WHO International Standard
EPIDERMAL GROWTH FACTOR (EGF) Human, rDNA-derived
NIBSC code: 91/530
Instructions for use
(Version 4.0, Dated 02/04/2013)

1. INTENDED USE
The material in ampoules coded 91/530 was established as the 1st International Standard for Epidermal Growth Factor by the WHO Expert Committee on Biological Standardization (WHO ECBS) in 1994. This material is epidermal growth factor of human sequence synthesized by recombinant DNA technology in E. coli.

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

The material is not of human or bovine origin. 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. UNTAGE
The assigned potency of the International Standard is 2000 INTERNATIONAL UNITS (IU) per ampoule.

4. CONTENTS
Country of origin of biological material: United Kingdom.
Each ampoule contains the residue after freeze-drying of 0.5 ml of a solution that contained:

- EGF: 4 micrograms/ml
- trehalose: 10 mg/ml
- sodium phosphate, pH 6.5: 10 mmol/l

5. STORAGE
No attempt should be made to weigh out any portion of the freeze-dried material. Unopened ampoules should be stored at -20 degrees C in the dark. For economy of use, it is recommended that the solution be subdivided into several small containers and stored at, or below, -40 degrees C. Repeated freezing and thawing should be avoided. The ampouled material do not contain bacteriostat and solutions of the ampouled material should not be assumed to be sterile.

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.

7. USE OF MATERIAL
The International Standard is intended for calibration of local standards. For all practical purposes, each ampoule contains the same quantity of EGF. The entire contents of each ampoule should be completely dissolved in a known volume of suitable solvent. It is recommended that, where possible, buffer containing carrier protein should be used.

No attempt should be made to weigh out any portion of the freeze-dried material.

The International Standard was evaluated by a range of in vitro bioassays and immunoassays in an international collaborative study (WHO Expert Committee on Biological Standardization (1994), 45th Report). For some assay systems the trehalose may have a small effect on the dose-response curve, so where high concentrations of EGF standard are required, and hence high concentrations of trehalose are present in the assay, it may be advisable to test for any effect of added trehalose, and if it proves necessary, to calibrate the in-house standard in the presence of trehalose.

The international collaborative study showed that the short form of the EGF molecule, EGF (1-52), which lacks the carboxy-terminal arginine, and the full-length EGF molecule differ in their relative potencies between different assay systems. The first International Reference Reagent for EGF (1-52), code 91/550, is available from NIBSC, and may be used to determine whether an EGF (1-52) in-house standard can be calibrated in terms of the IS for EGF for a particular assay system.

8. STABILITY
Reference materials are held at NIBSC within assured, temperature-controlled storage facilities and they should be stored on receipt as indicated on the label. It is the policy of WHO not to assign an expiry date to their international reference materials. Accelerated degradation studies have indicated that this material is suitably stable, when stored at -20ºC or below, for the assigned values to remain valid until the material is withdrawn or replaced. These studies have also shown that the material is suitably stable for shipment at ambient temperature without any effect on the assigned values. Users who have data supporting any deterioration in the characteristics of any reference preparation are encouraged to contact NIBSC.

9. REFERENCES

10. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
The EGF ampouled as this International Standard was selected from preparations generously donated to WHO by Amgen Inc., British Biotechnology Limited, Chiron Corporation and Kabi. Grateful acknowledgements are due also to Wellcome Research Laboratories for the donation of mouse EGF, and to the participants in the collaborative study in which the candidate standards were evaluated.
11. FURTHER INFORMATION
Further information can be obtained as follows;
This material: 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
Ordering standards from NIBSC:
http://www.nibsc.org/products/ordering.aspx
NIBSC Terms & Conditions:
http://www.nibsc.org/terms_and_conditions.aspx

12. 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

13. 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.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physical and Chemical properties</th>
<th>Toxicological properties</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical appearance: Freeze dried powder</td>
<td>Corrosive: No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stable: No</td>
<td>Oxidising: No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hygroscopic: Yes</td>
<td>Irritant: No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flammable: No</td>
<td>Handling: See caution, Section 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (specify):</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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.

15. 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.