Instruction Manual No. M-800-130-ECP

E. coli HCP (Host Cell Proteins)

ELISA Kit Cat. No. 800-130-ECP

For Quantitative Determination of E. coli HCP in Solution

For In Vitro Research Use Only

ALPHA DIAGNOSTIC
INTERNATIONAL

India Contact:

Life Technologies (India) Pvt. Ltd.

306, Aggarwal City Mall, Opposite M2K Pitampura,
Delhi – 110034 (INDIA).
Ph: +91-11-42208000, 42208111, 42208222
Mobile: +91-9810521400
Fax: +91-11-42208444
Email: customerservice@atzlabs.com
Web: www.atzlabs.com

INTENDED USE

The Alpha Diagnostics Int'l E. coli HCP ELISA Kit is an in vitro immunoassay for the quantitation of Host Cell Proteins (HCP) from E. coli cultures used for production of recombinant proteins. The assay is also suitable for other samples such as extracts of foods, vaccines, or other products or processes with proper control for assay compatibility.

INTRODUCTION

A large number of genes have been cloned and expressed in various host cells (E. coli, yeast, baculovirus, NSO, Sp2/0, HEK, CHO cells). The translated recombinant proteins may remain within the cell, requiring host cell disruption for release, and/or may be secreted into the culture medium. The target recombinant proteins would then be purified from unwanted host cell protein (HCP), often with the aid of a tag (e.g., His, GST, MBP). While traces of HCP (which are often present in the purified material) may not represent a major problem for recombinants that are used for in vitro or research use applications, an increasing number of recombinant proteins are developed for therapeutic purposes (insulin, erythropoietin, GM-CSF or humanized antibodies such Rituximab & Xolair), where the presence of HCP is potentially toxic or allergic, may create other health hazards, or otherwise affect the efficacy of the drug. In these cases, detecting residual HCP and establishing minimum acceptable levels is required. Of two typical and powerful methods used for HCP characterization, Western Blot can reveal the number, size and relative concentrations of HCPs, while ELISA can provide ultra-sensitive detection and quantification using an easy, rapid assay that accommodates large numbers of samples and replicates.

During the production of recombinant proteins, host cells die and decompose; thus, regardless of whether the recombinant product is obtained from extracellular medium or after disrupting the host cell, the entire repertoire of host cell proteins present as potential contaminants in downstream purification and processing of the recombinant protein product. The ADI E. coli HCP ELISA relies on polyclonal antibodies from multiple hosts immunized with lysates of 6 E. coli strains commonly used in recombinant technology -- antibodies with Western Blot-demonstrated multivalent specificities for the wide array of E. coli HCPs. The E. coli HCP ELISA, then, provides a broad-range, sensitive tool to conveniently and efficiently screen for the several potential contaminants that may accompany the recombinant protein during processing.

PRINCIPLE OF THE TEST

The E. coli HCP ELISA kit is based on the binding of *E. coli* proteins in samples to two antibodies, one immobilized on the microwells, and the other conjugated to horseradish peroxidase (HRP). After a washing step, chromogenic substrate (TMB) is added and color is developed by the enzymatic reaction of HRP on the substrate, which is directly proportional to the amount of antigen present in the sample. Stopping Solution is added to terminate the reaction, and absorbance at 450nm is then measured using an ELISA microwell reader. The concentration of *E. coli* proteins in samples and control is calculated from a standard curve of *E. coli* HCPs.

KIT CONTENTS

To Be Reconstituted: Store as indicated.

Component	Instructions for Use
Sample Diluent Concentrate (20x) Cat. No. SD-20T, 10ml	Dilute the entire volume, 10ml + 190ml with distilled or deionized water into a clean stock bottle. Label as **Working Sample Diluent** and store at 2-8°C until the kit lot expires or is used up.
Wash Solution Concentrate (100x) Cat. No. WB-100, 10ml	Dilute the entire volume 10ml + 990ml with distilled or deionized water into a clean stock bottle. Label as **Working Wash Solution** and store at RT until kit is used entirely.
Anti- E. coli HCP HRP Conjugate Concentrate (100x) Part No. 800-134, 0.15ml	Anti-E. coli HCP-HRP conj. in buffer with protein, detergents and ProClin 300 as stabilizers. Dilute fresh as needed; 10ul of concentrate to 1ml of **Working Sample Diluent** is sufficient for 18-well strip. Use within the working day and discard. Return concentrate to 2-8°C storage.

Ready For Use: Store as indicated on labels.

