# Sigma-Aldrich

Technical Bulletin

## Catalase Assay Kit

#### Catalogue number MAK531

## **Product Description**

Catalase is a ubiquitous antioxidant enzyme that catalyzes the decomposition of hydrogen peroxide  $(H_2O_2)$  to water and oxygen.

$$2 H_2O_2 \xrightarrow{\text{Catalase}} O_2 + 2 H_2O$$

By preventing excessive  $H_2O_2$  build up, catalase allows important cellular processes which produce  $H_2O_2$  as a byproduct to occur safely. Simple, direct and high-throughput assays for catalase activity find wide applications. The catalase assay kit directly measures catalase degradation of  $H_2O_2$  using a redox dye. The change in color intensity at  $570_{nm}$  or fluorescence intensity ( $\lambda_{em/ex} = 585/530_{nm}$ ) is directly proportional to the catalase activity in the sample.

The linear detection range of the kit is 0.2 to 5 U/L catalase activity. The kit is suitable for catalase activity determination in biological samples such as serum, plasma, urine, saliva and cell culture, as well as for studying the effects of drugs on catalase activity.

### Components

The kit is sufficient for 100 colorimetric/fluorometric assays in 96-well plates.

•	Assay Buffer Catalogue Number MAK531A	25 mL
•	HRP Enzyme Catalogue Number MAK531B	120 µL
•	Dye Reagent Catalogue Number MAK531C	120 µL
•	$3\% H_2O_2$ Solution Catalogue Number MAK531D	100 μL
•	Positive Control Catalogue Number MAK531E	8 μL

## Reagents and Equipment Required but Not Provided

- Pipetting devices and accessories (example., multichannel pipettor)
- Spectrophotometric or fluorescence multiwell plate reader.
- Clear flat-bottom 96-well plates for colorimetric assays. Black 96-well plates with clear bottoms are recommended for fluorescence assays. Cell culture or tissue culture treated plates are not recommended.
- 1.5 mL Centrifuge tubes.

#### Precautions and Disclaimer

For R&D use only. Not for drug, household, or other uses. Please consult the Safety Data Sheet for information regarding hazards and safe handling practices.

## Storage/Stability

The kit is shipped on wet ice. Store components at -20 °C.

#### Preparation Instructions

Briefly centrifuge all tubes prior to opening. Equilibrate all components to room temperature prior to use.

HRP Enzyme: Keep the thawed enzyme on ice.

**Note**: SH-containing reagents (example.,  $\beta$ -mercaptoethanol, dithiothreitol) are known to interfere in this assay and should be kept below 10  $\mu$ M in the sample.



#### Procedure

All Samples and Standards should be run in duplicate.

**Note**: For colorimetric assays, use a clear flat-bottom 96-well plate. For fluorimetric assays, use a solid black flat-bottom 96-well plate.

#### Sample Preparation

- Homogenize 10 mg of tissue and 10<sup>6</sup> cells in 200 µL cold PBS.
- 2. Centrifuge 10 min at 14,000 rpm to pellet any debris. Use clear supernatant for assay.
- 3. Transfer 10  $\mu$ L Sample into wells of the 96-well Plate. In addition, for each assay run, prepare one sample blank well that contains only 10  $\mu$ L Assay Buffer

**Note**: For unknown Samples, perform several dilutions to ensure that catalase activity is within the linear range 0.2 to 5 U/L.

#### Positive Control

- Add 400 µL Assay Buffer to Positive Control tube and mix well.
- 2. Transfer 10  $\mu$ L of the reconstituted Positive Control into separate wells.

**Note**: The provided catalase serves as a positive control to ensure assay is working and should not be used to calculate the Sample catalase activity.

#### Assay Reaction

- 1. Prepare 4.8 mM  $H_2O_2$  by mixing 5  $\mu$ L 3%  $H_2O_2$  and 914  $\mu$ L purified water.
- 2. Prepare enough 50  $\mu$ M H2O2 substrate for Sample, positive control and Sample blank by mixing, for each well, 1  $\mu$ L of the 4.8 mM H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> with 95  $\mu$ L Assay Buffer.
- 3. Transfer 90  $\mu$ L of the 50  $\mu$ M Substrate to these wells to initiate the catalase reaction.
- 4. Tap plate quick to mix. Incubate for 30 minutes at room temperature.

During the incubation time proceed with Standard Curve and Detection Reagent preparation.

**Note:** Diluted  $H_2O_2$  is not stable. Prepare fresh dilutions for each experiment.

#### Standard Curve

1. Prepare 400  $\mu$ M H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> by mixing 40  $\mu$ L of 4.8 mM H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> with 440  $\mu$ L purified water. Dilute standard in purified water as mentioned in Table 1.

**Table 1.**Dilution of Standards

Bridelion of Standards				
No.	400 μM H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> + H <sub>2</sub> O	H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> (μΜ)		
1	100 μL + 0 μL	400		
2	60 μL + 40 μL	240		
3	30 μL + 70 μL	120		
4	0 μL + 100 μL	0		

Fluorometric Assay: Further dilute the Standards 1:20 to achieve 20, 12, 6, and 0  $\mu$ M  $H_2O_2$ .

2. Transfer 10  $\mu$ L Standards into separate wells of a clear flat-bottom 96-well plate. Add 90  $\mu$ L Assay Buffer to the standards.

#### **Detection Reagent Preparation**

Prepare enough detection reagents for each Sample, Control and Standard wells. For each well, prepare  $104~\mu L$  of Detection Reagent according to Table 2.

**Table 2.** Preparation of Detection Reagents

Reagent	Volume
Assay Buffer	102 μL
Dye reagent	1 µL
HRP Enzyme	1 μL

#### Measurement

- 1. Upon completion of the 30-minute incubation in the Assay Reaction step, add 100  $\mu$ L Detection Reagent per well. Tap plate to mix. Incubate for 10 minutes.
- 2. Read optical density at 570nm (550 to 585nm) or fluorescence intensity at  $\lambda$ em/ex = 585/530nm.

## Results

- 1. Subtract the blank value (standard #4) from all the standard values.
- 2. Plot the  $\Delta$ OD or  $\Delta$ F against the standard concentrations.
- 3. Determine the slope and calculate catalase concentration of samples using the below given equation:

Catalase (U/L)= 
$$\frac{R_{Sample blank} - R_{Sample}}{Slope (\mu M^{-1}) \times 30 \text{ min}} \times n$$

#### Where:

 $R_{\mathsf{SAMPLE}}$  blank and  $R_{\mathsf{SAMPLE}}$  are optical density or fluorescence intensity readings of the Sample Blank and Sample, respectively.

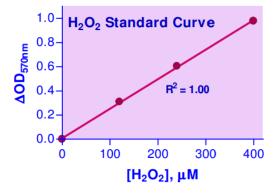
Slope is determined from the standard curve.

30 min = Catalase reaction time

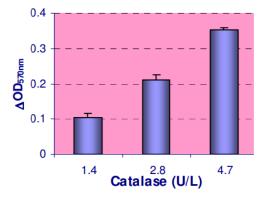
n = Sample dilution factor.

Unit Definition: One unit is the amount of catalase that decomposes 1  $\mu$ mole of  $H_2O_2$  per min at pH 7.0 and room temperature.

**Figure 1.** Example of typical  $H_2O_2$  standard curves by colorimetric assay.



**Figure 2.** Example of Catalase activity in a colorimetric assay.



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