



December 13, 2022

Stacey Moltchanoff
Regulatory Affairs Manager
Life Technologies Corporation (a part of Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc.)
5781 Van Allen Way
Carlsbad, CA 92008

Device: TaqPath Monkeypox/Orthopox Virus DNA Kit
EUA Number: EUA220461
Company: Life Technologies Corporation (a part of Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc.)
Indication: This test is authorized for the qualitative detection of DNA from monkeypox virus (clade I/II)¹ and non-variola *Orthopoxvirus* in human lesion swab specimens (i.e., swabs of acute pustular or vesicular rash) from individuals suspected of mpox² by their healthcare provider.
Emergency use of this test is limited to authorized laboratories.
Authorized Laboratories: Laboratories certified under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 (CLIA), 42 U.S.C. §263a, that meet the requirements to perform high complexity tests.

Dear Ms. Moltchanoff:

This letter is in response to your³ request that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issue an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for emergency use of your product,⁴ pursuant to Section 564 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (the Act) (21 U.S.C. §360bbb-3).

¹ On August 12, 2022, following a meeting convened by the World Health Organization (WHO) monkeypox virus variants were renamed to align with current best practices under the International Classification of Diseases and the WHO Family of International Health Related Classifications (WHO-FIC). This letter will refer to the former Congo Basin (Central African) clade as clade one (I) and the former West African clade as clade two (II). Refer to: <https://www.who.int/news/item/12-08-2022-monkeypox--experts-give-virus-variants-new-names>.

² On November 28, 2022, following a series of consultations with global experts, the World Health Organization (WHO) began using a new preferred term “mpox” as a synonym for monkeypox, the disease cause by the monkeypox virus.. Refer to: <https://www.who.int/news/item/28-11-2022-who-recommends-new-name-for-monkeypox-disease>.

³ For ease of reference, this letter will use the term “you” and related terms to refer to Life Technologies Corporation (a part of Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc.)

⁴ For ease of reference, this letter will use the term “your product” to refer to the TaqPath Monkeypox/Orthopox

On August 9, 2022, pursuant to Section 564(b)(1)(C) of the Act, the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) determined that there is a public health emergency, or a significant potential for a public health emergency, that affects or has a significant potential to affect national security or the health and security of United States citizens living abroad that involves monkeypox virus.⁵ Pursuant to Section 564 of the Act, and on the basis of such determination, the Secretary of HHS then declared on September 7, 2022 that circumstances exist justifying the authorization of emergency use of in vitro diagnostics for detection and/or diagnosis of infection with the monkeypox virus, including in vitro diagnostics that detect and/or diagnose infection with non-variola *Orthopoxvirus*, subject to the terms of any authorization issued under Section 564(a) of the Act.⁶

FDA considered the totality of scientific information available in authorizing the emergency use of your product for the indication above. A summary of the performance information FDA relied upon is contained in the “TaqPath Monkeypox/Orthopox Virus DNA Kit Instructions for Use.” There is an FDA-cleared test for the qualitative detection of non-variola *Orthopoxvirus*, that includes monkeypox virus, but this is not an adequate and available alternative to your product.⁷

Having concluded that the criteria for issuance of this authorization under Section 564(c) of the Act are met, I am authorizing the emergency use of your product, described in the Scope of Authorization of this letter (Section II), subject to the terms of this authorization.

I. Criteria for Issuance of Authorization

I have concluded that the emergency use of your product meets the criteria for issuance of an authorization under Section 564(c) of the Act, because I have concluded that:

1. The monkeypox virus can cause a serious or life-threatening disease or condition, to humans infected by this virus;
2. Based on the totality of scientific evidence available to FDA, it is reasonable to believe that your product may be effective in diagnosing infection with the monkeypox virus, and that the known and potential benefits of your product when used for diagnosing monkeypox virus, outweigh the known and potential risks of your product; and

Virus DNA Kit used for the indication identified above.

