



AlerTox® ELISA Milk Kit

For the quantitative detection of milk proteins (casein and beta-lactoglobulin) in food products

REF KIT3041 (96 reactions)



Table of Contents

1. Introduction	3
1.1 Test Sensitivity and Specificity	3
1.2 Sample Preparation	3
1.3 Test Principle	4
2. Materials and Storage	4
2.1 Materials Supplied in the Kit	4
2.2 Storage Conditions and Stability	4
2.3 Material Required but Not Provided	5
2.4 Optional Materials/Equipment	5
3. Test Procedure	5
3.1 Reagent Preparation	5
3.2.1 Extraction & Sample Dilution Buffer	5
3.1.2 Standards	5
3.1.3 Washing Solution	6
3.1.4 ELISA Plate	6
3.2 Sample Preparation	6
3.2.1 Workflow Overview	7
3.3 ELISA Procedure	7
3.3.1 Workflow Overview	8
4. Results Calculations	9
5. General Precautions	10
6. Additional Information	11
6.1 Sample Extraction Compatibility	11
6.2 AlerTox ELISA Milk Kit	11
6.2.1 Summary of Specifications	11
6.2.2 Recovery	12
6.2.3 Non-Cross Reactivity	13
7. Example Assay Layout	14
8. Disclaimer	14
9. Contact Information	15
10. Change Index	15
Appendix A. Specialized Sample Extraction Procedures	16
A.1 For Foods and Drinks Containing Polyphenols, Tannins or Antioxidants	16
A.2 For Rinse Water or Clean-in-Place Water (AlerTox ELISA Milk Kit)	17

1. Introduction

Milk is one of the “Big 9” food allergens that requires product labeling. After peanuts and tree nuts, milk is the third leading cause of food-induced anaphylaxis. Milk allergies affect 2 –3% of infants and children worldwide and may persist into adulthood. Therefore, accurate and reliable detection of major milk proteins is important for consumer safety and compliance with food labeling regulations.

The main allergens in milk are casein and β -lactoglobulin (BLG) proteins. In cow’s milk, protein accounts for 38% of the solid, non-fat content with casein comprising about 80% of this protein and BLG comprising 10 – 15% of this protein. Casein is heat stable and can be found in a wide range of foods and wine. In contrast, BLG is not heat stable and may be destroyed during food processing. In addition, BLG is found in the milk of most mammals, including cows, sheep and goats but not humans.

There are three AlerTox® ELISA Kits specific for casein, BLG, or both (Milk). Because the AlerTox ELISA Milk Kit can detect both casein and BLG, it is the all-purpose milk testing kit for foods as well as rinse or clean-in-place water. The AlerTox ELISA Casein Kit was designed for testing wine and other food sample types. The AlerTox ELISA β -Lactoglobulin Kit is often used to test foods that are not heated over 60 °C (140 °F) during production.

Note: Read this manual carefully before starting the test. The test must be performed by thoroughly trained staff.

1.1 Test Sensitivity and Specificity

The AlerTox ELISA Milk Kit detects and quantifies milk proteins (i.e., casein and BLG) in food products, such as bread, cakes, pastries, cookies, instant soups, wine, sausages, meat salads and other foodstuffs that may be raw, heated or baked. When samples have been heated above 70 °C (158 °F), this kit will only detect casein because the heat-denatured BLG proteins are not recognized by the anti-BLG antibodies. This kit can process clean-in-place (CIP)/rinse water samples.

The limit of detection (LOD) is 0.05 ppm (mg of milk proteins per kg or L of sample), the limit of quantification (LOQ) is 0.05 ppm of milk proteins (mg/kg or mg/L) and the detection is quantitative between 0.5 and 10 ppm (see *Section 6.2.1, Summary of Specifications*, for more details). See *Section 4, Results Calculations*, for more details about the expression of the results.

The cross-reactivity with other food matrices is shown in the following table:

Cross-Reactive Matrix	Percent Cross-Reactivity (%)
Milk, sheep	0.25
Milk, goat	0.30

See *Section 6.2.2, Recovery*, and *Section 6.2.3, Non-Cross Reactivity*, for additional data.

Important: Do not modify the protocol with respect to the timing, temperatures, plate washing, pipetting volumes, types of buffers or pH values of the buffers. Any of these protocol modifications will invalidate the test system.

1.2 Sample Preparation

Important: Please follow these instructions carefully, as there are sample preparation differences compared to most of the AlerTox ELISA Kits. The resulting sample extracts can only be tested using the AlerTox ELISA Milk assay.

See *Section 6.1, Sample Extraction Compatibility*, for more details about other AlerTox ELISA Kits.

1.3 Test Principle

The AlerTox ELISA Milk Kit works on the principle of a quantitative sandwich ELISA. The antigen concentration is directly proportional to the color intensity of the test sample. Here is a brief overview of the sandwich ELISA test:

1. Primary antibodies directed against milk proteins are bound on the surface of a microtiter plate. Milk protein-containing standards or test samples are placed into the wells of the microtiter plate. After a 20-minute incubation at room temperature (15 to 25 °C, 59 to 77 °F), the wells are washed with washing solution to remove unbound material.
2. Peroxidase-conjugated secondary antibodies directed against milk proteins are put into the wells, and after a second 20-minute incubation, the plate is washed again.
3. The Substrate Solution is added, and the plate is incubated for another 20 minutes, resulting in the development of a blue color in positive wells. The addition of the Stop Solution inhibits further color development, and the color turns yellow. The yellow color is measured photometrically at 450 nm (OD_{450 nm}).

2. Materials and Storage

2.1 Materials Supplied in the Kit

Item	Description	96 wells
1	Breakable strips of 8 wells, each coated with anti-casein and anti-BLG primary antibodies. In a re-sealable foil bag containing a frame and drying agent. Ready to use.	12 strips
2	5, 100X AlerTox Milk Standards: concentrations <i>after dilution</i> : 0 – 0.5 – 2 – 5 – 10 ppm.	5 x 1 mL
3	Conjugate: Peroxidase-conjugated, anti-casein and anti-BLG secondary antibodies. Ready to use.	1 x 15 mL
4	Substrate Solution, containing trimethylbenzene (TMB). Ready to use.	1 x 15 mL
5	Stop Solution, containing sulfuric acid (H ₂ SO ₄). Ready to use.	1 x 15 mL
6	5X Extraction & Sample Dilution Buffer.	4 x 60 mL
7	10X Washing Solution.	2 x 60 mL

2.2 Storage Conditions and Stability

- All kit components should be kept at 2 to 8 °C (36 to 46 °F) in the dark. DO NOT FREEZE.
- Return all reagents to 2 to 8 °C (36 to 46 °F) immediately after use.
- The diluted Washing Solution (1X) can be used for 4 weeks when stored at 2 to 8 °C (36 to 46 °F).
Important: If needed, redissolve precipitants by warming the 10X Washing Solution at 37 °C (99 °F) for 15 minutes before dilution. Do not use the buffer if the precipitant does not redissolve.
- The diluted Extraction & Sample Dilution Buffer (1X) can be used for 1 week when stored at 2 to 8 °C (36 to 46 °F).
Important: If crystals precipitate during storage of the 5X Extraction & Sample Dilution Buffer, warm it to 37 °C (99 °F) for 15 minutes before use. Do not use the buffer if the precipitant does not redissolve.
- Diluted Standards are stable for at least 24 hours when stored at 2 to 8 °C (36 to 46 °F).
- The Sample Extracts are stable for at least 24 hours at 2 to 8 °C (36 to 46 °F) or longer when frozen.



2.3 Material Required but Not Provided

- AlerTox Polyphenol Additive (Product No. ASY3213), only for samples with polyphenols and antioxidants*
- Multi-channel pipettor: 50 – 200 µL
- Sterile pipette tips
- Pipettors: 10 – 100 µL, 100 – 1,000 µL
- Water bath, adjustable to 60 °C (140 °F)
- 15 – 30 mL containers for the extractions
- ELISA Plate Reader with filter (450 nm) (Absorbance 96 ELISA Reader, Product No. MCH3005, or similar)
- Centrifuge
- Distilled water
- Stomacher, Mill, Mortar, Blender, etc.
- Vortex mixer

* Examples of foods rich in polyphenols, including tannins, and antioxidants are chocolate, tea, coffee, wine, purple corn and corn fiber, soy, berries and legumes, such as chickpeas or lentils.

2.4 Optional Materials/Equipment

- Homogenizer for sample extraction
- Repeating pipettor to minimize assay drift
- *Recommended:* An ELISA plate washer system to reduce the washing time and improve consistency

AlerTox ELISA Kits have been validated on fully automated ELISA systems (such as the BEAR Automated ELISA Robot). For validation details, contact us at www.hygiena.com/support.

3. Test Procedure

3.1 Reagent Preparation

We advise preparing reagents immediately before use and only preparing the amount necessary for the number of samples plus the 5 standards. Duplicate measurements of each sample and standard are recommended based on good laboratory practices (GLP) and quality control requirements.

Important: All reagents must be at room temperature (15 to 25 °C, 59 to 77 °F) at the time of use.

3.2.1 Extraction & Sample Dilution Buffer

Dilute the 5X Extraction & Sample Dilution Buffer 1:5 with distilled water to create the 1X solution.

Important: If needed, redissolve precipitants by warming the 5X Extraction & Sample Dilution Buffer at 37 °C (99 °F) for 15 minutes before dilution. Do not use the buffer if the precipitant does not redissolve.

Note: You will need the following amounts for each sample and standard in your test:

Sample Type	Amount of Sample/Standard	Amount of 1X Extraction & Sample Dilution Buffer
Standards	20 µL	2 mL*
Solid	0.5 g	10 mL
Liquid	0.5 mL	9.5 mL

* 10 mL total (including the zero standard).

3.1.2 Standards

Dilute all standards, including the zero standard, 1:100 with 1X Extraction & Sample Dilution Buffer.

Notes:

- We recommend mixing 20 µL of standard with 1,980 µL of 1X Extraction & Sample Dilution Buffer.
- The concentrations in the standard curve refer to the diluted standards.

3.1.3 Washing Solution

Dilute the 10X Washing Solution 1:10 with distilled water to create the 1X solution.

Important: If needed, redissolve precipitants by warming the 10X Washing Solution at 37 °C (99 °F) for 15 minutes before dilution. Do not use the buffer if the precipitant does not redissolve.

Note: You will need approximately 2.5 mL of 1X Washing Solution per well.

3.1.4 ELISA Plate

To prepare the ELISA plate, open the foil bag, remove the number of strips required to run the tests (samples plus the 5 standards, all in duplicate) and put the strips into a frame.

Notes:

- When opening the foil bag for the first time, be careful not to cut the ziplock off the bag.
- Unused wells must be stored in the foil bag with the drying agent at 2 to 8 °C (36 to 46 °F). Ensure the ziplock on the foil bag is sealed tightly.

