

**United States Department of Agriculture
Food Safety and Inspection Service, Office of Public Health Science**

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Title: Screening for Chloramphenicol by ELISA		
Revision: Original	Replaces: NA	Effective: 03/17/2006

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A. INTRODUCTION

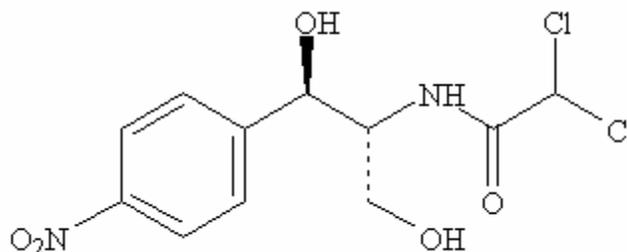
1. Theory

This method is based on a competitive-type ELISA (Enzyme Linked ImmunoSorbent Assay) for *in vitro* screening of chloramphenicol. The solid support of the reaction is a microtiter plate with divisible strips coated with sheep anti-rabbit IgG antibodies.

2. Applicability

The method detects chloramphenicol at levels ≥ 0.25 ppb in poultry and beef muscle tissue.

3. Structure



Chloramphenicol

B. EQUIPMENT

Note: Equivalent apparatus and instrumentation may be substituted for those listed below.

1. Apparatus

- a. Analytical balance - Cat. No. BL15005, Sartorius.
- b. Centrifuge - Model No. 5810, Eppendorf.
- c. Mechanical shaker - Eberbach.
- d. Polypropylene centrifuge tubes - 50 mL, Falcon.
- e. Glass centrifuge tubes - 15 mL, HS No. 45600-15, Kimble.
- f. Nitrogen Evaporator - Turbovap.
- g. Vortex mixer - Genie 2, Scientific Industries.
- h. Micropipettors - 2-250 μ L, Rainin EDP.
- i. Repeater pipet (Distriman) with 1250 μ L mini syringes, Gilson.
- j. Transfer pipettes - 10 mL in 1/10 serological, Kimble.
- k. Transia Plate Chloramphenicol Test Kit - Diffchamb AB0299.

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Note: Store kit components in the dark at 2 - 8 °C when not in use. Reagents with different batch numbers should not be interchanged between kits. The reagents should come to room temperature before use. The microtiter plate should be kept in the sealed pouch to avoid condensation. Each vial should be shaken well before use.

The Transia Plate Chloramphenicol Test Kit contains:

- i. Microtiter plate with divisible strips, 96 wells (8 wells x 12 strips).
- ii. Zip-lock bag for microtiter plate.
- iii. Sample dilution buffer - concentration 4X, 1 x 20 mL (vial 1 - white cap).
- iv. Standard - 0.025, 0.05, 0.1, 0.2, 0.5, and 2.0 ng/mL, chloramphenicol, ready to use, 1 x 1.0 mL (vials 2 - 7).

Note: The reconstitution buffer serves as the zero standard.

- v. Standard - 100 ng/mL, chloramphenicol, ready to use, 1 x 1.0 mL (vial 8).
- vi. Reconstitution buffer - ready to use, 1 x 10 mL, (vial 9 - brown vial, white cap).
- vii. Conjugate - chloramphenicol conjugated to peroxidase, lyophilized (vial 10 - blue cap).
- viii. Anti-chloramphenicol antibody - lyophilized (vial 11 - gold cap).
- ix. Washing buffer - concentration 10X, 1 x 60 mL (vial 12).
- x. Substrate - TMB, ready to use, 1 x 12 mL (vial 13).

Note: Avoid direct exposure of the substrate to light. A blue color of the substrate may indicate a deterioration of the reagent.

- xi. Stop solution - 0.5M H₂SO₄, ready to use, 1 x 15 mL (vial 14 - red cap).
- l. Absorbent paper - Wypall L40.
- m. Robot-Coupe[®] processor - Robot Coupe U.S.A., Inc.

2. Instrumentation

- a. Plate Reader - Elx808 Ultra Microplate Reader interfaced with a desktop computer, BioTek Instruments.