⁵ 87 FR 50090 (August 15, 2022)

⁶ 87 FR 56074 (September 13, 2022)

⁷ To date, the FDA-cleared CDC Non-variola *Orthopoxvirus* Real-time PCR Primer and Probe Set (Product Code: PBK; DEN070001, K181205, K221658, K221834, K222558) is the only test available in the United States with FDA clearance for the detection of non-variola *Orthopoxvirus* DNA, including vaccinia, cowpox, monkeypox and ectromelia viruses at varying concentrations. Available information indicates that timely detection of monkeypox cases in the United States requires wide availability of diagnostic testing to control the spread of this contagious infection and there is currently a need for additional diagnostic testing for monkeypox virus in the United States.

3. There is no adequate, approved, and available alternative to the emergency use of your product.⁸

II. Scope of Authorization

I have concluded, pursuant to Section 564(d)(1) of the Act, that the scope of this authorization is limited to the indication above.

Authorized Product Details

Your product is a multiplexed real-time polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) test intended for the qualitative detection of DNA from monkeypox virus (clade I/II) and non-variola *Orthopoxvirus* in human lesion swab specimens (i.e., swabs of acute pustular and vesicular rash) from individuals suspected of mpox by their healthcare provider. Testing is limited to laboratories certified under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 (CLIA), 42 U.S.C. §263a, that meet the requirements to perform high complexity tests.

Results are for the identification of monkeypox virus (clade I/II) and non-variola *Orthopoxvirus* DNA, which is generally detectable in human pustular or vesicular lesion specimens during the acute phase of infection. Positive results are indicative of the presence of monkeypox virus (clade I/II) DNA and/or other non-variola *Orthopoxvirus* DNA; clinical correlation with patient history and other diagnostic information is necessary to determine patient infection status. Positive results do not rule out bacterial infection or co-infection with other viruses. The agent detected may not be the definite cause of disease. Negative results obtained with this device do not preclude monkeypox virus (clade I/II) and/or non-variola *Orthopoxvirus* infection and should not be used as the sole basis for treatment or other patient management decisions. Negative results must be combined with clinical observations, patient history, and epidemiological information.

To use your product, monkeypox virus (clade I/II) or non-variola *Orthopoxvirus* nucleic acid is first extracted, isolated and purified from lesion swab specimens followed by PCR amplification and detection using an authorized RT-PCR instrument described in the authorized labeling (described below). The TaqPath Monkeypox/Orthopox Virus DNA Kit includes the materials (or other authorized materials as may be requested under Condition O. below) described in the “TaqPath Monkeypox/Orthopox Virus DNA Kit Instructions for Use.”

Your product requires control materials (or other authorized control materials as may be requested under Condition O. below) that are described in the Instructions for Use. Your product also requires the use of additional authorized materials and authorized ancillary reagents that are not included with your product and are described in the Instructions for Use described below.

The labeling entitled “TaqPath Monkeypox/Orthopox Virus DNA Kit Instructions for Use” (available at <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/emergency-use-authorizations-medical-devices/monkeypox-emergency-use-authorizations-medical-devices>), the “TaqPath Monkeypox/Orthopox Virus DNA Kit” Product Information Sheet, and the following fact sheets

⁸ No other criteria of issuance have been prescribed by regulation under Section 564(c)(4) of the Act.

pertaining to the emergency use, are required to be made available as set forth in the Conditions of Authorization (Section IV), and are collectively referred to as “authorized labeling”:

- Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers: Life Technologies Corporation (a part of Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc.) – TaqPath Monkeypox/Orthopox Virus DNA Kit
- Fact Sheet for Patients: Life Technologies Corporation (a part of Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc.) – TaqPath Monkeypox/Orthopox Virus DNA Kit

The above described product, when accompanied by the authorized labeling provided as set forth in the Conditions of Authorization (Section IV), is authorized to be distributed to and used by authorized laboratories under this EUA, despite the fact that it does not meet certain requirements otherwise required by applicable federal law.

I have concluded, pursuant to Section 564(d)(2) of the Act, that it is reasonable to believe that the known and potential benefits of your product, when used consistent with the Scope of Authorization of this letter (Section II), outweigh the known and potential risks of your product.

