



**WHO Reference Reagent  
Carcinoembryonic Antigen (CEA), Human, 1st International  
Reference Preparation  
NIBSC code: 73/601  
Instructions for use  
(Version 3.0, Dated 28/11/2007)**

### 1. INTENDED USE

The WHO Expert Committee on Biological Standardisation established the preparation coded 73/601 as the 1<sup>st</sup> International Reference Preparation for CEA in 1976.

### 2. CAUTION

**This preparation is not for administration to humans or animals in the human food chain.**

The preparation contains material of human origin, and either the final product or the source materials, from which it is derived, have been tested and found negative for HBsAg, anti-HIV and HCV RNA. As with all materials of biological origin, this preparation should be regarded as potentially hazardous to health. It should be used and discarded according to your own laboratory's safety procedures. Such safety procedures should include the wearing of protective gloves and avoiding the generation of aerosols. Care should be exercised in opening ampoules or vials, to avoid cuts.

### 3. UNITAGE

100 International Units per ampoule.

### 4. CONTENTS

Country of origin of biological material: United Kingdom.  
The estimated weight of the freeze-dried material (including lactose) in each ampoule was 2.36mg. The International Unit was defined as the CEA activity contained in 0.0236mg of the IRP.

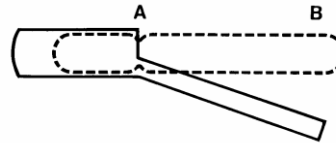
### 5. STORAGE

Unopened ampoules should be stored at -20°C.

**Please note: because of the inherent stability of lyophilized material, NIBSC may ship these materials at ambient temperature.**

### 6. DIRECTIONS FOR OPENING

Tap the ampoule gently to collect the material at the bottom (labelled end). Ensure ampoule is scored all round at the narrow part of the neck, with a diamond or tungsten carbide tipped glass knife file or other suitable implement before attempting to open. Place the ampoule in the ampoule opener, positioning the score at position 'A'; shown in the diagram below. Surround the ampoule with cloth or layers of tissue paper. Grip the ampoule and holder in the hand and squeeze at point 'B'. The ampoule will snap open. Take care to avoid cuts and projectile glass fragments that enter eyes. Take care that no material is lost from the ampoule and that no glass falls into the ampoule.



Side view of ampoule opening device containing an ampoule positioned ready to open. 'A' is the score mark and 'B' the point of applied pressure.

### 7. USE OF MATERIAL

For practical purposes each ampoule contains 100 units of CEA activity. The freeze dried powder cannot be considered homogeneous and therefore no attempt should be made to weigh out any portion of the freeze dried material. The contents of the ampoule should be reconstituted in 0.5ml of distilled water. The standard should dissolve completely on standing at room temperature.

### 8. STABILITY

NIBSC follows the policy of WHO with respect to its reference materials.

It is the policy of WHO not to assign an expiry date to their international reference materials. They remain valid with the assigned potency and status until withdrawn or amended.

Reference materials are held at NIBSC within assured, temperature-controlled storage facilities. Reference Materials should be stored on receipt as indicated on the label. Once reconstituted, diluted or aliquoted, users should determine the stability of the material according to their own method of preparation, storage and use.

Users who have data supporting any deterioration in the characteristics of any reference preparation are encouraged to contact NIBSC.

### 9. REFERENCES

Laurence, D.J.R., Turberville, C., Anderson, S.G. and Neville, A.M (1975) First British Standard for Carcinembryonic Antigen (CEA). Br. J. Cancer, 32, 295

### 10. FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information can be obtained as follows;

This material: [enquiries@nibsc.org](mailto:enquiries@nibsc.org)

WHO Biological Standards:

<http://www.who.int/biologicals/en/>

JCTLM Higher order reference materials:

<http://www.bipm.org/en/committees/jc/jctlm/>

Derivation of International Units:

[http://www.nibsc.org/standardisation/international\\_standards.aspx](http://www.nibsc.org/standardisation/international_standards.aspx)

Ordering standards from NIBSC:

<http://www.nibsc.org/products/ordering.aspx>

NIBSC Terms & Conditions:

[http://www.nibsc.org/terms\\_and\\_conditions.aspx](http://www.nibsc.org/terms_and_conditions.aspx)



### 11. CUSTOMER FEEDBACK

Customers are encouraged to provide feedback on the suitability or use of the material provided or other aspects of our service. Please send any comments to [enquiries@nibsc.org](mailto:enquiries@nibsc.org)

### 12. CITATION

In all publications, including data sheets, in which this material is referenced, it is important that the preparation's title, its status, the NIBSC code number, and the name and address of NIBSC are cited and cited correctly.

### 13. MATERIAL SAFETY SHEET

Classification in accordance with Directive 2000/54/EC, Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008: Not applicable or not classified

Physical and Chemical properties	
Physical appearance: Freeze dried powder	Corrosive: No
Stable: Yes	Oxidising: No
Hygroscopic: Yes	Irritant: No
Flammable: No	Handling: See caution, Section 2
Other (specify):	Contains material of human origin
Toxicological properties	
Effects of inhalation:	Not established, avoid inhalation
Effects of ingestion:	Not established, avoid ingestion
Effects of skin absorption:	Not established, avoid contact with skin
Suggested First Aid	
Inhalation:	Seek medical advice
Ingestion:	Seek medical advice
Contact with eyes:	Wash with copious amounts of water. Seek medical advice
Contact with skin:	Wash thoroughly with water.
Action on Spillage and Method of Disposal	
Spillage of ampoule contents should be taken up with absorbent material wetted with an appropriate disinfectant. Rinse area with an appropriate disinfectant followed by water. Absorbent materials used to treat spillage should be treated as biological waste.	

### 14. LIABILITY AND LOSS

In the event that this document is translated into another language, the English language version shall prevail in the event of any inconsistencies between the documents.

Unless expressly stated otherwise by NIBSC, NIBSC's Standard Terms and Conditions for the Supply of Materials (available at [http://www.nibsc.org/About\\_Us/Terms\\_and\\_Conditions.aspx](http://www.nibsc.org/About_Us/Terms_and_Conditions.aspx) or upon request by the Recipient) ("Conditions") apply to the exclusion of all other terms and are hereby incorporated into this document by reference. The Recipient's attention is drawn in particular to the provisions of clause 11 of the Conditions.

### 15. INFORMATION FOR CUSTOMS USE ONLY

<b>Country of origin for customs purposes*:</b> United Kingdom * Defined as the country where the goods have been produced and/or sufficiently processed to be classed as originating from the country of supply, for example a change of state such as freeze-drying.
<b>Net weight:</b> 2.5mg
<b>Toxicity Statement:</b> Non-toxic
<b>Veterinary certificate or other statement</b> if applicable.
<b>Attached:</b> No

### 17. CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS

NIBSC does not provide a Certificate of Analysis for WHO Biological Reference Materials because they are internationally recognised primary reference materials fully described in the instructions for use. The reference materials are established according to the WHO Recommendations for the preparation, characterization and establishment of international and other biological reference standards [http://www.who.int/bloodproducts/publications/TRS932Annex2\\_Inter\\_biol\\_efstandardsrev2004.pdf](http://www.who.int/bloodproducts/publications/TRS932Annex2_Inter_biol_efstandardsrev2004.pdf) (revised 2004). They are officially endorsed by the WHO Expert Committee on Biological Standardization (ECBS) based on the report of the international collaborative study which established their suitability for the intended use.