**Safety information and recommended handling**

The dominant part of the actinomycetes collection is represented by *Streptomyces* spp. (roughly 95%), **whose are generally perceived as a non-pathogenic**. However, some *Streptomyces* strains have been already associated with respiratory problems and diseases worldwide. **Therefore, all strains from CCA must be handled according to good microbiological practice and procedures in appropriately equipped laboratory** ([Laboratory biosafety manual. World Health Organization. 4th ed. Geneva, 2020](https://apps.who.int/iris/rest/bitstreams/1323419/retrieve)).

**The vast majority of CCA strains are not covered by Directive 2000/54/EC** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 September 2000 on the protection of workers from risks related to exposure to biological agents at work. **However, strains identified as *Nocardia* spp. are classified as group 2 biological agent, therefore activities involving the handling of a biological agent must be carried out only in working areas corresponding to at least containment level 2 according to the same EU directive**. The European directive is in concordance with Czech Government Regulation no. 361/2007 Coll., which lays down the conditions for the protection of the health of employees at work. However, differences in rules might occur among the countries. In Germain Technical Rules for Biological Agents (TRBA) are actinomycetes species *Amycolatopsis pretoriensis* and *Streptomyces somaliensis* (also listed in CCA) classified as risk group 2 in contrast with directive 2000/54/EC, where those species are classified as risk group 1. **We strongly recommend to follow the national rules.**

Biological agents are classified into 4 risk groups, according to their level of risk of infection:

group 1 - biological agent is unlikely to cause human disease

group 2 - biological agent can cause human disease and might be a hazard to workers; it is unlikely to spread to the community; there is usually effective prophylaxis or treatment available

group 3 - biological agent can cause severe human disease and present a serious hazard to workers; it may present a risk of spreading to the community, but there is usually effective prophylaxis or treatment available

group 4 - biological agent causes severe human disease and is a serious hazard to workers; it may present a high risk of spreading to the community; there is usually no effective prophylaxis or treatment available.

Decree No. 474/2002 Coll. **does not apply to any strains deposited in CCA** (Implementing Act No. 281/2002 Coll., performed by national authority (State Office for Nuclear Safety) responsible for the implementation of the [Biological Weapons Convention](http://www.unog.ch/80256EE600585943/(httpPages)/04FBBDD6315AC720C1257180004B1B2F?OpenDocument)).