

▶ Intended use

This immunoassay kit allows for the in vitro quantitative determination of target antigen concentrations in serum, plasma, tissue homogenates, cell culture supernates or other biological fluids.

▶ Components and Storage

Reagent	Quantity	Storage
Assay plate	1	Stored at -20°C
Standard	1	
Sample Diluent	1 × 10mL	
Assay Diluent A	1 × 5mL	
Assay Diluent B	1 × 5mL	
Detection Reagent A	1 × 60µL	Stored at 4°C
Detection Reagent B	1 × 60µL	
Wash Buffer (25 x concentrate)	1 × 15mL	
Substrate	1 × 5mL	
Stop Solution	1 × 5mL	
Plate sealer	5	

▶ Test principle

The microtiter plate provided in this kit has been pre-coated with an antibody specific to target antigen. Standards or samples are then added to the appropriate microtiter plate wells with a biotin-conjugated antibody preparation specific for target antigen and then avidin conjugated to Horseradish Peroxidase (HRP) is added to each microplate well and incubated. Then a TMB substrate solution is added to each well. Only those wells that contain target antigen, biotin-conjugated antibody and enzyme-conjugated Avidin will exhibit a change in color. The enzyme-substrate reaction is terminated by the addition of a sulphuric acid solution and the color change is measured spectrophotometrically at a wavelength of 450 nm ± 2 nm. The concentration of target antigen in the samples is then determined by comparing the O.D. of the samples to the standard curve.

▶ Sample collection and storage

Serum - Use a serum separator tube (SST) and allow samples to clot for 30 minutes before centrifugation for 15 minutes at approximately 1000 × g. Remove serum and assay immediately or aliquot and store samples at -20°C or -80°C.

Plasma - Collect plasma using EDTA or heparin as an anticoagulant. Centrifuge samples for 15 minutes at 1000 × g at 2°C - 8°C within 30 minutes of collection. Store samples at -20°C or -80°C.

Tissue homogenates - The preparation of tissue homogenates will vary depending upon tissue type. For this assay, tissue was rinsed with ice-cold 1×PBS to remove excess blood, homogenized in ice-cold 1×PBS and stored overnight at ≤ -20°C. In most cases, 10% homogenate (eg. 1g of tissue in 10mL of ice-cold 1×PBS) is recommended. After two freeze-thaw cycles were performed to break the cell membranes, the homogenates were centrifuged for 5 minutes at 5000 × g. Remove the supernate and assay immediately or aliquot and store at ≤ -20°C.

Cell culture supernates and Other biological fluids - Remove particulates by centrifugation and assay immediately or aliquot and store samples at -20°C or -80°C.

Fresh samples are first choice. If not, avoid freeze-thaw of samples.

▶ Reagent preparation

Standard - Please refer to the Data Sheet inserting in the kit.

Detection Reagent A and B - Dilute to the working concentration using Assay Diluent A and B (1:100), respectively.

Wash Buffer - If crystals have formed in the concentrate, warm to room temperature and mix gently until the crystals have completely dissolved. Dilute 30mL of Wash Buffer Concentrate into deionized or distilled water to prepare 750 mL of Wash Buffer.

▶ Assay procedure

Allow all reagents to reach room temperature (Please do not dissolve the reagents at 37°C directly). All the reagents should be mixed thoroughly by gently swirling before pipetting. Avoid foaming. Keep appropriate numbers of strips for 1 experiment and remove extra strips from microtiter plate. Removed strips should be resealed and stored at -20°C until the kits expiry date. Prepare all reagents, working standards and samples as directed in the previous sections. Please predict the concentration before assaying. If values for these are not within the range of the standard curve, users must determine the optimal sample dilutions for their particular experiments.

1. Add 100 µL of Standard, Blank, or Sample per well. Cover with the Plate sealer. Incubate for 2 hours at 37°C.
2. Remove the liquid of each well, don't wash. Add 100µL of Detection Reagent A working solution to each well. Cover with the Plate sealer. Incubate for 1 hour at 37°C. Detection Reagent A working solution may appear cloudy. Warm to room temperature and mix gently until solution appears uniform.
3. Aspirate each well and wash, repeating the process three times for a total of three washes. Wash by filling each well with Wash Buffer (approximately 400 µL) using a squirt bottle, multi-channel pipette, manifold dispenser or autowasher, and let it sit for 1~2 minutes. Complete removal of liquid at each step is essential for good performance. After the last wash, remove any remaining Wash Buffer by aspirating or decanting. Invert the plate and blot it against clean paper towels.

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4. Add 100µL of Detection Reagent B working solution to each well. Cover with a new Plate sealer. Incubate for 1 hour at 37°C.
5. Repeat the aspiration/wash process for 5 times as conducted in step 3.
6. Add 90µL of Substrate Solution to each well. Cover with a new Plate sealer. Incubate within 10-20 minutes at 37°C. Protect from light.
7. Add 50µL of Stop Solution to each well. If color change does not appear uniform, gently tap the plate to ensure thorough mixing.
8. Determine the optical density of each well at once, using a microplate reader set to 450 nm.

▶ Calculation of results

Average the duplicate readings for each standard, control, and sample and sample, then subtract the average zero standard optical density. Create a standard curve by reducing the data using computer software capable of generating a four parameter logistic (4-PL) curve-fit. As an alternative, construct a standard curve by plotting the mean absorbance for each standard on the x-axis against the concentration on the y-axis and draw a best fit curve through the points on the graph. The data may be linearized by plotting the log of the target antigen concentrations versus the log of the O.D. and the best fit line can be determined by regression analysis. It is recommended to use professional software to do this calculation, such as CurveExpert. This procedure will produce an adequate but less precise fit of the data. If samples have been diluted, the concentration read from the standard curve must be multiplied by the dilution factor.

▶ Important note

1. Please carefully reconstitute Standards or working Detection Reagent A and B according to the instruction, and avoid foaming and mix gently until the crystals have completely dissolved. **The reconstituted Standards, Detection Reagent A and B can be used only once.**
2. To ensure accurate results, proper adhesion of plate sealers during incubation steps is necessary. Do not allow wells to sit uncovered for extended periods between incubation steps. Once reagents have been added to the well strips, DO NOT let the strips DRY at any time during the assay.

3. To avoid cross-contamination, change pipette tips between additions of each standard level, between sample additions, and between reagent additions. Also, use separate reservoirs for each reagent.
4. The wash procedure is critical. Insufficient washing will result in poor precision and falsely elevated absorbance readings.
5. Substrate Solution is easily contaminated. Please protect it from light.
6. Kits from different batches may be a little different in detection range, sensitivity and color developing time. Please perform the experiment exactly according to printed instruction inside in the kit while electronic ones from our website is for reference only.
7. Do not substitute reagents from one lot to another. Use only the reagents in the same kit supplied by manufacturer.
8. Even the same operator might get different results in two separate experiments. In order to get better reproducible results, the operation of every step in the assay should be controlled. Furthermore, a preliminary experiment before assay for each batch is recommended.
9. Each kit has been strictly passed Q.C test. However, results from end users might be inconsistent with our in-house data due to some unexpected transportation conditions or different lab equipments. Intra-assay variance among kits from different batches might arise from above factors, too.
10. Kits from different manufacturers for the same item might produce different results, since we haven't compared our products with other manufacturers.
11. Period of validity: six months.

▶ Precaution

The Stop Solution provided with this kit is an acid solution. Wear eye, hand, face, and clothing protection when using this material.

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