

Nrf2 Transcription Factor Assay Kit

Item No. 600590

www.caymanchem.com

Customer Service 800.364.9897 Technical Support 888.526.5351 1180 E. Ellsworth Rd · Ann Arbor, MI · USA

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Materials Supplied

Kit components may be stored at -20°C prior to use. For long term storage, the Positive Control should be thawed on ice, aliquoted at 75 μ l/vial, and stored at -80°C. After opening the kit, we recommend each kit component be stored according to the temperature listed below.

Item Number	Item	Quantity	Storage
10006880	Transcription Factor Binding Assay Buffer (4X)	1 vial/3 ml	4°C
10007472	Transcription Factor Reagent A	1 vial/120 μl	-20°C
600591	Transcription Factor Nrf2 Positive Control	1 vial/500 μl	-80°C
10006882	Transcription Factor Antibody Binding Buffer (10X)	1 vial/3 ml	4°C
600592	Transcription Factor Nrf2 Primary Antibody	1 vial/120 μl	-20°C
400062	Wash Buffer Concentrate (400X)	1 vial/5 ml	RT
400035	Polysorbate 20	1 vial/3 ml	RT
600593	Transcription Factor Nrf2 Competitor dsDNA	1 vial/120 μl	-20°C
10006884	Transcription Factor Goat Anti-Rabbit HRP Conjugate	1 vial/120 μl	-20°C
600594	Transcription Factor Nrf2 96-Well Strip Plate	1 plate	4°C
400012	96-Well Cover Sheet	1 cover	RT
10006888	Transcription Factor Developing Solution	1 vial/12 ml	4°C
10006889	Transcription Factor Stop Solution	1 vial/12 ml	RT

If any of the items listed above are damaged or missing, please contact our Customer Service department at (800) 364-9897 or (734) 971-3335. We cannot accept any returns without prior authorization.



WARNING: THIS PRODUCT IS FOR RESEARCH ONLY - NOT FOR HUMAN OR VETERINARY DIAGNOSTIC OR THERAPEUTIC USE.

Safety Data

This material should be considered hazardous until further information becomes available. Do not ingest, inhale, get in eyes, on skin, or on clothing. Wash thoroughly after handling. Before use, the user <u>must</u> review the <u>complete</u> Safety Data Sheet, which has been sent *via* email to your institution.

Precautions

Please read these instructions carefully before beginning this assay.

Kit components may be stored at -20°C prior to use. For long term storage, the Positive Control should be thawed on ice, aliquoted at 75 μ l/vial and stored at -80°C. If the assay will be used on multiple days, we recommend each kit component be stored according to the temperatures listed in the booklet.

If You Have Problems

Technical Service Contact Information

Phone: 888-526-5351 (USA and Canada only) or 734-975-3888

E-Mail: techserv@caymanchem.com

In order for our staff to assist you quickly and efficiently, please be ready to supply the lot number of the kit (found on the outside of the box).

Storage and Stability

This kit will perform as specified if stored as directed and used before the expiration date indicated on the outside of the box.

Materials Needed But Not Supplied

- 1. A plate reader capable of measuring absorbance at 450 nm
- 2. Adjustable pipettes and a repeating pipettor
- A source of ultrapure water, with a resistivity of 18.2 MΩ·cm and total organic carbon (TOC) levels of <10 ppb, is recommended. Pure water glass-distilled or deionized - may not be acceptable. NOTE: UltraPure Water is available for purchase from Cayman (Item No. 400000).
- 4. 300 mM Dithiothreitol (DTT)
- Nuclear Extraction Kit available from Cayman (Item No. 10009277) or buffers for preparation of nuclear extracts (see pages 9-11)

NOTE: The components in each kit lot have been quality assured and warranted in this specific combination only; please do not mix them with components from other lots.

INTRODUCTION

Background

Nuclear factor E2-related factor 2 (Nrf2) is a leucine zipper-type transcription factor that is ubiquitously expressed with the highest concentrations in the kidney, lung, and liver. Nrf2 plays a key role in maintaining redox homeostasis, via its interaction with a cysteine-rich protein Kelch-like ECH-associated protein 1 (Keap1). In resting cells, Nrf2 and Keap1 form a tight complex which is targeted for degradation by proteasomes. Under oxidative stress, Keap1 may undergo a conformational change or Nrf2 may be phosphorylated; both lead to release of Nrf2 from the Nrf2/Keap1 complex and translocation of Nrf2 to the nucleus. Translocation results in induced expression of a battery of genes encoding diverse cytoprotective proteins, including antioxidative enzymes, anti-inflammatory mediators, and proteasomes. These antioxidative enzymes activate a cell defense system which protects cells from molecular damage, thus lowering the risk of cancer development.