I have concluded, pursuant to Section 564(d)(3) of the Act, based on the totality of scientific evidence available to FDA, that it is reasonable to believe that your product may be effective in diagnosing infection with the monkeypox virus, when used consistent with the Scope of Authorization of this letter (Section II), pursuant to Section 564(c)(2)(A) of the Act.

FDA has reviewed the scientific information available to FDA, including the information supporting the conclusions described in Section I above, and concludes that your product (as described in the Scope of Authorization of this letter (Section II)) meets the criteria set forth in Section 564(c) of the Act concerning safety and potential effectiveness.

The emergency use of your product under this EUA must be consistent with, and may not exceed, the terms of this letter, including the Scope of Authorization (Section II) and the Conditions of Authorization (Section IV). Subject to the terms of this EUA and under the circumstances set forth in the Secretary of HHS's determination under Section 564(b)(1)(C) of the Act described above and the Secretary of HHS's corresponding declaration under Section 564(b)(1) of the Act, your product is authorized for the indication above.

III. Waiver of Certain Requirements

I am waiving the following requirements for your product during the duration of this EUA:

- Current good manufacturing practice requirements, including the quality system requirements under 21 CFR Part 820 with respect to the design, manufacture, packaging, labeling, storage, and distribution of your product, but excluding Subpart H (Acceptance Activities, 21 CFR 820.80 and 21 CFR 820.86), Subpart I (Nonconforming Product, 21 CFR 820.90), Subpart O (Statistical Techniques, 21 CFR 820.250) and Subpart M (Complaint Files, 21 CFR 820.198).

IV. Conditions of Authorization

Pursuant to Section 564(e) of the Act, I am establishing the following conditions on this authorization:

Life Technologies Corporation (a part of Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc.) (You) and Authorized Distributor(s)⁹

- A. Your product must comply with the following labeling requirements pursuant to FDA regulations: the intended use statement (21 CFR 809.10(a)(2), (b)(2)); adequate directions for use (21 U.S.C. 352(f)), (21 CFR 809.10(b)(5), (7), and (8)); appropriate limitations on the use of the device including information required under 21 CFR 809.10(a)(4); and any available information regarding performance of the device, including requirements under 21 CFR 809.10(b)(12).
- B. Your product must comply with the following quality system requirements pursuant to FDA regulations: 21 CFR 820 Subpart H (Acceptance Activities, 21 CFR 820.80 and 21 CFR 820.86), Subpart I (Nonconforming Product, 21 CFR 820.90), Subpart O (Statistical Techniques, 21 CFR 820.250), and Subpart M (Complaint Files, 21 CFR 820.198).
- C. You and authorized distributor(s) must make your product available with the authorized labeling to authorized laboratories.
- D. You and authorized distributor(s) must make available on your website(s) the authorized labeling.
- E. You and authorized distributor(s) must include a physical copy of the authorized “TaqPath Monkeypox/Orthopox Virus DNA Kit” Product Information Sheet with each shipped product to authorized laboratories, and must make the authorized “TaqPath Monkeypox/Orthopox Virus DNA Kit Instructions for Use” electronically available with the opportunity to request a copy in paper form, and after such request, you must promptly provide the requested information without additional cost.
- F. You and authorized distributor(s) must inform authorized laboratories and relevant public health authorities of this EUA, including the terms and conditions herein, and any updates made to your product and authorized labeling.
- G. Through a process of inventory control, you and authorized distributor(s) must maintain records of the authorized laboratories to which your product is distributed and the number of your product distributed.
- H. You and authorized distributor(s) must collect information on the performance of your product. You must report any significant deviations from the established performance characteristics of your product of which you become aware to the Division of Microbiology (DMD)/Office of Health Technology 7 (OHT7): Office of In Vitro

⁹ “Authorized Distributor(s)” are identified by you, Life Technologies Corporation (a part of Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc.), in your EUA submission as an entity allowed to distribute your product.

Diagnostics /Office of Product Evaluation and Quality (OPEQ)/Center for Devices and Radiological Health (CDRH) (via email: CDRH-EUA-Reporting@fda.hhs.gov).

