

Antigens

Customer-provided protein

As long as a protein can be recognized as a foreign compound by the host immune system, immunizing directly with a protein is a very efficient way to produce antibodies, due to the huge number of epitopes present at the protein surface.

Antigen Format

Usually we work with the following antigen formats:

Lyophilised

You can send us your freeze-dried antigen at ambient temperature. The antigen will be dissolved in 0.9 % salt solution (physiological solution) and aliquoted for the different injections and frozen at -20°C .

If the antigen is poorly soluble in aqueous solution, we suggest that you avoid lyophilisation and that you send us your protein in solution on dry ice. The addition of adjuvant will help to dissolve even lipophilic proteins. If the antigen does not dissolve, a fine suspension of the antigen will be obtained by thorough mixing. Such fine suspensions can also be useful for antibody production because particles are efficiently phagocytosed.

Solutions

You can send us your antigen in solution on dry ice.

We recommend to limit as far as possible the use of detergents and aggressive chemicals such as urea, acetic acid, guanidine hydrochloride, heavy metals and other agents that are toxic to the host animal.

Compound or formulations	Allowed	Not allowed
Water	Yes, keep the volume small (1 ml)	-
PBS	Yes, keep the volume small (1 ml)	-
Physiological buffer solutions	Yes, keep the volume small (1 ml)	-
Metal dyes/heavy metals	-	Risk of toxicity
Salts (KCl, NaCl, MgCl ₂)	< 1.0 M	> 1.0 M
SDS	< 2.0 %	> 2.0 %
Urea	< 6.0 M (in rabbits)	> 6.0 M
Guanidinium HCl	-	Risk of toxicity
Digoxin/Digoxigenin	-	Risk of toxicity
Octylglucoside	<1.0 %	> 1.0 %
Triton X-100/Tween-20	< 0.2 %	> 0.2 %
Glycerol	< 20 %	> 20 %
PMSF	-	Risk of toxicity
Pefabloc	< 0.4 mM	> 0.1 mM
Leupeptin/Pepstatin	< 1 μM	> 1 μM
DTT	< 3 M	> 3 M
Mercaptoethanol	-	Risk of toxicity
Imidazole	< 3 M	> 3 M
TFA	-	High risk of toxicity

Table 8: Compounds and formulations that are acceptable for immunisation