Nrf2 is involved in many diseases, including cancer, diabetes, and neurodegenerative diseases.⁴ Dietary factors such as curcumin have been shown to activate Nrf2 and its downstream targets, which in turn lowers inflammation and inhibits carcinogenesis.⁴ The central role that Nrf2 plays in the protection of cells against oxidative and xenobiotic damage makes it a potential drug target in the intervention of disorders such as inflammation, neurodegeneration, and cancer.^{5,6}

About This Assay

Cayman's Nrf2 Transcription Factor Assay is a non-radioactive, sensitive method for detecting specific transcription factor DNA binding activity in nuclear extracts. A 96-well enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) replaces the cumbersome radioactive electrophoretic mobility shift assay (EMSA). A specific double stranded DNA (dsDNA) sequence containing the Nrf2 response element is immobilized onto the wells of a 96-well plate (see Figure 1 on page 8). Nrf2 contained in a nuclear extract, binds specifically to the Nrf2 response element. Nrf2 is detected by addition of a specific primary antibody directed against Nrf2. A secondary antibody conjugated to HRP is added to provide a sensitive colorimetric readout at 450 nm.

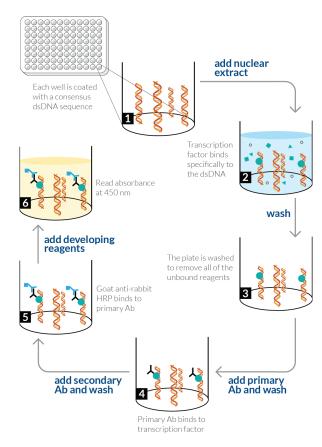


Figure 1. Schematic of the Transcription Factor Binding Assay

PRE-ASSAY PREPARATION

Sample Buffer Preparation

All buffers and reagents below required for preparation of Nuclear Extracts can be purchased directly from Cayman. Alternatively, Cayman's Nuclear Extraction Kit (Item No. 10009277) can be used to isolate Nuclear Proteins.

- 1. Nuclear Extraction PBS (10X)
 - $1.71~\rm{M}$ NaCl, 33.53 mM KCl, 126.8 mM $\rm{Na_2HPO_4}, 22.04~\rm{mM}$ $\rm{KH_2PO_4}, \rm{pH}$ 7.4
- 2. Nuclear Extraction PBS (1X)

Dilute 100 ml of 10X stock with 900 ml distilled H₂O

- 3. Nuclear Extraction Phosphatase Inhibitor Cocktail (50X)
 - 0.5 M NaF
 - 0.05 M β-glycerophosphate
 - 0.05 M Na₃OV₄
 - Store at -80°C
- 4. Nuclear Extraction PBS/Phosphatase Inhibitor Solution (1X)

Add 200 μ l of 50X Phosphatase Inhibitor Solution to 10 ml of 1X Nuclear Extraction PBS, mix well, and keep on ice. Make fresh daily.

5. Nuclear Extraction Protease Inhibitor Cocktail (100X)

10 mM AEBSF

0.5 mM Bestatin

0.2 mM Leupeptin Hemisulfate Salt

0.15 mM E-64

0.1 mM Pepstatin A

0.008 mM Aprotinin from Bovine Lung

Made in DMSO, store at -20°C

6. Nuclear Extraction Hypotonic Buffer (10X)

100 mM HEPES, pH 7.5, containing 40 mM NaF, 10 μ M Na $_2$ MoO $_4$, and 0.1 mM EDTA

Store at 4°C

7. Complete Hypotonic Buffer (1X)

Prepare as outlined in Table 1. The phosphatase and protease inhibitors lose activity shortly after dilution; therefore any unused 1X Complete Hypotonic Buffer should be discarded.