Component	Part No.	Amt	Contents
Anti-E. coli HCP Microwell Strip Plate	800-131	8-well strips (12)	Coated with purified anti-E. coli HCP antibodies from multiple host species.
E. coli HCP Standards			
5 ng/ml	800-133B	0.65 ml	Five (5) vials, each containing designated concentrations of E. coli HCP; diluted in buffer with protein, detergents and ProClin 300 as stabilizers.
20 ng/ml	800-133C	0.65 ml	
60 ng/ml	800-133D	0.65 ml	
150 ng/ml	800-133E	0.65 ml	
400 ng/ml	800-133F	0.65 ml	
Positive Control [HCP] range on label	800-132	1 ml	Solution with stated HCP concentration range; diluted in buffer with protein, detergents and ProClin 300 as stabilizers.
TMB Substrate	80091	12 ml	Chromogenic substrate for HRP containing TMB and peroxide.
Stop Solution	80101	12 ml	1% sulfuric acid.

Materials Required But Not Provided:

- Pipettors and pipettes that deliver 100ul and 1-10ml. A multi-channel pipetter is recommended.; Disposable glass or plastic 5-15ml tubes for diluting samples, and Antibody-HRP Concentrate; Grad. cylinder to dilute Wash Concentrate and Sample Diluent Concn; 200ml to 1L; Stock bottle to store diluted Wash Solution; 200ml to 1L.
- Distilled or deionized water to dilute reagent concentrates.
- Microwell plate reader at 450 nm wavelength.

SAMPLE PREPARATION AND HANDLING

- ❑ HCPs may adsorb to glass or plastic containers/vials, especially at low concentrations. To minimize loss of this type, the WB100 Wash Solution Concentrate may be spiked into samples at 100-fold dilution. For larger volumes, addition of Tween 20 to 0.1% would be suitable.
- ❑ The E. coli HCP ELISA is a sequential sandwich assay that is not susceptible to high dose hook effects (lower signal at very high HCP concentrations). Also, sample constituents that could interfere with the HRP activity, including sodium azide, are removed by washing prior to HRP Conjugate addition and are, therefore, avoided.
- ❑ Certain constituents of a sample, e.g., high or low pH, denaturants, high salts, may alter full recovery of HCPs in the assay. These possibilities should be determined by spiking/recovery studies. Dilutions of the high standard of the kit into prospective sample matrix may be used for limited determinations of interference with HCP recovery.
- ❑ Perform solution-only negative control testing to ensure the compatibility of the sample solution in the assay.

- ❑ **Caution!** The presence in the lab of preparations containing high levels of E. coli HCP may produce contamination of diluents, samples, etc., without stringent handling to avoid this issue. High blank values (A450=>0.400), poor precision, and other unexpected results may indicate HCP contamination problems. This is not a problem with the kit, and requires that the operator take extra steps to eliminate HCP contamination from the testing environment.

QUALITY CONTROL

Sample Controls A Positive Control is provided with the kit, assigned with an E. coli HCP concentration value range. Recovery in this range is an indicator of proper assay performance. Each lab should also assay internal control samples, which represent the lab's expected sample population and that are maintained stabilized. A Diluent only blank should also be run.

Standard Curve The signal generated by the standards should be continuously increasing in OD from the lowest Standard to the highest Standard, with a difference greater than 1.2 OD. Non-continuously increasing or low signals may indicate problems with technique, protocol directions and/or reagent preparation, use or stability. A Diluent only blank should be of lower signal than the lowest standard. Do not rely on results generated from an assay with these issues.

ASSAY PROCEDURE

Bring all reagents to room temperature (18-30° C) equilibration (at least 30 minutes).

DILUTE Samples in Working Sample Diluent according to expected HCP levels and/or trial testing. DO NOT dilute the Standards or Positive Control.

PERFORM ALL STEPS AT ROOM TEMPERATURE. After each reagent addition, gently tap the plate to mix the well contents prior to beginning incubation.

1. Set-up

- Determine the number of wells for the assay run. Duplicates are recommended, including 12 Standard wells and 2 wells for each sample and control to be assayed.
- Remove the appropriate number of microwell strips from the pouch and return unused strips to the pouch. Reseal the pouch and store refrigerated.
- Before sample addition, add 200-300ul Working Wash Solution to each well and let stand for 15 to 30 minutes.
- Aspirate or dump the liquid and pat the plate dry on a paper towel.

2. 1st Incubation [100ul – 60 min; 4 washes]

- Add 100ul of standards, samples and controls each to pre-determined wells.
- Tap the plate gently to mix reagents and incubate for 60 minutes.
- Wash wells 4 times and pat dry on fresh paper towels. As an alternative, an automatic plate washer may be used. Improper washes may lead to falsely elevated signals and poor reproducibility.

[Incubation may be extended for increased sensitivity; see p. 6]

3. 2nd Incubation [100ul – 60 min; 5 washes]

- Add 100ul of Working Anti-ovalbumin-HRP Conjugate to each well.
- Incubate for 60 minutes.
- Wash wells 5 times as in step 2.

