

## Opening and recovery of freeze-dried strains

### Before you start...

**Keep the ampoules in the dark at a constant temperature (from 4 to 24°C, preferably 10°C).** CECT guarantees viability of freeze-dried strains for one month from the date of shipment. Most freeze-dried strains can be stored for a longer period when kept under optimal conditions. This period varies among strains. Thus, CECT cannot ensure viability after the warranty period.

**Consult the recommended growth conditions in the strain datasheet on our online catalogue ([www.cect.org](http://www.cect.org)).** Please note that usually both broth and solid medium are required. Check that you have **all the material** and that you can work in a **microbiologically safe environment**.

### Instructions

1. Heat the tip of the ampoule with a flame for 10-15 secs.
2. Place 1-4 drops of sterile water on the hot tip to crack the glass (cotton suddenly sucked into the bottom of the ampoule means excessive heating).
3. Strike off the glass tip with an appropriate tool (e. g. sterile tweezers). Remove the cotton plug with the sterile tweezers or with a needle.
4. Add 0.2-0.3 ml of the recommended broth using a Pasteur pipette and mix the suspension avoiding air bubbles or foam (especially if the strain is anaerobic or microaerophilic).
5. Use several drops of the suspension to inoculate an agar Petri dish and/or a slant and transfer the rest to a tube with 5-10 ml of the recommended liquid medium (do not keep any part of the suspension in reserve). Some ampoules contain filter paper to which many cells may have adhered. Transfer it into the medium maintaining the axenicity of the culture.
6. Incubate under the conditions specified in the strain datasheet, available in our online catalogue ([www.uv.es/cect](http://www.uv.es/cect)). Some strains have a long lag phase and may need to be incubated for up to two weeks or more.
7. The strain should be plated again before use.

