

WOAH Reference Laboratory Reports Activities 2025

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LABORATORY INFORMATION

*Name of disease (or topic) for which you are a designated WOAH Reference Laboratory:	Spring viraemia of carp
*Address of laboratory:	Cefas Weymouth Laboratory, Barack Road, The Nothe, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 8UB
*Tel:	+441305206642
*E-mail address:	richard.paley@cefass.gov.uk
Website:	https://www.cefass.co.uk/icoe/aquatic-animal-health/designations/woah-reference-laboratories
*Name (including Title) of Head of Laboratory (Responsible Official):	Dr Rachel Hartnell
*Name (including Title and Position) of WOAH Reference Expert:	Dr Richard Paley, Principal Virologist
*Which of the following defines your laboratory? Check all that apply:	Governmental

TOR1: DIAGNOSTIC METHODS

1. Did your laboratory perform diagnostic tests for the specified disease/topic for purposes such as disease diagnosis, screening of animals for export, surveillance, etc.? (Not for quality control, proficiency testing or staff training)

Yes

Diagnostic Test	Indicated in WOAH Manual (Yes/No)	Total number of test performed last year	
		Nationally	Internationally
Indirect diagnostic tests			
Ag-ELISA	Yes	0	0
Direct diagnostic tests			
Culture (EPC cells)	Yes	413	0
Conventional PCR (RT-PCR)	Yes	6	0
IFAT	Yes	0	0
real time RT-PCR	No	10	

TOR2: REFERENCE MATERIAL

2. Did your laboratory produce or supply imported standard reference reagents officially recognised by WOAH?

No

3. Did your laboratory supply standard reference reagents (nonWOAH-approved) and/or other diagnostic reagents to WOAH Members?

No

4. Did your laboratory produce vaccines?

No

5. Did your laboratory supply vaccines to WOAH Members?

TOR3: NEW PROCEDURES

6. Did your laboratory develop new diagnostic methods for the designated pathogen or disease?

Yes

7. Did your laboratory validate diagnostic methods according to WOAHS Standards for the designated pathogen or disease?

Yes

Name of the new test or diagnostic method developed	Description and References (Publication, website, etc.)
A modified pan SVCV RT-qPCR assay	Publication of work developing and validating an improved RT-qPCR assay: Zhu P, Sun J, Liao L, Zuo Z, Rice A, Gui S, Wu J, Zhu Y, Zhang L, Liu H, Stone D and Liu H (2026) Development and partial validation of an RT-qPCR assay for the rapid detection of spring viremia of carp virus (SVCV). <i>Front. Microbiol.</i> 16:1726705. doi: 10.3389/fmicb.2025.1726705
A recombinase polymerase (RPA) assay for rapid and potential in field detection of SVCV	In development

8. Did your laboratory develop new vaccines for the designated pathogen or disease?

9. Did your laboratory validate vaccines according to WOAHS Standards for the designated pathogen or disease?

TOR4: DIAGNOSTIC TESTING FACILITIES

10. Did your laboratory carry out diagnostic testing for other WOAHS Members?

No

11. Did your laboratory provide expert advice in technical consultancies on the request of an WOAHS Member?

No

TOR5: COLLABORATIVE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL STUDIES

12. Did your laboratory participate in international scientific studies in collaboration with WOAHS Members other than the own?

Yes

Title of the study	Duration	Purpose of the study	Partners (Institutions)	WOAHS Member Countries involved other than your country
Development of improved real time PCR methods	24months	Method development, validation and publication	WOAHS SVC reference laboratory, State Key laboratory of aquatic animal health, Shenzhen, P.R. China	CHINA (PEOPLE'S REP. OF)
Development of global SVCV sequence database	4 yrs	Sharing and backup of important historical reference isolates and epidemiological analysis and analysis of virulence	>20	

13. In exercising your activities, have you identified any regulatory research needs* relevant for WOAHS?

Yes

Research need : 1

Please type the Research need: Recent publications on susceptibility of amphibia warrant further research into the range of amphibia susceptible, tissue tropisms, potential for non-lethal testing

Relevance for WOAHS Disease Control, Standard Setting,

Relevance for the Code or Manual Code, Manual,

Field Epidemiology and Surveillance, Diagnostics,

Animal Category Terrestrial, Aquatic,

Disease:

Infection with spring viraemia of carp virus

Kind of disease (Zoonosis, Transboundary diseases) Transboundary diseases,

If any, please specify relevance for Codes or Manual, chapter and title

(e.g. Terrestrial Manual Chapter 2.3.5 - Minimum requirements for aseptic production in vaccine manufacture)

Answer:

Notes:

Answer:

TOR6: EPIZOOLOGICAL DATA

14. Did your Laboratory collect epidemiological data relevant to international disease control?

Yes

If the answer is yes, please provide details of the data collected:

The routine national surveillance program includes testing to retain freedom in approved compartments, ad hoc testing programme of susceptible ornamental imports and course fish testing on suspicion. There were no SVCV positive identifications in 2025.

