or Laboratory Director. The requestor's signature and/or initials are required on all reagent request, certification agreement and indemnification forms.
- ***What is the distribution and shipment policy for reference reagents?***

Present NIAID policy on the distribution of mycoplasma, viral, allergen and immunologic reference reagents, other than interferon, limits qualified requesting investigators to five vials of each reagent per order. The requestor **MUST** provide a valid account number so that their carrier (i.e. Federal Express, DHL, TNT or AIRBORNE Express) can invoice the requestor's organization directly for all shipping charges or as an alternative, allow the requestor to make all necessary arrangements for a pre-paid or COD shipment. Our policy does not allow the Repository to invoice requestors for shipping charges or arrange for any pre-paid or COD shipments. In addition, your carrier must be able to handle and ship packages containing dry ice and/or biohazard reagents, if required.
- ***What is the distribution and shipment policy for the WHO interferon reagents?***

Present NIAID policy on the distribution interferon reagents allows each requestor to receive one vial of each interferon reagent per calendar year. All interferon reagents are lyophilized and shipped at ambient temperature. In the past, all IFN requestors had the option of requesting IFN reagents to be shipped through the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) at no additional expense to the requestor. Due to a change in policy the repository no longer ships IFN reagents through the USPS. All IFN requestors must now provide the repository with a valid shipper's account number for a worldwide express transport company such as; Federal Express, Airborne Express, DHL or TNT so that all shipping charges are billed directly to the requestor's institution or company. Our policy does not allow the Repository to invoice requestors for shipping charges or arrange for any pre-paid or COD shipments. In addition, your carrier must also be able to handle and ship packages containing dry ice and/or biohazard reagents, if required.

Note: Requestors outside the United States are responsible for providing the repository with any importation permits that may be required for importing biological reagents into your country.

- ***What is the cost of reference reagents?***

There is a nominal handling fee of \$30.00 per vial for all reference reagents, with the exception of Interferon reagents.

- ***What is the cost of interferon reagents?***

There are no handling fees for any interferon reagents, they are provided free of charge by the NIAID.

- ***Whom can I contact for additional information?***

For additional information concerning reagent availability, shipment, handling fees reagent catalogues or ordering forms please contact:

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