Influenza Antigen A/Johannesburg/33/94 (H3N2)(RESVIR-8)  
NIBSC code: 95/516  
Instructions for use  
(Version 4.0, Dated 20/03/2008)

1. INTENDED USE  
Influenza antigen reagent 95/516 is prepared for the single radial diffusion assay of A/Johannesburg/33/94 (RESVIR-8) antigens.

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. UNITAGE  
The 0.5 ml solution of the total contents of the ampoule will contain 17 micrograms of haemagglutinin antigen activity.

4. CONTENTS  
Country of origin of biological material: United Kingdom. Antigen Reagent 95/516 is prepared from β-Propiolactone-inactivated, partially purified A/Johannesburg/33/94 (H3N2) virus (RESVIR-8, Reassortant) which was suspended in PBSA buffer containing 1% (w/v) sucrose and processed for freeze-drying in 1ml volumes as described by Campbell, P.J., Journal of Biological Standardisation, 1974, 2, 249-267. The mean weight of 76 ampoules, test weighed was 1.012g with a coefficient of variation of 0.12%.

The reagent has been inactivated following validated procedures used to produce human influenza vaccine that is registered in the EU. This inactivated reagent has been shown to be free from residual infectious virus by testing according to the European Pharmacopeia Compendial Assay (monograph 0156).

5. STORAGE
-20°C

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

6. DIRECTIONS FOR OPENING
DIN ampoules have an ‘easy breaker’. To open the ampoule, tap the ampoule gently to collect material at the bottom (labelled) end and follow manufacturer’s instructions provided with the ampoule breacker.

7. USE OF MATERIAL
No attempt should be made to weigh out any portion of the material.

For all practical purposes each ampoule contains the same quantity of the substances listed above. Reconstitute the total contents of one ampoule of reagent with 0.5ml of distilled water*. Allow to stand for a minimum of 5 minutes before use to allow for complete solution of freeze-dried material. The 0.5 ml solution of the total contents of the ampoule will contain 17 micrograms of haemagglutinin antigen activity.

Antigen Reagent 95/516 should be used according to the method described by Wood, JM, Schild GC, Newman RW and Seagroatt, VA. Journal of Biological Standardisation, 1977, 5, 237-247, with the following modification:

It is recommended that Antigen Reagent 95/516 and test A/Johannesburg/33/94 virus antigens should be treated with Zwittergent 3-14 detergent (Calbiochem-Behring, La Jolla, CA, USA) before single-radial-diffusion assay. Suitable incubation conditions are as follows:

- 450 microlitres of antigen are added to 50 microlitres of 10% (w/v) Zwittergent detergent and incubated in covered containers for 30 minutes at room temperature (approx 20-25°C). Dilutions of detergent treated antigens are then added to wells in single-radial-diffusion immunoplates and incubated at room temperature.

Antigen reagent 95/516 should be used to assay A/Johannesburg/33/94 antigens using antisemum reagent 95/524. No attempt should be made to weigh out any portion of the freeze-dried material. Unopened ampoules should be stored at -20°C. To remove the reconstituted material from the ampule it is necessary to use some form of transfer pipette rather than a volumetric pipette. The contents of the ampoules should not be assumed to be sterile.

* Attention – this volume is lower than that of other NIBSC Antigen Reagents.

8. STABILITY
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.

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

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

Users of the material wishing to refer to the declared ampoule content for use in quantitative or semi-quantitative assay methods should note that the stated content of the material is based on a small collaborative study involving WHO Essential Regulatory Laboratories (ERLs) or Official Medicines Control Laboratories (OMCLs). Studies of recovery and stability of similar antigen preparations indicate that that recovery after ampouling is likely to be close to quantitative, and that no significant loss of content would be expected during storage over at least a 10 year period.

9. REFERENCES
None

10. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
None

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
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></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical appearance: Freeze dried powder</td>
<td>Corrosive: No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stable: Yes</td>
<td>Oxidising: No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hygroscopic: No</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>Contains inactivated Influenza virus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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: 1g
Toxicity Statement: Non-toxic
Veterinary certificate or other statement if applicable. Attached: No

Country of origin for customs purposes*:

United Kingdom

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