Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency

NIBSC Confidence in Biological Medicines

WHO International Standard
1st WHO IS for Herpes Simplex Virus type-2 (HSV-2) DNA #L
Nucleic acid Amplification Techniques
NIBSC code: 17/122
Instructions for use
(Version 3.0, Dated 11/11/2025)

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1. INTENDED USE

The 1st WHO International Standard for Herpes Simplex Virus type-2 (HSV-2) DNA, NIBSC code 17/122, is intended to be used in the standardization of nucleic acid amplification technology (NAT)-based assays for HSV-2. The reference comprises a whole virus preparation of HSV type 2, formulated in a universal buffer comprising 10mM Tris buffer, 0.5 % human serum albumin, 0.1% trehalose. The material has been lyophilized in 1 mL aliquots and stored at -20 ºC. The material was evaluated in a worldwide collaborative study involving 30 laboratories performing a range of NAT-based assays for HSV.

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

This material has been assigned a concentration 7.31 log10 International Units (IU)/vial when reconstituted in 1 mL of nuclease-free water, based on the results of a worldwide collaborative study. Uncertainty: the assigned unitage does not carry an uncertainty associated with its calibration. The uncertainty may therefore be considered to be the variance of the vial content and was determined to be +/-0.27%.

4. CONTENTS

Country of origin of biological material: United Kingdom.
Each vial contains the lyophilized equivalent of 1mL of HSV-2 in 10mM Tris buffer, 0.5 % human serum albumin, 0.1% trehalose.

5. STORAGE

Vials of lyophilized standard should be stored at -20 ºC
Please note because of the inherent stability of lyophilized material, NIBSC may ship these materials at ambient temperature.

6. DIRECTIONS FOR OPENING

Vials have a screw cap; an internal stopper may also be present. The cap should be removed by turning anti-clockwise. Care should be taken to prevent loss of the contents. Please note: If a stopper is present on removal of the cap, the stopper should remain in the vial or be removed with the cap.

7. USE OF MATERIAL

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

The materials should be reconstituted with 1 mL of deionized, nucleasefree molecular-grade water and left for a minimum of 20 minutes with occasional agitation before use. The product should be reconsitued just prior to use, freeze thawing of the product once reconstituted is not recommended.

8. STABILITY

Reference materials are held at NIBSC within assured, temperature-controlled storage facilities. Reference Materials should be stored on receipt as indicated on the label.

Accelerated thermal degradation tests have been carried out at NIBSC and are avaible in the ECBS report

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

9. REFERENCES

ECBS Report 2020 WHO/BS/2020.2392

10. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank all the participants that took part in the collaborative study to eastblish this material as a WHO International Standard

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

Physical and Chemical properties			
Physical appearance: Lyophilized powder		Corrosive:	No
Stable:	Yes	Oxidising:	No
Hygroscopic:	No	Irritant:	No
Flammable:	No	Handling:	See caution, Section 2
Other (specify):	Contains infectious Herpes Simplex Virus type-2 and human serum albumin		

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WHO International Laboratory for Biological Standards,
UK Official Medicines Control Laboratory

World Health Organization

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.	

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.

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 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.

16. INFORMATION FOR CUSTOMS USE ONLY

Country of origin for customs purposes*: 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.
Net weight: 1 g
Toxicity Statement: Non-toxic
Veterinary certificate or other statement if applicable. **Attached:** 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 https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/annex2-trs932(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.