

Sap Comments (CDC)

From: Jacob Harmon [j.harmon@nwhealth.org]
Sent: Monday, August 09, 2010 9:19 AM
To: Sap Comments (CDC)
Subject: Comment on select agent status of *Bacillus anthracis* Pasteur strain

Greetings. The Pasteur strain of *Bacillus anthracis* is used for quality control testing in our reference level LRN laboratories in Michigan. Because this strain is attenuated, I believe it should not be considered a select agent. The only way for a laboratory to cause this strain to become un-attenuated would be with the use of a wild or other non-attenuated strain. The designation of the Pasteur strain as a select agent is thus not logical, since if you have a non-attenuated strain, why would you bother trying to change the Pasteur strain.

This is a similar situation to the non-select agent status of attenuated strains of *Francisella tularensis* and *Yersinia pestis*.

Changing the status of the Pasteur strain would alleviate the burden of select agent record-keeping for quality control and proficiency testing activities on *Bacillus anthracis*.

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