4. Substrate Incubation [100ul – 15 min]

- Add 100ul TMB Substrate to each well. The liquid in the wells will begin to turn blue.
- Incubate for 15 minutes in the dark, e.g., place in a drawer or closet.

Note: If your microplate reader does not register optical density (OD) above 2.0, incubate for less time, or read OD at 405-410 nm (results are valid).

5. Stop Step [Stop: 100ul]

- Add 100ul of Stop Solution to each well.
- Tap gently to mix. The enzyme reaction will stop; liquid in the wells will turn yellow.

6. Absorbance Reading

- Use any commercially available microwell plate reader capable of reading at 450nm wavelength. Use a program suitable for obtaining OD readings, and data calculations if available.
- Read absorbance of the entire plate at 450nm using a single wavelength within 30 minutes after Stop Solution addition. If available, program to subtract OD at 630nm to normalize well background.

CALCULATION OF RESULTS

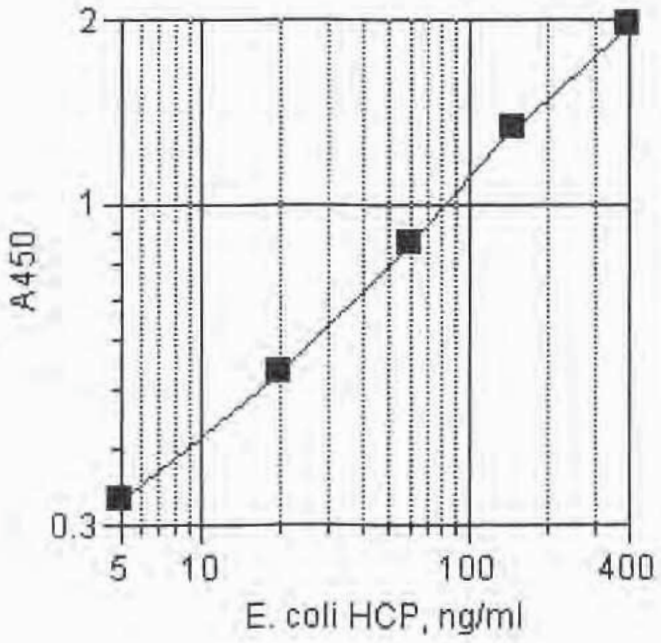
The results may be calculated using any immunoassay software package, or by plotting the data on semi-log graph paper. The four-parameter curve-fit is recommended; for hand graphing a point-to-point curve is most reliable.
The E. coli HCP concentrations in unknown samples and controls can be determined by interpolation from the standard curve, and then multiplying the values by the dilution factor to obtain HCP concentration in the original prep. Samples producing signals higher than the 400 ng/ml standard should be further diluted and re-assayed.

TYPICAL RESULTS

The following data are for illustration purposes only. A complete standard curve should be run in every assay to determine sample values.

Wells	Standards, Control & Samples	A450 nm	Concn, ng/ml
A1, A2	**Diluent only Blank**	0.23	
B1, B2	5 ng/ml **Standard**	0.33	5
C1, C2	20 ng/ml **Standard**	0.53	20
D1, D2	60 ng/ml **Standard**	0.86	60
E1, E2	150 ng/ml **Standard**	1.32	150
F1, F2	400 ng/ml **Standard**	1.95	400
G1, G2	**Positive Control** [Value: 70 – 130 ng/ml]	1.09	95
H1, H2	**Sample** [Diluted 1:5]	1.42	175
	Calculated: 5-fold dilution x 175 ng/ml = **875** ng/ml in sample		