A publication on experimental infection studies on the susceptibility of barbel, chub, orfe, rudd, and tench to SVCV is undergoing review.

15. Did your laboratory disseminate epidemiological data that had been processed and analysed?

No

16. What method of dissemination of information is most often used by your laboratory? (Indicate in the appropriate box the number by category and list the details in the box)

a) Articles published in peer-reviewed journals:

b) International conferences:

c) National conferences:

d) Other (Provide website address or link to appropriate information):

TOR7: SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL TRAINING

17. Did your laboratory provide scientific and technical training to laboratory personnel from other WOA Members?

No

TOR8: QUALITY ASSURANCE

18. Does your laboratory have a Quality Management System?

Yes

Quality management system adopted	Certificate scan (PDF, JPG, PNG format)	
ISO 17025	certificate scan scan	ISO17025 certificate.pdf

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ISO 9001	certificate scan scan	ISO 9001 certificate.pdf
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19. Is your quality management system accredited?

Yes

Test for which your laboratory is accredited	Accreditation body
Isolation and identification of SVCV	UKAS
Detection and confirmation of SVCV by RT-PCR	UKAS

20. Does your laboratory maintain a "biorisk management system" for the pathogen and the disease concerned?

Yes

Cefas Biorisk management system includes a range of practices and procedures to ensure biosecurity, biosafety, and biocontainment of infectious agents including security measures for laboratories, from standard operating procedures to physical measures to individual practices in the laboratory. This includes a dedicated Biosafety and Biosecurity Committee with lead and deputy officers and an internally published laboratory Biosecurity Handbook.

TOR9: SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

21. Did your laboratory organise scientific meetings related to the pathogen in question on behalf of WOA?H?

No

22. Did your laboratory participate in scientific meetings related to the pathogen in question on behalf of WOA?H?

No

TOR10: NETWORK WITH WOA?H REFERENCE LABORATORIES

23. Did your laboratory exchange information with other WOA?H Reference Laboratories designated for the same pathogen or disease?

Yes

24. Are you a member of a network of WOA?H Reference Laboratories designated for the same pathogen?

Yes

NETWORK/DISEASE	ROLE OF YOUR LABORATORY (PARTICIPANT, ORGANISER, ETC)	NO. PARTICIPANTS	PARTICIPATING WOA?H REF. LABS
SVCV collaboration	participant	2	Dr Hong Liu WOA?H SVC reference laboratory, State Key laboratory of aquatic animal health, Shenzhen, P.R. China

25. Did you organise or participate in inter-laboratory proficiency tests with WOA?H Reference Laboratories designated for the same pathogen during the past 2 years?

Yes

Purpose of the proficiency test:	Role of your Reference Laboratory (organiser/ participant)	No. participating Laboratories	Participating WOA?H Ref. Labs/ organising WOA?H Ref Lab
EURL annual Comparative test of diagnostic procedures for EU listed fish diseases	participant	Includes approximately 10 WOA?H ref labs including the other SVCV ref lab	Americas, Asia and Pacific, Europe

26. Did your laboratory collaborate with other WOA?H Reference Laboratories for the same disease on scientific research projects for the diagnosis or control of the pathogen of interest?

Yes

Title of the project or contract	Scope	Name(s) of relevant WOA?H Reference Laboratories
Evaluation of SVCV RT-qPCR assays	Towards recommendation for a pan SVCV assay suitable for surveillance – published	Dr Hong Liu WOA?H SVC reference laboratory, State Key laboratory of aquatic animal health, Shenzhen, P.R. China

TOR11: OTHER INTERLABORATORY PROFICIENCY TESTING

27. Did your laboratory organise or participate in inter-laboratory proficiency tests with laboratories other than WOA?H Reference Laboratories for the same pathogen during the past 2 years?

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Yes

Purpose for inter-laboratory test comparisons ¹	Role of your reference laboratory (organizer/participant)	No. participating laboratories	Name of the test	WOAH Member Countries
EURL annual Comparative test of diagnostic procedures for EU listed fish, mollusc and crustacean diseases	participant	40	diagnostic procedures for various EU listed fish, mollusc and crustacean diseases	

TOR12: EXPERT CONSULTANTS

28. Did your laboratory place expert consultants at the disposal of WOAHP?

Yes

Kind of consultancy	Location	Subject (facultative)
Provision of advice	online meetings	WOAH network for wildlife
Technical advice	national laboratory	Drafting new diagnostic chapter for TiLV
Provision of advice	by email correspondence, Uganda	Recommended action for dealing with large scale mortality multi species mortality event

29. Additional comments regarding your report: