



AgraQuant® Total Aflatoxin 1/20 ELISA kit

Package insert

Article number 10002100/10002101

Intended use

The AgraQuant® Total Aflatoxin 1/20 ELISA test kit is an immunoassay designed for the quantitative analysis of aflatoxins (B₁, B₂, G₁, G₂) presence in food and feed components. This product is intended for laboratory use.

Performance characteristics

Limit of detection (LOD): 1 ppb *

Limit of quantification (LOQ): 1 ppb *

Range of quantification: 1 -20 ppb

Plate format: 96 (10002100) or 48 wells (10002101)

Assay time: 20 minutes

About Aflatoxins

Aflatoxins are poisonous carcinogens produced by the fungi *Aspergillus flavus* and *Aspergillus parasiticus*. There are four main types of aflatoxin: B₁, B₂, G₁ and G₂, although aflatoxin B₁ is the most frequently encountered and the most toxic. Aflatoxins are mainly found in cereals, peanuts, cottonseeds and nuts. In animals, aflatoxins can cause liver disease and are associated with decreased production (milk, eggs, meat, etc.). Aflatoxin B₁ is a potent human carcinogen; high levels of exposure are known to cause hepatic cirrhosis and liver cancer.

* Determined for corn.

Product information

About the ELISA test kit

The AgraQuant® Total Aflatoxin Assay is a direct competitive enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) that quantitatively determines total aflatoxin (B₁, B₂, G₁ and G₂) presence. This product is intended for use in grains, cereals, nuts, animal feeds and other commodities.

Storage information

Upon receipt, immediately transfer the AgraQuant® Total Aflatoxin 1/20 to refrigerated storage and keep it at 2-8°C (35-46°F) when not in use. Do not freeze. Do not use the kit beyond the expiration date indicated on the package.

Contents of the kit

The AgraQuant® Total Aflatoxin 1/20 ELISA test kit contains the following items:

10002100

- 96 antibody-coated microwells (12 eight-well strips) in a microwell holder sealed in a foil pouch
- 96 non-coated dilution microwells (12 white eight-well strips)
- 6 vials of 1.5 mL each of aflatoxin standard (0, 1, 2, 4, 10 and 20 ppb)
- 1 green-capped bottle of 25 mL of aflatoxin-conjugate solution
- 1 blue-capped bottle of 15 mL of substrate solution
- 1 red-capped bottle of 15 mL of stop solution

10002101

- 48 antibody-coated microwells (6 eight-well strips) in a microwell holder sealed in a foil pouch
- 48 non-coated dilution microwells (6 white eight-well strips)
- 6 vials of 0.75 mL each of aflatoxin standard (0, 1, 2, 4, 10 and 20 ppb)
- 1 green-capped bottle of 12.5 mL of aflatoxin-conjugate solution
- 1 blue-capped bottle of 7.5 mL of substrate solution
- 1 red-capped bottle of 7.5 mL of stop solution

Materials required but not included

Extraction Procedure:

- Grinding mill
- Blender or a tightly sealing jar with lid
- Analytical balance with a weighing capacity up to 200 g
- Graduated cylinder with a minimum capacity of 100 mL
- 100% ACS grade methanol (for certain commodities)
- 70% (70:30 methanol:water) methanol or ACS grade methanol and distilled or deionized water for preparing a 70% methanol solution
- 84% acetonitrile (for certain commodities)
- Container with a minimum capacity of 125 mL
- Whatman#1 filter paper, or equivalent
- Filter funnel
- MycoSep® 112 column (for certain commodities)

Assay Procedure:

- Calibrated 8-channel and single-channel pipettes with 100 µL and 200 µL disposable plastic tips
- Timer
- Wash bottle
- Distilled or deionized water
- Absorbent paper towels
- 3 reagent boats for use as reagent containers for an 8-channel pipette
- Microwell reader with 450 nm and 630 nm filters

Visit **www.romerlabs.com** or get in touch with your technical sales representative to find out which of these items are also available from Romer Labs®.

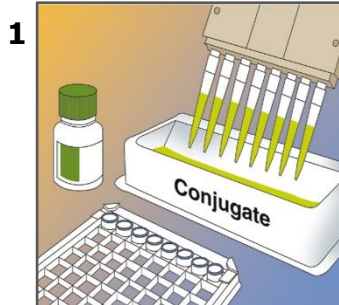
ELISA kit – Assay principle

The AgraQuant® Total Aflatoxin Assay is a direct competitive enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA). Aflatoxins are extracted from a ground sample with 70% methanol. The extracted sample and enzyme-conjugated aflatoxin are then mixed and added to the antibody-coated microwell. Aflatoxins in the samples or standards are allowed to compete with enzyme-conjugated aflatoxin for the antibody binding sites. After a washing step, the enzyme substrate is added, which results in color development. The intensity of the color is inversely proportional to the concentration of aflatoxin in the sample or standard. A stop solution is then added, which changes the color from blue to yellow. The absorbance of each well is then measured at 450 nm and with a differential filter at 630 nm. The measurement must take place within 10 minutes after adding the stop solution.

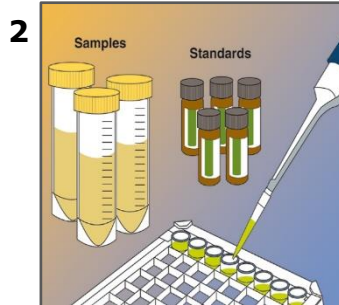
To analyze the results, please refer to *Results analysis* at the end of this package insert.

Protocol at a glance

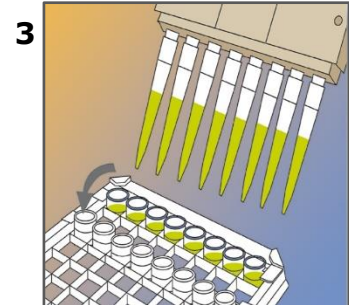
The following section gives only an overview of the ELISA procedure. Before performing the assay, please read this package insert carefully.



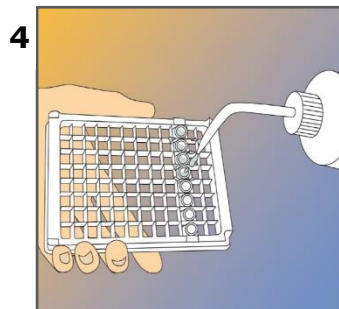
Pipette **200 μ L** of **conjugate solution** into the dilution wells.



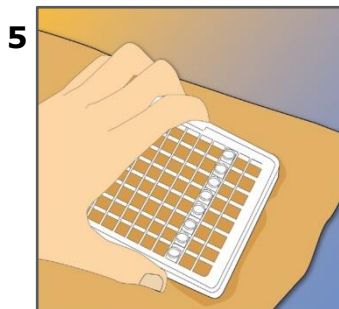
Add **100 μ L** of each **standard or sample extract** into the dilution wells.



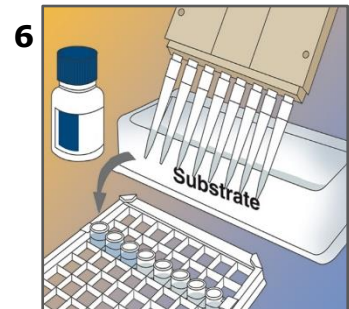
Mix well and **transfer 100 μ L** from dilution wells into antibody-coated wells. **Incubate at RT for 15 minutes.**



Wash 5 times with distilled or deionized water.



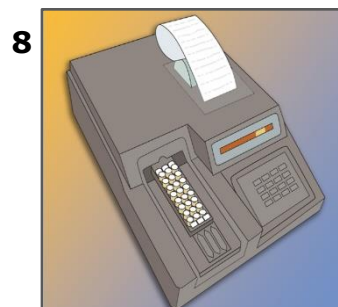
Tap dry the washed wells.



Pipette **100 μ L** of **substrate** solution into the antibody-coated wells. **Incubate at RT for 5 minutes.**



Pipette **100 μ L** of **stop solution** into the antibody-coated wells.



Read the absorbance of each well at **450 nm** with a differential filter at **630 nm**.

Reagent and sample preparation

Sample preparation

1. Obtain a representative sample of the specimen you want to analyze and grind it so that 95% will pass through a 20-mesh (sieve opening 0.84 mm), then thoroughly mix the subsample portion.
2. Weigh out 20 g of ground sample into a clean jar that can be tightly sealed.
3. Add 100 mL of 70% methanol extraction solution and seal the jar (extraction ratio of 1:5 of sample to extraction solution)
4. Vigorously shake or blend for 3 minutes.
5. Allow sample to settle, then filter the top layer of extract through a Whatman #1 filter and collect the filtrate.

Note: Commodity extracts should have a pH of 6-8. Excessive alkaline or acidic conditions may affect the test results and should be adjusted before testing.

6. Samples are ready for testing. Please read the *ELISA procedure* section and follow carefully the protocol.

For beer: measure 3 mL of beer sample into a test tube and add 7 mL of 100% methanol. Vortex or mix for 30 seconds: the sample is now ready for testing. The final result of aflatoxin in beer is calculated by multiplying a factor of (2/3) to the ELISA result.

For canola oil: measure 2 mL of canola oil sample into a test tube and add 10 mL of 70% methanol. Mix or vortex for 3 minutes, allow sample to separate into two layers. Take the methanol layer for ELISA testing. (If your oil sample does not separate into two layers upon standing, please contact our technical services).

For chili: weigh 20 g of ground chili sample. Add 100 mL of 84/16 (v/v) acetonitrile/water extraction solution. Vigorously shake or blend for 3 minutes, allow sample to settle and then filter the top layer of extract through a Whatman#1 filter. Clean the filtrate using a MycoSep® 112 column. Take 1 mL of cleaned extract and evaporate to dryness. Reconstitute it with 1 mL of 70% methanol; the sample is now ready for ELISA testing.

➡ **Did you know?** AgraQuant® Total Aflatoxin 1/20 ELISA test kit share the same extraction solution with most of our AgraQuant® ELISA test kits. This allows you to use the same sample extract for several mycotoxin tests. This is not valid for AgraQuant® Deoxynivalenol and all three AgraQuant® Aflatoxin M1.

Technical support

Not sure if the test works with your specific samples or matrices? Let our longstanding experience in mycotoxin testing work for you. Contact our technical sales representative in your region to know more.

ELISA procedure

Before starting

Procedural guidelines:

- Make sure you have everything you need ready before starting the assay.
- All reagents and kit components must be equilibrated to room temperature, i.e. 18-30°C (64-86°F), before use.
- Run a standard curve with each assay.
- Adhere to the incubation times stated in the procedure. Use of incubation times other than those specified may give inaccurate results.
- We strongly recommended to perform the assay with an 8-channel pipette.
- Do not run more than 6 eight-well strips in one experiment when using an 8-channel pipette. If an 8-channel pipette is not used (i.e. using only single channel pipettes), we recommended that you run no more than a total of 16 samples and standards (2 test strips) in any one experiment.
- Do not return unused reagents in their original bottles.

Precautions:

- Store reagents at 2-8°C (35-46°F) when not in use, and do not use beyond the expiration date.
- Methanol is flammable. Caution must be taken in its use and storage.
- The stop solution contains acid. Avoid contact with skin or eyes. If exposed, flush with water.
- Treat all materials, containers and devices that are exposed to the sample or standards as if they were contaminated with toxin.
- Wear protective gloves and safety glasses when using the kit.
- Dispose of all single-use materials, containers and devices appropriately after use.

Assay protocol

1. Place the appropriate number of **white dilution wells** in a microwell strip holder. One dilution well will be required for each standard (i.e. 0, 1, 2, 4, 10 and 20 ppb) or sample.
2. Place an equal number of **antibody-coated microwells** in a microwell strip holder. Return unused microwells to the foil pouch with the desiccant packet and reseal pouch with tape.
3. Measure the required amount of conjugate solution from the green-capped bottle (~240 µL/well or 2 mL/strip) and place it in a separate container (e.g. reagent boat when using the 8-channel pipette). Using an 8-channel pipette, dispense **200 µL of conjugate solution** into each dilution well.
 **Did you know?** Ratio of conjugate to standard/sample should remain at 2:1, but the volumes of conjugate and standards/samples can be reduced, e.g. using 100 µL and 50 µL, respectively. The content to be transferred from dilution wells to antibody-coated wells has to remain 100 µL.
4. Using a single channel pipette, add **100 µL of each standard or sample** into the dilution wells containing 200 µL of conjugate. Use a fresh pipette tip for each standard or sample.

Note: Make sure the pipette tip has been completely emptied.

5. Using an 8-channel pipette with fresh tips for each 8-well strip, mix each well by carefully pipetting up and down 3 times and immediately **transfer 100 µL of the content** of each dilution well into a corresponding antibody-coated microwell. Incubate at room temperature for **15 minutes**.

Note: Do not attempt to mix the content of the microwells by shaking the plate as this may cause well-to-well contamination.

6. Empty the content of the microwell strips into a waste container. **Wash** by filling each microwell with distilled or deionized water, and then dumping the water from the microwell strips. Repeat this step 4 times for a total of 5 washes.

Note: Take care not to dislodge the strips from the holder during the washing steps.

7. Lay several layers of absorbent paper towels on a flat surface and tap the microwell strips on towels to remove as much residual water as possible after the fifth wash. Dry the bottom of the microwells with a dry cloth or towel.

Note: Never insert absorbent paper directly into the wells.

8. Measure the required amount of substrate solution from the blue-capped bottle (~120 µL/well or 1 mL/strip) and dispense it into a separate container (e.g. reagent boat for an 8-channel pipette). **Pipette 100 µL of the substrate solution** into each microwell using an 8-channel pipette. Incubate at room temperature for **5 minutes**.

9. Measure the required amount of stop solution from the red-capped bottle (~120 µL/well or 1 mL/strip) and dispense into a separate container (e.g. reagent boat for an 8-channel pipette). **Pipette 100 µL of stop solution** into each microwell using an 8-channel pipette. The color should change from blue to yellow.

10. Read the absorbance of each well within 10 minutes after the addition of the stop solution at **450 nm** (reference wavelength 630 nm) with a microwell reader.

Note: Carefully remove any air bubbles prior to reading the absorbance as they may affect the result.

Note: Do not return unused reagents to their original bottles. Carefully note which rows/strips contain standards or samples during the assay.

Results analysis

Results can be easily calculated using the **Romer Labs® spreadsheet** that is provided free of charge upon request. With the Romer Labs® spreadsheet you only need to insert the obtained OD values for standards and samples. The spreadsheet applies the Log/Logit regression model to construct a calibration curve. The correlation coefficient (R) of the calibration curve must be between -0.990 to -1.000. The aflatoxin concentration in your samples is calculated automatically by interpolation with the calibration curve.

Alternatively, construct a dose-response curve using either the unmodified OD values of the standards or the OD values expressed as a percentage of the OD of the zero (0) standard. If the Log/Logit regression model is used for results interpretation, the correlation coefficient (R) of the calibration curve must be between -0.990 and -1.000.

When working according to the *sample preparation* section described in this package insert, a dilution factor of 5 is applied during sample extraction. This dilution factor is already taken into account, thus the aflatoxin concentration can be read directly from the standard curve obtained.

Note: If a sample contains aflatoxin levels higher than the highest standard (>20 ppb), the filtered extract should be further diluted with 70% methanol such that the diluted sample results in a range of 2 - 20 ppb. The diluted sample should be reanalyzed to obtain accurate results. The applied dilution factor must be included in the calculation of the final results.

Note: An OD value of less than 0.5 absorbance units for the 0 ppb standard may indicate the deterioration of reagents.

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