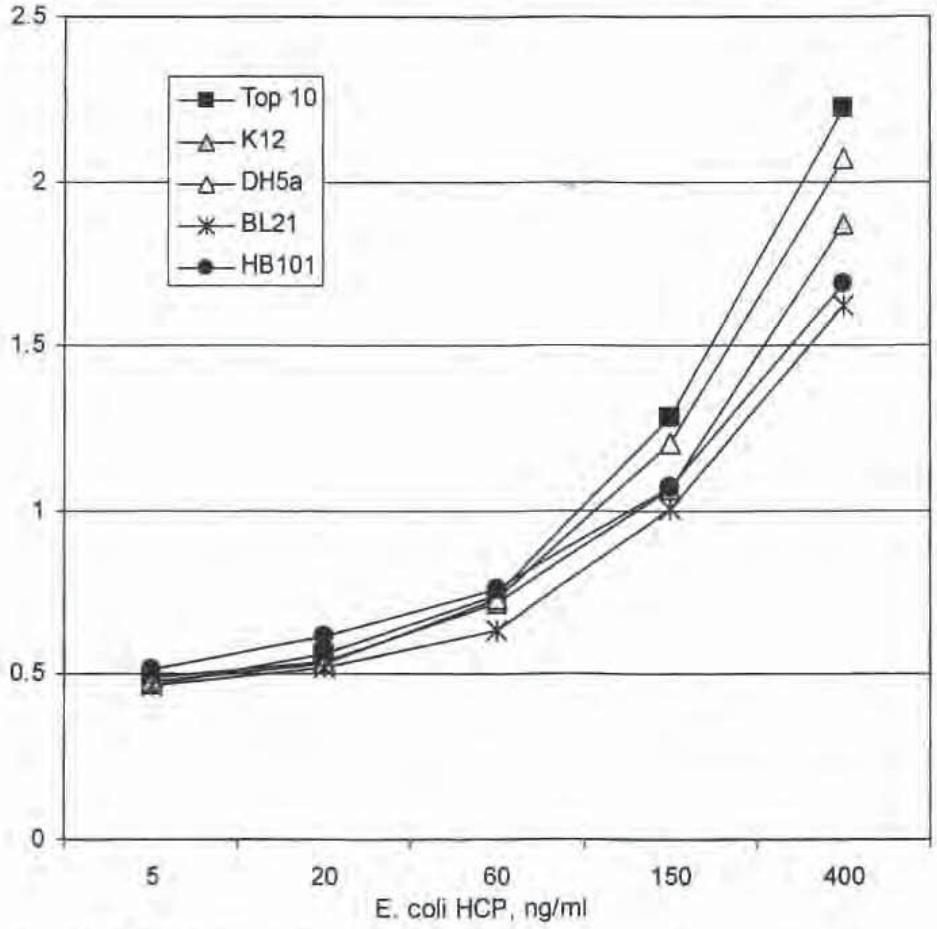
A typical assay Standard Curve (do not use for calculating sample values)



PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

Specificity

Antibodies used for capture and detection are a blend of separate and overlapping specificities to a wide range of E. coli HCPs, produced in multiple species immunized with preparations containing full HCP repertoires from 6 commonly used E. coli strains. Western blots show antibody reactivities towards a broad array of proteins, and dilution curves in ELISA show similar cross-reactivity and sensitivity of the assay to each of the 6 E. coli strains.



Extended Sample Incubation

Increased signal and sensitivity can be obtained by extending the sample incubation time. For example, overnight incubation at room temperature (plate covered to avoid evaporation and/or contamination) can increase the low end sensitivity to under 1ng/ml. Generated signal will increase such that the high end standards may be off-scale. The HRP Conjugate and TMB Substrate steps may also be increased to further lower detection limits, with proper controls.

Assay Interpretation and Limitations

Standards are composed of combined HCPs from the above 6 E. coli strains. The Standard Curve is an average of a family of dilution curves representing each antibody specificity contributed by the capture and detection components. Dilution curves of any subset of HCPs in the lab's particular recombinant protein processing step may not be parallel with the Standard Curve, leading to possible disparate quantitation between samples read from the upper and lower regions of the curve. If this is an issue, the lab can construct and use instead a dilution curve composed of the particular HCP subset(s) derived from the in-house samples.

ELISA Kit Components	Amount	Part No.
Anti-E. coli HCP Microwell Strip Plate	*8-well strips (12)*	*800-131*
E. coli HCP Positive Control	0.65 ml	800-132
E. coli HCP Standard 5 ng/ml	0.65 ml	800-133B
E. coli HCP Standard 20 ng/ml	0.65 ml	800-133C
E. coli HCP Standard 60 ng/ml	0.65 ml	800-133D
E. coli HCP Standard 150 ng/ml	0.65 ml	800-133E
E. coli HCP Standard 400 ng/ml	0.65 ml	800-133F
Anti-E. coli HCP HRP Conjugate (100X)	0.15 ml	800-134
Sample Diluent Concentrate (20X)	10 ml	SD-20T
Wash Solution Concentrate (100X)	*10 ml*	*WB-100*
TMB Substrate	12 ml	80091
Stop Solution	12 ml	80101
Product Manual	1 ea	M-800-130-ECP

PRECAUTIONS AND SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

Standards, Controls, Sample Diluent, and Antibody-HRP contain Proclin 300 (0.05%, v/v). Stop Solution contains 1% sulfuric acid. Follow good laboratory practices, and avoid ingestion or contact of any reagent with skin, eyes or mucous membranes. All reagents may be disposed of down a drain with copious amounts of water.
MSDS for TMB, sulfuric acid and Proclin 300, if not already on file, can be requested or obtained from the ADI website.

STORAGE AND STABILITY

The microwell plate and all other reagents, if unopened, are stable at 2-8^{o}C until the expiration date printed on the label. Stabilities of the working solutions are indicated under Reagent Preparation.