- I. You and authorized distributor(s) are authorized to make available additional information relating to the emergency use of your product that is consistent with, and does not exceed, the terms of this letter of authorization.

Life Technologies Corporation (a part of Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc.) (You)

- J. You must register and list consistent with 21 CFR Part 807 within one month of this letter.
- K. You must notify FDA of any authorized distributor(s) of your product, including the name, address, and phone number of any authorized distributor(s).
- L. You must have a signed agreement with each authorized distributor that distribution of the authorized product must be consistent with this Letter of Authorization.
- M. If requested by FDA, you must submit associated documents and records related to your quality system for FDA review within 48 hours of the request.
- N. You must provide authorized distributor(s) with a copy of this EUA and communicate to authorized distributor(s) any subsequent amendments that might be made to this EUA and its authorized accompanying materials (e.g., Fact Sheets).
- O. You may request modifications to this EUA for your product, including to the Scope of Authorization (Section II in this letter) or to the authorized labeling, including requests to make available additional authorized labeling specific to an authorized distributor. Such additional labeling may use another name for the product but otherwise must be consistent with the authorized labeling, and not exceed the terms of authorization of this letter. Any request for modification to this EUA should be submitted to DMD/OHT7/OPEQ/CDRH and require appropriate authorization from FDA.
- P. You must have lot release procedures and the lot release procedures, including the study design and statistical power, must ensure that the tests released for distribution have the clinical and analytical performance claimed in the authorized labeling.
- Q. If requested by FDA, you must submit lot release procedures to FDA, including sampling protocols, testing protocols, and acceptance criteria, that you use to release lots of your product for distribution in the U.S. If such lot release procedures are requested by FDA, you must provide it within 48 hours of the request.
- R. You must evaluate the analytical limit of detection and assess traceability of your product with any FDA-recommended reference material(s) if requested by FDA.¹⁰

¹⁰ Traceability refers to tracing analytical sensitivity/reactivity back to an FDA-recommended reference material. FDA may request, for example, that you perform this study in the event that we receive reports of adverse events

After submission to and concurrence with the data by FDA, you must update your labeling to reflect the additional testing. Such labeling updates will be made in consultation with, and require concurrence of DMD/OHT7/OPEQ/CDRH.

- S. You must have a process in place to track adverse and report to FDA pursuant to 21 CFR Part 803.
- T. You must evaluate the impact of monkeypox viral mutations on your product's performance. Such evaluations must occur on an ongoing basis and must include any additional data analysis that is requested by FDA in response to any performance concerns you or FDA identify during routine evaluation. Additionally, if requested by FDA, you must submit records of these evaluations for FDA review within 48 hours of the request. If your evaluation identifies viral mutations that affect the stated expected performance of your device, you must notify FDA immediately (via email: CDRH-EUA-Reporting@fda.hhs.gov).
- U. If requested by FDA, you must update your labeling within 7 calendar days to include any additional labeling risk mitigations identified by FDA regarding the impact of viral mutations on test performance. Such updates will be made in consultation with, and require concurrence of, DMD/OHT7/OPEQ/CDRH.
- V. You must further evaluate the clinical performance of your product using natural clinical lesion swab specimens in VTM and/or UTM in an FDA agreed upon post authorization clinical evaluation study within 6 months of the date of this letter (unless otherwise agreed to with DMD/OHT7/OPEQ/CDRH). After submission to and concurrence with the data by FDA, you must update the authorized labeling to reflect the additional testing. Such labeling updates will be made in consultation with, and require concurrence of, DMD/OHT7/OPEQ/CDRH.
- W. You must complete FDA agreed upon post authorization specimen stability studies within 3 months of the date of this letter (unless otherwise agreed to with DMD/OHT7/OPEQ/CDRH). After submission of the study data, and review and concurrence with the data by FDA, you must update your product labeling to reflect the additional testing. Such labeling updates must be made in consultation with, and require concurrence of, DMD/OHT7/OPEQ/CDRH.
- X. You must submit to DMD/OHT7/OPEQ/CDRH within 3 months of the date of this letter your plan and anticipated timeline to establish and maintain a quality system that is appropriate for your product's design and manufacture, and that meets the requirements of either the 2016 edition of ISO 13485 or 21 CFR Part 820.

