

## BOOK REVIEW

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**WHO EXPERT COMMITTEE ON BIOLOGICAL STANDARDIZATION.** Fifth-fourth report. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2005. 154p. (English). (WHO Technical Report Series 927). ISBN 92 4 120927 5.

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This report presents the recommendations of a WHO Expert Committee commissioned to coordinate activities leading to the adoption of international requirements for the production and control of vaccines and other biologicals and the establishment of international biological reference materials.

The report starts with a discussion of general issues brought to the Committee's attention and provides information on the status and development of reference materials for various antibodies, antigens, blood products and related substances, cytokines, growth factors, and endocrinological substances.

The second part of the report, of particular relevance to manufacturers and national control authorities, contains recommendations for

the production and quality control of inactivated influenza vaccine, recommendations for the production and quality control of pneumococcal conjugate vaccines, guidelines on regulatory expectations related to the nonclinical evaluation of vaccines, an addendum to the recommendations for production and quality control of diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis vaccines, and an addendum to the recommendations for the use of animal cells as *in vitro* substrates for the production of biologicals.

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