C. REAGENTS AND SOLUTIONS

Note: Equivalent reagents and solutions can be substituted for the following.

1. Reagents

- a. Ethyl acetate - HPLC Grade, # 4601-7, Caledon.
- b. n-hexane - HPLC Grade, # 5601-7, Caledon.
- c. Distilled water

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2. Solutions

a. Washing buffer 1X:

Dilute the washing buffer (vial 12) to 1:10 in distilled water by pipetting 4 mL of washing buffer and 36 mL of distilled water into bottle. Mix well. The washing buffer must be stored at 2 - 8 °C until the expiration date stated on the kit label.

b. Sample dilution buffer 1X:

Dilute the sample dilution buffer (vial 1) to 1:4 in distilled water by pipetting 20 mL of sample dilution buffer and 60 mL of distilled water into a bottle. Mix well. The sample dilution buffer must be stored at 2 - 8 °C until the expiration date stated on the kit label.

c. Reconstitution of conjugate solution:

Reconstitute the lyophilized conjugate with 4 mL of reconstitution buffer. Mix thoroughly and keep in the dark until use. This solution can be stored in the dark at 2 - 8 °C for a maximum of 2 months. Alternatively, the reconstituted conjugate solution may be stored in a freezer at -20 °C until the expiration date on the kit. Freeze aliquots immediately after reconstitution.

d. Reconstitution of antibody solution:

Reconstitute the lyophilized antibodies with 4 mL reconstitution buffer. Mix thoroughly and keep in dark until use. This solution can be stored in the dark at 2 - 8 °C for a maximum of 6 months. Alternatively, the reconstituted antibody solution may be stored in a freezer at -20 °C until the expiration date on the kit. Freeze aliquots immediately after reconstitution.

D. STANDARDS

1. Standards are provided with the ELISA kit and come ready to use.

All standards must be stored in the dark at 2 - 8 °C until the expiration date stated on the kit.

2. Fortification solution (10 ppb):

Add 100 µL of the 100 ng/mL standard (vial 8) and 900 µL of sample dilution buffer in a small bottle. Mix well.

E. SAMPLE PREPARATION

Homogenize samples prior to proceeding with extraction.

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F. ANALYTICAL PROCEDURE

Note: The following steps are based on kit manufacturer instructions and may be subject to change. If any discrepancies exist, follow the current manufacturer instructions.

1. Sample Extraction

- a. Weigh 3.0 ± 0.1 g of the homogenized tissue sample into a polypropylene centrifuge tube.
- b. Weigh 2 blank samples to serve as positive and negative controls. Fortify the positive control sample with 75 μ L of the 10 ppb fortification solution for a concentration of 0.25 ppb.
- c. Add 6 mL of ethyl acetate and mix on mechanical shaker on high for 10 minutes.
- d. Centrifuge for 10 minutes at 4000 rpm.
- e. Transfer 4 mL of the ethyl acetate to a glass centrifuge tube and evaporate at 55 ± 5 °C under a mild stream of nitrogen.
- f. Dissolve the residue in 1 mL of n-hexane.
- g. Add 1 mL of sample dilution buffer 1X and vortex for approximately 1 minute.
- h. Centrifuge for 10 minutes at 4000 rpm.

Note: If the upper phase is an emulsion, put the tube in a water bath (80 °C) for approximately 5 minutes and centrifuge again.

- i. Collect the lower, aqueous phase for the ELISA.

2. ELISA

Note: The following steps are based on kit manufacturer instructions and may be subject to change. If any discrepancies exist, follow the current manufacturer instructions.

Allow reagents and samples to come to room temperature. Vortex or shake the reagent vials before use. The microtiter plate must not be washed prior to use.

- a. Analyze all controls, standards, and samples in duplicate. Attach the required number of strips to the plate: two wells each for plate blanks, zero standards, standards and samples. Any of the unused strips should be returned to the zip-lock bag containing dehydrating agent and sealed.
- b. Place 100 μ L of the reconstitution buffer (vial 9) in the first two wells to act as the plate blanks.
- c. Add 50 μ L of reconstitution buffer (vial 9) in the next two wells to act as the zero standard.
- d. Transfer 50 μ L of the 0.2 ppb and 0.5 ppb standards, in duplicate, to the next available vacant wells.
- e. Transfer 50 μ L aliquots of the samples, in duplicate, while randomly adding six recoveries throughout the sample set.

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- f. Add 25 μ L of reconstituted conjugate (vial 10) to every well except the wells containing the plate blanks.
- g. Add 25 μ L of reconstituted antibody solution (vial 11) to every well except the wells containing the plate blanks.
- h. Carefully shake the plate manually from side to side on a flat surface for one minute at room temperature (18 - 25 °C).
- i. Incubate the plate in the dark at 2 - 8 °C for at least one hour.
Note: The washing step is very important. When washing, direct a strong jet of wash solution at the bottom of the well.
- j. Carefully shake out the contents of the plate by holding the plate firmly and flicking your wrist. Wash each well using at least 300 μ L of washing buffer per well. Tap the plate over a container and shake out liquid. Turn the plate upside down onto a paper towel and tap the plate firmly several times until all remaining liquid is removed. Repeat the washing at least three times.
- k. Add 100 μ L of the substrate (vial 13) to each well.
- l. Incubate the plate at room temperature (18 - 25 °C) for 30 minutes.
- m. Following the same sequence used when the substrate was added, place 100 μ L of the stop solution (vial 14) to each well. Mix, for approximately 60 seconds, by sliding the plate back and forth on a flat surface thoroughly to ensure complete color conversion.
- n. Read the plate as soon as possible following addition of stop solution.

3. Instrumental Settings

Use a plate reader set at 450 nm for evaluation.

G. CALCULATIONS

1. Qualitative Calculation

- a. Calculate the average and standard deviation (SD) for the absorbance readings of the six recovery wells.

- b. Use these values to calculate the decision level (DL) from the formula:

$$DL = \text{average} + (3 * SD).$$

Average the duplicate wells for each sample. A sample will be identified as positive if its absorbance is less than or equal to the DL.

H. SAFETY INFORMATION AND PRECAUTIONS

1. Required Protective Equipment - Safety glasses, appropriate gloves, lab coat.

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2. Hazards

<i>Procedure Step</i>	<i>Hazard</i>	<i>Recommended Safe Procedures</i>
Ethyl acetate	Flammable. Vapors are corrosive to the skin, eyes, and respiratory system.	Avoid contact or prolonged exposure to vapors. Work in a fume hood. Keep away from flame or heat.
Chloramphenicol	Toxic. Probable carcinogen. May cause heritable genetic damage. A possible risk to an unborn child. May cause sensitivity by inhalation and skin contact.	Work in a fume hood. Wear protective clothing, gloves and safety glasses.
TMB Substrate solution (tetramethylbenzidine)	Toxic in case of ingestion, inhalation and contact with skin.	Avoid contact with skin. Wear protective clothing, eyewear, and gloves.
Stop solution (sulfuric acid)	Skin and eye irritation.	Wear protective clothing, eyewear, and gloves.

3. Disposal Procedures

<i>Procedure Step</i>	<i>Hazard</i>	<i>Recommended Safe Procedures</i>
Ethyl acetate	See above	Collect waste in tightly sealed container and store away from non-compatibles in a cool, well ventilated, flammable liquid storage area/cabinet for disposal in accordance with local, state, and Federal regulations.
Chloramphenicol	See above	Observe all local, state and Federal regulations.
TMB Substrate solution (tetramethylbenzidine)	See above	Observe all local, state and Federal regulations.
Stop solution (sulfuric acid)	See above	Neutralize the acid for disposal down the drain in accordance with local, state, and Federal regulations.

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I. QUALITY ASSURANCE PLAN

1. Performance Standard

- a. A plate must meet all of the following criteria:
 - i. The optical density of the plate blanks must be lower than 0.2.
 - ii. The optical density of the zero standard must be higher than 0.8.
 - iii. The standard curve has absorbances continuously decreasing in value from the 0 standard through each higher concentration standard.
 - iv. A variability of less than $\pm 25\%$ between duplicate sample wells is obtained. Determined as follows: larger absorbance value divided by the smaller absorbance value is less than or equal to 1.25.
 - v. The CV for the six recovery replicates must be less than or equal to 20%.

2. Critical Control Points and Specifications

<i>Record</i>	<i>Acceptable Control</i>
a. Shake time	1 minute.
b. Incubation time	30 minutes at room temperature (18 - 25 °C).
c. Substrate	Discard if it has turned blue in color.
d. Zero standard	Weak or absent color indicates degradation of reagents.
e. Liquid transfers into the ELISA wells.	Extreme care should be used to prevent the formation of bubbles in the ELISA wells.
f. Washing antibody wells	Wells should be tapped dry until all remaining wash solution is removed.

3. Readiness To Perform (FSIS Training Plan)

- a. Familiarization
 - i. Phase I: Standards- Duplicate standard curve on each of 3 consecutive days, which will include the following:
 - (a) 0 ppb
 - (b) 0.2 ppb
 - (c) 0.5 ppb
 - ii. Phase II: Fortified samples- 3 sets of 10 blanks and 10 fortified (0.25 ppb) samples over a period of 3 different days.
Note: Phase I and Phase II may be performed concurrently.
 - iii. Phase III: Check samples for analyst accreditation.
 - (a) 10 unknown muscle samples. The sample fortifications including

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the number of blanks are to be blind to the analyst. At least 5 samples should be fortified at the 0.25 ppb level. All samples should be analyzed in duplicate wells. The samples must be randomized throughout the set.

- (b) Report analytical findings to the Quality Assurance Manager (QAM).
 - (c) Letter from QAM is required to commence official analysis.
 - b. Acceptability criteria.
Refer to I. 1.
 - 4. Intralaboratory Check Samples
 - a. System, minimum contents.
 - i. Frequency: At least 1 weekly per analyst if samples analyzed.
 - ii. Records are to be maintained by the analyst and reviewed by the Supervisor and Laboratory QAM for positive or negative results for QA samples.
 - b. Acceptability criteria.
 - i. No false negatives at the 0.25 ppb level.
 - ii. Refer to section I.1 above.
 - c. If unacceptable values are obtained, then:
 - i. Stop all official analyses by that analyst.
 - ii. Take corrective action.
 - 5. Sample Acceptability and Stability
 - a. Matrix: Poultry and beef muscle.
 - b. Sample receipt size: 1 pound.
 - c. Sample receipt condition: Cold.
 - d. Sample storage:
 - i. Time: 6 months
 - ii. Condition: Frozen
 - 6. Sample Set
 - a. Each sample set must contain:
 - i. Plate blank
 - ii. Standards at 0, 0.2, and 0.5 ppb
 - iii. Positive controls at 0.25 ppb (minimum of 6 values)
 - iv. Blank control

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v. Samples

- 7. Sensitivity
 - a. Minimum proficiency level (MPL): 0.25 ppb.

J. WORKSHEET

An example of a worksheet can be found below.

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Chloramphenicol ELISA Worksheet

Analyst _____
 Date Started _____
 Date Completed _____
 Reviewed by Initials/Date _____

Sample Number	Sample ILN	Sample Weight	Tissue Type	Average Absorbance	Sample Type	Results (+) or (-)	Comments
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10							
11							
12							
13							
14							
15							
16							
17							
18							

Tissue Blank	Average
Sample Used	Absorbance

Standards	Absorbance
0 std	
0.2 std	
0.5 std	

Fortification Sample Data (Sample type = Check)

Replicate Number	Concentration	Absorbance
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		

Average Absorbance	
Standard Deviation	
DL = avg + 3SD	
CV	

Absorbance of Plate Blanks	
Replicate 1	
Replicate 2	

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K. APPENDIX

1. Reference

Test Kit Instructions, Transia Plate: *Chloramphenicol*. NOT COM 2991E 08/05; Diffchamb.

L. APPROVALS AND AUTHORITIES

Approval records on file.

Issuing Authority: Laboratory Quality Assurance Division (LQAD).