

Product Information

ULK1 (1-649), active, GST tagged, human PRECISIO® Kinase recombinant, expressed in Sf9 cells

Catalog Number **SRP5096**
Storage Temperature $-70\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$

Synonyms: ATG1, UNC51, Unc51.1, FLJ38455

Product Description

ULK1 is a serine/threonine protein kinase that plays critical role during initial stages of autophagy, which is a vital response to nutrient starvation. The conserved C-terminal domain (CTD) of ULK1 controls the regulatory function and localization of the protein. Knockdown of ULK1 inhibits the autophagic response as well as inhibiting rapamycin-induced autophagy consistent with a role downstream of mTOR.¹ ULK1 forms a complex with FIP200 and ATG13, and this complex is essential for starvation-induced autophagy.² Both FIP200 and ATG13 are critical for correct localization of ULK1 to the pre-autophagosome and stability of ULK1 protein. ULK1 is phosphorylated by the mTOR pathway in a nutrient starvation-regulated manner.

Recombinant human ULK1 (1-649) was expressed by baculovirus in Sf9 insect cells using an N-terminal GST tag. The gene accession number is BC111603. Recombinant protein stored in 50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5, 150 mM NaCl, 10 mM glutathione, 0.1 mM EDTA, 0.25 mM DTT, 0.1 mM PMSF, and 25% glycerol.

Molecular mass: ~125 kDa

Purity: 70–95% (SDS-PAGE, see Figure 1)

Specific Activity: 46–62 nmole/min/mg (see Figure 2)

Precautions and Disclaimer

This product is for R&D use only, not for drug, household, or other uses. Please consult the Material Safety Data Sheet for information regarding hazards and safe handling practices.

Storage/Stability

The product ships on dry ice and storage at $-70\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ is recommended. After opening, aliquot into smaller quantities and store at $-70\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$. Avoid repeated handling and multiple freeze/thaw cycles.

Figure 1.
SDS-PAGE Gel of Typical Lot
70–95% (densitometry)

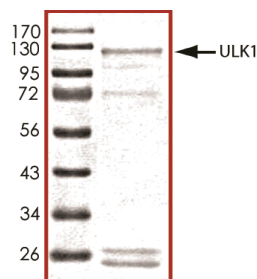
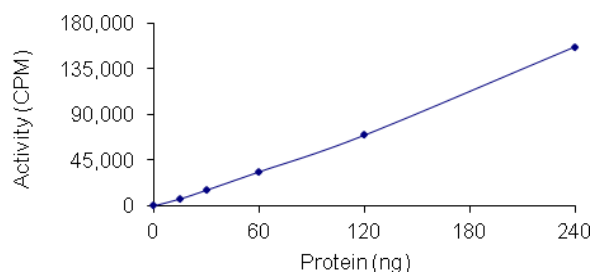


Figure 2.
Specific Activity of Typical Lot
46–62 nmole/min/mg



Procedure

Preparation Instructions

Kinase Assay Buffer – 25 mM MOPS, pH 7.2, 12.5 mM glycerol 2-phosphate, 25 mM MgCl_2 , 5 mM EGTA, and 2 mM EDTA. Just prior to use, add DTT to a final concentration of 0.25 mM.

Kinase Dilution Buffer – Dilute the Kinase Assay Buffer 5-fold with a 50 ng/ μl BSA.

Kinase Solution – Dilute the active ULK1 (0.1 µg/µl) with Kinase Dilution Buffer to the desired concentration.

Note: The specific activity plot may be used as a guideline (see Figure 2). It is recommended the researcher perform a serial dilution of active ULK1 kinase for optimal results.

10 mM ATP Stock Solution – Dissolve 55 mg of ATP in 10 ml of Kinase Assay Buffer. Store in 200 µl aliquots at –20 °C.

γ-³³P-ATP Assay Cocktail (250 µM) – Combine 5.75 ml of Kinase Assay Buffer, 150 µl of 10 mM ATP Stock Solution, 100 µl of γ-³³P-ATP (1 mCi/100 µl). Store in 1 ml aliquots at –20 °C.

Substrate Solution – Dissolve the protein substrate in distilled water at a final concentration of 1 mg/ml.

1% phosphoric acid solution – Dilute 10 ml of concentrated phosphoric acid to a final volume of 1 L with water.

Kinase Assay

This assay involves the use of the ³³P radioisotope. All institutional guidelines regarding the use of radioisotopes should be followed.

1. Thaw the active ULK1, Kinase Assay Buffer, Substrate Solution, and Kinase Dilution Buffer on ice. The γ-³³P-ATP Assay Cocktail may be thawed at room temperature.
2. In a pre-cooled microcentrifuge tube, add the following solutions to a volume of 20 µl:
 - 10 µl of Kinase Solution
 - 5 µl of Substrate Solution
 - 5 µl of cold water (4 °C)
3. Set up a blank control as outlined in step 2, substituting 5 µl of cold water (4 °C) for the Substrate Solution.
4. Initiate each reaction with the addition of 5 µl of the γ-³³P-ATP Assay Cocktail, bringing the final reaction volume to 25 µl. Incubate the mixture in a water bath at 30 °C for 15 minutes.
5. After the 15 minute incubation, stop the reaction by spotting 20 µl of the reaction mixture onto an individually precut strip of phosphocellulose P81 paper.

6. Air dry the precut P81 strip and sequentially wash in the 1% phosphoric acid solution with constant gentle stirring. It is recommended the strips be washed a total of 3 times of ~10 minutes each.
7. Set up a radioactive control to measure the total γ-³³P-ATP counts introduced into the reaction. Spot 5 µl of the γ-³³P-ATP Assay Cocktail on a precut P81 strip. Dry the sample for 2 minutes and read the counts. Do not wash this sample.
8. Count the radioactivity on the P81 paper in the presence of scintillation fluid in a scintillation counter.
9. Determine the corrected cpm by subtracting the blank control value (see step 3) from each sample and calculate the kinase specific activity

Calculations:

1. Specific Radioactivity (SR) of ATP (cpm/nmole)

$$SR = \frac{\text{cpm of } 5 \mu\text{l of } \gamma\text{-}^{33}\text{P-ATP Assay Cocktail}}{\text{nmole of ATP}}$$

cpm – value from control (step 7)

nmole – 1.25 nmole (5 µl of 250 µM ATP Assay Cocktail)

2. Specific Kinase Activity (SA) (nmole/min/mg)

$$\text{nmole/min/mg} = \frac{\Delta\text{cpm} \times (25/20)}{SR \times E \times T}$$

SR = specific radioactivity of the ATP (cpm/nmole ATP)

Δcpm = cpm of the sample – cpm of the blank (step 3)

25 = total reaction volume

20 = spot volume

T = reaction time (minutes)

E = amount of enzyme (mg)

References

1. Ganley, I.G. et al., ULK1.ATG13.FIP200 complex mediates mTOR signaling and is essential for autophagy. *J. Biol. Chem.*, **284**, 12297-12305 (2009).
2. Chan, E.Y. et al., siRNA screening of the kinome identifies ULK1 as a multidomain modulator of autophagy. *J. Biol. Chem.*, **282**, 25464-25474 (2007).

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