Reagent	150 mm plate ~1.5 x 10 ⁷ cells
Hypotonic Buffer (10X)	100 μΙ
Phosphatase Inhibitors (50X)	20 μΙ
Protease Inhibitors (100X)	10 μΙ
Distilled Water	870 μl
Total Volume	1,000 μΙ

Table 1. Preparation of Complete Hypotonic Buffer

8. Nonidet P-40 Assay Reagent (10%)

Nonidet P-40 or suitable substitute at a concentration of 10% (v/v) in $\rm H_2O$ Store at room temperature

9. Nuclear Extraction Buffer (2X)

20 mM HEPES, pH 7.9, containing, 0.2 mM EDTA, 3 mM ${\rm MgCl}_2,$ 840 mM NaCl, and 20% glycerol (v/v)

Store at 4°C

10. Complete Nuclear Extraction Buffer (1X)

Prepare as outlined in Table 2. Some of the phosphatase and protease inhibitors lose activity shortly after dilution; therefore any remaining 1X Extraction Buffer should be discarded.

Reagent	150 mm plate ~1.5 x 10 ⁷ cells
Nuclear Extraction Buffer (2X)	75 μΙ
Protease Inhibitors (100X)	1.5 μΙ
Phosphatase Inhibitors (50X)	3.0 μΙ
DTT (10 mM)	15 μΙ
Distilled Water	55.5 μΙ
Total Volume	150 μΙ

 Table 2. Preparation of Complete Nuclear Extraction Buffer

Purification of Cellular Nuclear Extracts

Cayman's Nuclear Extraction Kit (Item No. 10009277) can be used to isolate nuclear proteins. Alternatively, the procedure described below can be used for a 15 ml cell suspension grown in a T75 flask or adherent cells (100 mm dish 80-90% confluent) where 10^7 cells yields approximately $50 \mu g$ of nuclear protein.

- 1. Collect ~10⁷ cells in pre-chilled 15 ml tubes.
- 2. Centrifuge suspended cells at 300 x g for five minutes at 4°C.
- Discard the supernatant. Resuspend cell pellet in 5 ml of ice-cold 1X Nuclear Extraction PBS/Phosphatase Inhibitor Solution and centrifuge at 300 x g for five minutes at 4°C. Repeat one time.
- Discard the supernatant. Add 500 μl ice-cold 1X Complete Hypotonic Buffer.Mix gently by pipetting and transfer resuspended pellet to pre-chilled 1.5 ml microcentrifuge tube.
- 5. Incubate cells on ice for 15 minutes allowing cells to swell.
- 6. Add 100 μ l of 10% Nonidet P-40 (or suitable substitute). Mix gently by pipetting.
- Centrifuge for 30 seconds (pulse spin) at 4°C in a microcentrifuge. Transfer the supernatant which contains the cytosolic fraction to a new tube and store at -80°C.
- Resuspend the pellet in 100 μl ice-cold Complete Nuclear Extraction Buffer (1X) (with protease and phosphatase inhibitors). Vortex 15 seconds at highest setting then gently rock the tube on ice for 15 minutes using a shaking platform. Vortex sample for 30 seconds at highest setting and gently rock for an additional 15 minutes.
- 9. Centrifuge at 14,000 x g for 10 minutes at 4°C. The supernatant contains the nuclear fraction. Aliquot to clean chilled tubes, flash freeze, and store at -80°C. Avoid freeze/thaw cycles. The extracts are ready to use in the assay.
- 10. Keep a small aliquot of the nuclear extract to quantitate the protein concentration.

Reagent Preparation

1. Transcription Factor Antibody Binding Buffer (10X)

One vial (Item No. 10006882) contains 3 ml of a 10X stock of Transcription Factor Antibody Binding Buffer (ABB) to be used for diluting the primary and secondary antibodies. To prepare a 1X ABB, dilute 1:10 by adding 27 ml of UltraPure water. Store at 4°C for up to six months.

2. Wash Buffer Concentrate (400X)

One vial (Item No. 400062) contains 5 ml of 400X Wash Buffer. Dilute the contents of the vial to a total volume of 2 liters with UltraPure water and add 1 ml of Polysorbate 20 (Item No. 400035). NOTE: Polysorbate 20 is a viscous liquid and cannot be measured by a pipette. A positive displacement device such as a syringe should be used to deliver small quantities accurately. A smaller volume of Wash Buffer Concentrate can be prepared by diluting the Wash Buffer Concentrate 1:400 and adding Polysorbate 20 (0.5 ml/liter of Wash Buffer). Store at 4°C for up to two months.

3. Transcription Factor Binding Assay Buffer (4X)

One vial (Item No. 10006880) contains 3 ml of a 4X stock of Transcription Factor Binding Assay Buffer (TFB). Prepare Complete Transcription Factor Binding Assay Buffer (CTFB) immediately prior to use in 1.5 ml centrifuge tubes or 15 ml conical tubes as outlined in Table 3 below. This buffer is now referred to as CTFB. It is recommended that the CTFB be used the same day it is prepared.

Component	Volume/ Well	Volume/ Strip	Volume/ 96-well plate
UltraPure water	73 µl	584 μΙ	7,008 μΙ
4X Transcription Factor Binding Assay Buffer	25 μΙ	200 μΙ	2,400 μΙ
Reagent A (Item No. 10007472)	1 μΙ	8 μΙ	96 μΙ
300 mM DTT	1 μΙ	8 μΙ	96 μΙ
Total Required	100 μΙ	800 μl	9,600 μΙ

Table 3. Preparation of Complete Transcription Factor Binding Assay Buffer

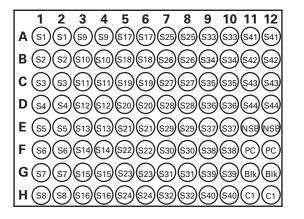
4. Transcription Factor Nrf2 Positive Control

One vial (Item No. 600591) contains 500 μ l of nuclear extract of HepG2 cells treated with 90 μ M tert-butylhydroquinone for 24 hours. This nuclear extract solution is provided as a positive control for Nrf2 activation; it is not intended for plate to plate comparisons. The protein solution provided is sufficient for 20 reactions and will provide a strong signal (>0.5 AU at 450 nm) when used at 25 μ l/well. When using this Positive Control, a decrease in signal may occur with repeated freeze/thaw cycles. It is recommended that the nuclear extract be aliquoted at 75 μ l per vial and stored at -80°C to avoid loss in signal from repeated freeze/thaw cycles.

ASSAY PROTOCOL

Plate Set Up

There is no specific pattern for using the wells on the plate. A typical layout of Nrf2 Positive Control (PC), Competitor dsDNA (C1), and samples of nuclear extracts (S1-S44) to be measured in duplicate is given below in Figure 2. We suggest you record the contents of each well on the template sheet provided (see page 26).



S1-S44 - Sample Wells

NSB - Non-specific Binding Wells

PC - Positive Control Wells

Blk - Blank Wells

C1 - Competitor dsDNA Wells

Figure 2. Sample plate format

Pipetting Hints

- Use different tips to pipette each reagent.
- Before pipetting each reagent, equilibrate the pipette tip in that reagent (i.e., slowly fill the tip and gently expel the contents, repeat several times).
- Do not expose the pipette tip to the reagent(s) already in the well.

General Information

- It is not necessary to use all the wells on the plate at one time; however a
 Positive Control should be run every time.
- For each plate or set of strips it is recommended that two Blk, two NSB, and two PC wells be included.

Performing the Assay

Binding of active Nrf2 to the consensus sequence

- 1. Equilibrate the plate and buffers to room temperature prior to opening. Remove the plate from the foil and select the number of strips needed. The 96-well plate supplied with this kit is ready to use.
 - NOTE: If you are not using all of the strips at once, place the unused strips back in the plate packet and store at 2-4°C. Be sure that the packet is sealed with the desiccant inside.
- 2. Prepare the CTFB as outlined in Table 3, on page 14.

- Add appropriate amount of reagent(s) listed below to the designated wells as follows:
 - Blk add 100 μ l of CTFB to designated wells.
 - NSB add 100 μ l of CTFB to designated wells. Do not add samples or Positive Control to these wells.
 - C1 Add 65 μ l of CTFB prior to adding 10 μ l of Transcription Factor Nrf2 Competitor dsDNA (Item No. 600593) to designated wells; then add to this 25 μ l of control cell lysate, or unknown sample.
 - NOTE: Competitor dsDNA must be added prior to adding the Positive Control or nuclear extracts.
 - S1-S44 Add 90 μ l of CTFB followed by 10 μ l of Nuclear Extract to designated wells. A protocol for isolation of nuclear extracts is given on page 12.
 - PC Add 75 μ l of CTFB followed by 25 μ l of Positive Control to appropriate wells.
- Use the 96-Well Cover Sheet (Item No. 400012) provided to seal the plate. Incubate overnight at 4°C without shaking or one hour at room temperature on an orbital shaker.
- 5. Empty the wells and wash five times with 200 μ l of 1X Wash Buffer. After each wash empty the wells in the sink. After the final wash (wash #5), tap the plate on a paper towel to remove any residual Wash Buffer.

