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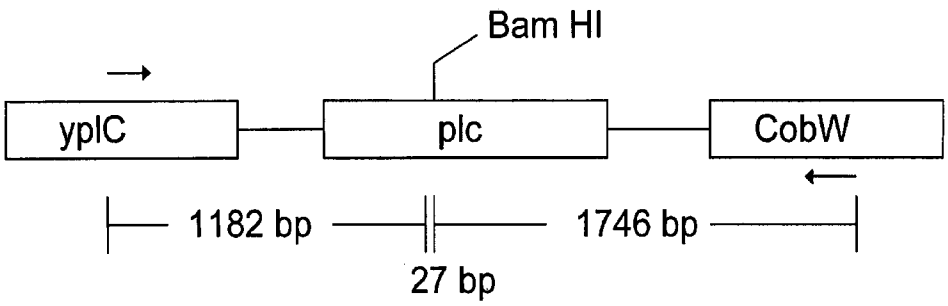
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(57) Abstract: The present invention discloses attenuated *Clostridium perfringens* organisms that express a substantially nontoxic *alpha*-toxin. The expressed *alpha*-toxin is a deletion mutein that relative to the *alpha*-toxin of the mature *alpha*-toxin of *Clostridium perfringens* strain 13, is missing at least nine consecutive amino acid residues including His_{68}. The present invention also discloses attenuated organisms that encode the muteins, as well as the use of such attenuated organisms as vaccines.

WO 2007/123850 A3