Authorized Laboratories

- Y. Authorized laboratories that receive your product must notify the relevant public health authorities of their intent to run your product prior to initiating testing.

concerning your product.

- Z. Authorized laboratories using your product must have a process in place for reporting test results to healthcare providers and relevant public health authorities, as appropriate.
- AA. Authorized laboratories using your product must include with test result reports, all authorized Fact Sheets. Under exigent circumstances, other appropriate methods for disseminating these Fact Sheets may be used, which may include mass media.
- BB. Authorized laboratories using your product must use your product as outlined in the authorized labeling. Deviations from the authorized procedures, including the authorized instruments, authorized extraction methods, authorized clinical specimen types, authorized control materials, authorized other ancillary reagents and authorized materials required to use your product are not permitted.
- CC. Authorized laboratories must have a process in place to track adverse events and report to you (techservices@thermofisher.com; 1 800 955 6288) and to FDA pursuant to 21 CFR Part 803.
- DD. All laboratory personnel using your product must be appropriately trained in real-time PCR techniques and use appropriate laboratory and personal protective equipment when handling your product and use your product in accordance with the authorized labeling.

Life Technologies Corporation (a part of Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc.) (You), Authorized Distributor(s) and Authorized Laboratories

- EE. You, authorized distributor(s), and authorized laboratories must collect information on the performance of your product and must report any significant deviations from the established performance characteristics of your product of which they become aware to DMD/OHT7/OPEQ/CDRH (via email: CDRH-EUA-Reporting@fda.hhs.gov) In addition, authorized distributor(s) and authorized laboratories report to you (techservices@thermofisher.com; 1 800 955 6288).
- FF. You, authorized distributor(s), and authorized laboratories using your product must ensure that any records associated with this EUA, are maintained until otherwise notified by FDA. Such records must be made available to FDA for inspection upon request.

Conditions Related to Printed Materials, Advertising and Promotion

- GG. All descriptive printed matter, advertising and promotional materials relating to the use of your product shall be consistent with the authorized labeling, as well as the terms set forth in this EUA and meet the requirements set forth in section 502(a), (q)(1), and (r) of the Act, as applicable, and FDA implementing regulations.
- HH. No descriptive printed matter, advertising or promotional materials relating to the use of your product may represent or suggest that this test is safe or effective for the detection of monkeypox virus or other non-variola orthopoxviruses.

II. All descriptive printed matter, advertising and promotional materials relating to the use of your product shall clearly and conspicuously state that:

- This product has not been FDA cleared or approved, but has been authorized for emergency use by FDA under an EUA for use by the authorized laboratories;
- This product has been authorized only for the detection of nucleic acid from monkeypox virus or other non-variola orthopoxviruses, not for any other viruses or pathogens; and
- The emergency use of this product is only authorized for the duration of the declaration that circumstances exist justifying the authorization of emergency use of in vitro diagnostics for detection and/or diagnosis of infection with the monkeypox virus, including in vitro diagnostics that detect and/or diagnose infection with non-variola *Orthopoxvirus*, under Section 564(b)(1) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, 21 U.S.C. § 360bbb-3(b)(1), unless the declaration is terminated or authorization is revoked sooner.

The emergency use of your product as described in this letter of authorization must comply with the conditions and all other terms of this authorization.

V. Duration of Authorization

This EUA will be effective until the declaration that circumstances exist justifying the authorization of the emergency use of in vitro diagnostics for detection and/or diagnosis of infection with the monkeypox virus, including in vitro diagnostics that detect and/or diagnose infection with non-variola *Orthopoxvirus*, is terminated under Section 564(b)(2) of the Act or the EUA is revoked under Section 564(g) of the Act.

Sincerely,

Namandjé N. Bumpus, Ph.D.
Chief Scientist
Food and Drug Administration

Enclosure