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Addition of Transcription Factor Nrf2 Primary Antibody

1. Dilute the Transcription Factor Nrf2 Primary Antibody (Item No. 600592) 1:100 in 1X ABB as outlined in Table 4 below. Add 100 μ l of diluted Nrf2 Primary Antibody to each well except the Blk wells.

Component	Volume/ Well	Volume/ Strip	Volume/ 96-well plate
1X ABB	99 μl	792 µl	9,504 μΙ
Nrf2 Primary Antibody	1 μΙ	8 µl	96 µl
Total required	100 μΙ	800 µl	9,600 μΙ

Table 4. Dilution of Primary Antibody

- 2. Use an adhesive plate cover to seal the plate.
- 3. Incubate for one hour at room temperature on an orbital shaker.
- 4. Empty the wells and wash each well five times with 200 μl of 1X Wash Buffer. After each wash, empty the contents of the plate into the sink. After the final wash (wash #5), tap the plate three to five times on a paper towel to remove any residual Wash Buffer.

Addition of the Transcription Factor Goat Anti-Rabbit HRP Conjugate

1. Dilute the Transcription Factor Goat Anti-Rabbit HRP Conjugate (Item No. 10006884) 1:100 in 1X ABB as outlined in Table 5 below. Add 100 μ l of diluted secondary antibody to each well except the Blk wells.

Component	Volume/ Well	Volume/ Strip	Volume/ 96-well plate
1X ABB	99 µl	792 µl	9,504 μΙ
Goat Anti-Rabbit HRP Conjugate	1 μΙ	8 µl	96 μΙ
Total required	100 μΙ	800 µl	9,600 μΙ

Table 5. Dilution of Secondary Antibody

- 2. Use an adhesive plate cover to seal the plate.
- 3. Incubate for one hour at room temperature on an orbital shaker.
- 4. Empty the wells and wash five times with 200 μ l of 1X Wash Buffer. After each wash, empty the contents of the plate into the sink. After the final wash (wash #5), tap the plate three to five times on a paper towel to remove any residual Wash Buffer.

Develop and Read the Plate

- 1. To each well being used add 100 μ l of Transcription Factor Developing Solution (Item No. 10006888), which has been equilibrated to room temperature.
- 2. Incubate the plate for 15 to 45 minutes at room temperature on an orbital shaker protected from light. Allow the wells to turn medium to dark blue prior to adding Transcription Factor Stop Solution (Item No. 10006889). (This reaction can be monitored by taking absorbance measurements at 655 nm prior to stopping the reactions; An OD₆₅₅ of 0.4-0.5 yields an OD₄₅₀ of approximately 1). Monitor development of sample wells to ensure adequate color development prior to stopping the reaction. NOTE: Do not overdevelop; however PC wells may need to overdevelop to allow adequate color development in sample wells.
- 3. Add 100 μl of Stop Solution per well being used. The solution within the wells will change from blue to yellow after adding the Stop Solution.
- Read absorbance at 450 nm within five minutes of adding the Stop Solution. Blank the plate reader according to the manufacturer's requirements using the blank wells.

Assay Procedure Summary

NOTE: This procedure is provided as a quick reference for experienced users. Follow the detailed procedure when initially performing the assay.

- 1. Add appropriate amounts of CTFB, competitor dsDNA, positive control, or sample to appropriate wells as indicated in Table 6 (see page 22).
- Incubate overnight at 4°C without shaking or one hour at room on an orbital shaker.
- 3. Wash each well five times with 200 µl of 1X Wash Buffer.
- 4. Add 100 μl of diluted Nrf2 Primary Antibody per well (except Blk wells).
- 5. Incubate one hour at room temperature on an orbital shaker.
- 6. Wash each well five times with 200 μl of 1X Wash Buffer.
- Add 100 μl of diluted Secondary Antibody per well (except Blk wells).
- 8. Incubate one hour at room temperature on an orbital shaker.
- 9. Wash each well five times with 200 µl of 1X Wash Buffer.
- 10. Add 100 μl of Developing Solution per well.
- 11. Incubate 15 to 45 minutes at room temperature on an orbital shaker.
- 12. Add 100 µl of Stop Solution per well.
- 13. Measure the absorbance at 450 nm.

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Steps	Reagent	Blk	NSB	PC	C1	S1-S44
	CTFB	100 μΙ	100 μΙ	75 µl	65 µl	90 µl
4 Add	Competitor dsDNA				10 μΙ	
1. Add reagents	Positive Control			25 μΙ	25 μΙ	
	Samples					10 μΙ
2. Incubate	Cover plate and incubate overnight at 4°C without shaking or one hour at RT on an orbital shaker					
3. Wash		Wash all v	vells five tir	mes		
4. Add reagents	Primary Antibody		100 μΙ	100 μΙ	100 μΙ	100 μΙ
5. Incubate	Cover plate and incubate one hour at room temperature on an orbital shaker			al shaker		
6. Wash	Wash all wells five times					
7. Add reagents	Secondary Antibody		100 μΙ	100 μΙ	100 μΙ	100 μΙ
8. Incubate	Cover plate and incubate one hour at room temperature on an orbital shaker			al shaker		
9. Wash	Wash all wells five times					
10. Add reagents	Developer Solution	100 μΙ	100 μΙ	100 μΙ	100 μΙ	100 μΙ
11. Incubate	Monitor development in wells for 15-45 minutes at RT on an orbital shaker					
12. Add reagents	Stop Solution	100 μΙ	100 μΙ	100 μΙ	100 μΙ	100 μΙ
13. Read	Read plate at wavelength of 450 nm					

Table 6. Quick Protocol Guide

ANALYSIS

Performance Characteristics

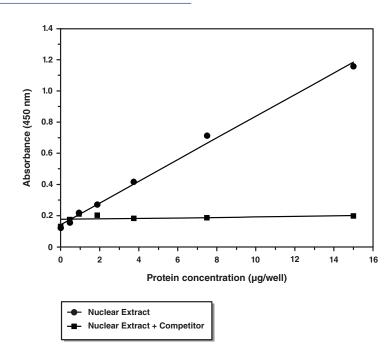


Figure 3. Assay of Nrf2 in a nuclear extract from HepG2 cells treated with 90 µM tert-butylhydroquinone for 24 hours

RESOURCES

Interferences

The following reagents were tested for interference in the assay.

Reagent	Will Interfere (Yes or No)
EGTA (≤1 mM)	No
EDTA (≤0.5 mM)	No
ZnCl (any concentration)	Yes
DTT (between 1 and 5 mM)	No
Dimethylsulfoxide (≤1.5%)	No

Troubleshooting

Problem	Possible Causes	Recommended Solutions
No signal or weak signal in all wells	A. Omission of key reagent B. Plate reader settings not correct C. Reagent/reagents expired D. Salt concentrations affected binding between DNA and protein E. Developing reagent used cold F. Developing reagent not added to correct volume	A. Check that all reagents have been added and in the correct order; perform the assay using the Positive Control B. Check wavelength setting on plate reader and change to 450 nm C. Check expiration date on reagents D. Reduce the amount of nuclear extract used in the assay, or reduce the amount of salt in the nuclear extracts (alternatively can perform buffer exchange) E. Prewarm the Developing Solution to room temperature prior to use F. Check pipettes to ensure correct amount of Developing Solution was added to wells

Problem	Possible Causes	Recommended Solutions
High signal in all wells	A. Incorrect dilution of antibody (too high) B. Improper/inadequate washing of wells C. Over-developing	 A. Check antibody dilutions and use amounts outlined in instructions B. Follow the protocol for washing wells using the correct number of times and volumes C. Decrease the incubation time when using the developing reagent
High background (NSB)	Incorrect dilution of antibody (too high)	Check antibody dilutions and use amounts outlined in the instructions
Weak signal in sample wells	A. Sample concentration is too low B. Incorrect dilution of antibody C. Salt concentrations affecting binding between DNA and protein	A. Increase the amount of nuclear extract used; loss of signal can occur with multiple freeze/thaw cycles of the sample; prepare fresh nuclear extracts and aliquot as outlined in product insert B. Check antibody dilutions and use amounts outlined in the instructions C. Reduce the amount of nuclear extract used in the assay or reduce the amount of salt in the nuclear extracts (alternatively can perform buffer exchange)

References

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NOTES

Warranty and Limitation of Remedy

Buyer agrees to purchase the material subject to Cayman's Terms and Conditions. Complete Terms and Conditions including Warranty and Limitation of Liability information can be found on our website.

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