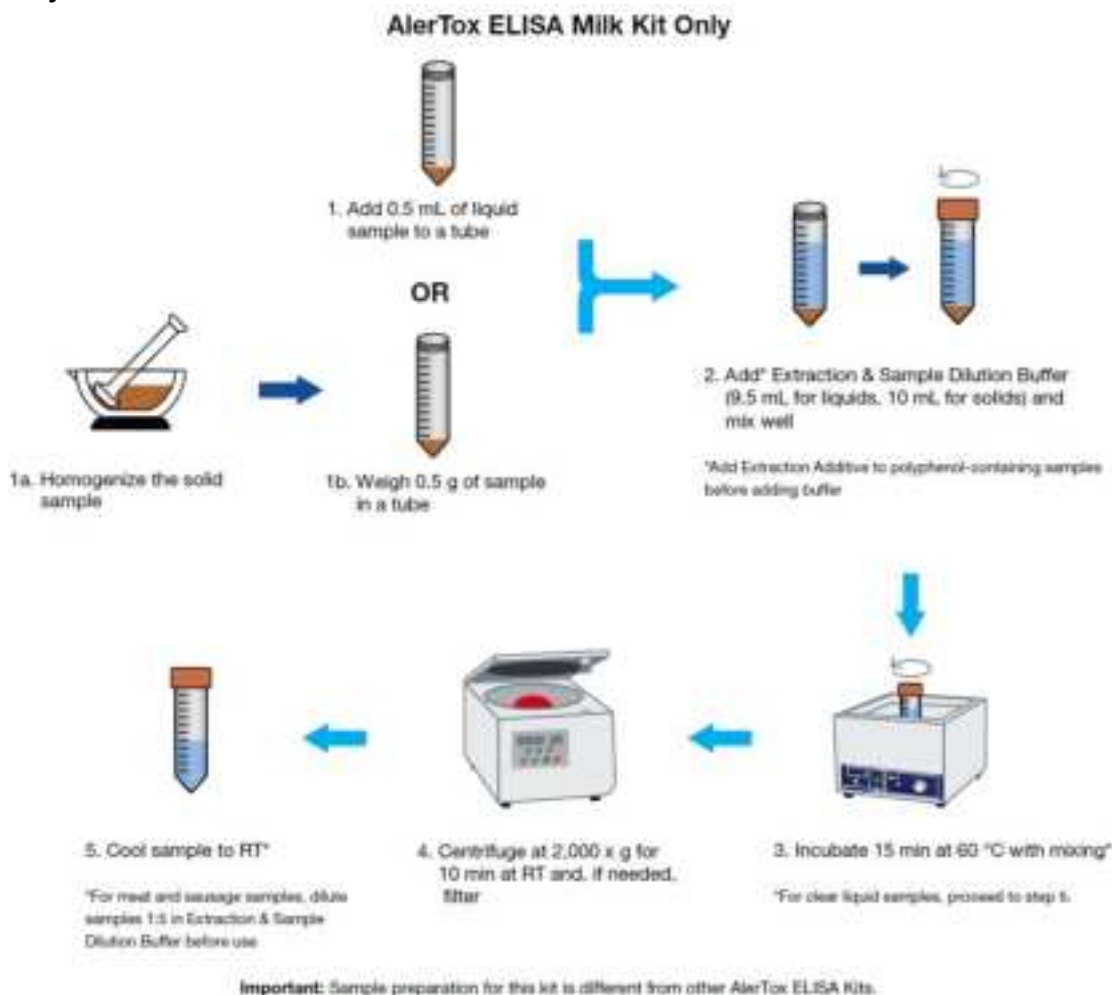
3.2 Sample Preparation

Important: See *Appendix A* for the sample preparation protocols for samples containing polyphenols, tannins or antioxidants or for rinse water or clean-in-place water. For other samples, follow the procedure below:

1. Resuspend sample in 1X Extraction & Sample Dilution Buffer based on sample type:
 - a. For solid samples:
 - i. Maximize the homogeneity of the sample by finely pulverizing a minimum of 5 g of sample in a mortar, impact mill or a similar device.
 - ii. Resuspend 0.5 g of the homogenized mixture in 10 mL of 1X Extraction & Sample Dilution Buffer.
 - b. For other liquid samples:
 - i. Add 0.5 mL of the liquid sample to 9.5 mL of 1X Extraction & Sample Dilution Buffer.
2. Mix well.
3. Incubate the mixture for 15 minutes in a preheated water bath at 60 °C (140 °F), shaking samples every 2 minutes to ensure homogeneity.
4. Centrifuge the mixture for 10 minutes at 2,000 x *g* at room temperature (15 to 25 °C, 59 to 77 °F). If the supernatant is still not completely separated from the precipitate, filter the supernatant.
5. Cool the sample extract (supernatant or filtrate) to room temperature (15 to 25 °C, 59 to 77 °F). For meat and sausage samples, dilute the sample extracts 1:5 with 1X Extraction & Sample Dilution Buffer.



3.2.1 Workflow Overview



3.3 ELISA Procedure

Important: The most critical points of the ELISA procedure are the temperature, timing and plate washing. Insufficient washing will result in poor precision and false results.

Note: For higher reproducibility, we recommend using a well-maintained, automated plate washer in steps 3 and 6 below.

1. Add 100 µL of the diluted standards or sample extracts in duplicate into the appropriate wells of the microtiter plate.

Note: See *Section 7, Example Assay Layout*. If you have a large number of samples, pipette one set of standards before the samples and the duplicate set of standards after the samples and use the arithmetic mean values for calculations.

2. Incubate for 20 minutes at room temperature (15 to 25 °C, 59 to 77 °F).

Important: Do not shake the plate during this incubation.

3. Wash plates **three (3)** times with 300 µL of 1X Washing Solution per well.

Note: At the end of the automated washing or between each manual wash, invert the plates and strike them against clean, dry paper towels to empty the wells and remove residual liquid.



4. Add 100 μL of Conjugate Solution into each well.
5. Incubate for 20 minutes at room temperature (15 to 25 $^{\circ}\text{C}$, 59 to 77 $^{\circ}\text{F}$).

Important: Do not shake the plate during this incubation.

6. Wash plates **five (5)** times with 300 μL of 1X Washing Solution per well.

Note: At the end of the automated washing or between each manual wash, invert the plates and strike them against clean, dry paper towels to empty the wells and remove residual liquid.

7. Pipette 100 μL of Substrate Solution into each well.
8. Allow the reaction to develop in the dark (the substrate is light-sensitive) for 20 minutes at room temperature (15 to 25 $^{\circ}\text{C}$, 59 to 77 $^{\circ}\text{F}$).

Important: Do not shake the plate during this incubation.

9. Stop the enzyme reaction by adding 100 μL of Stop Solution (0.5 M H_2SO_4) into each well.

10. Gently shake the plate by hand and wait for 1 minute.

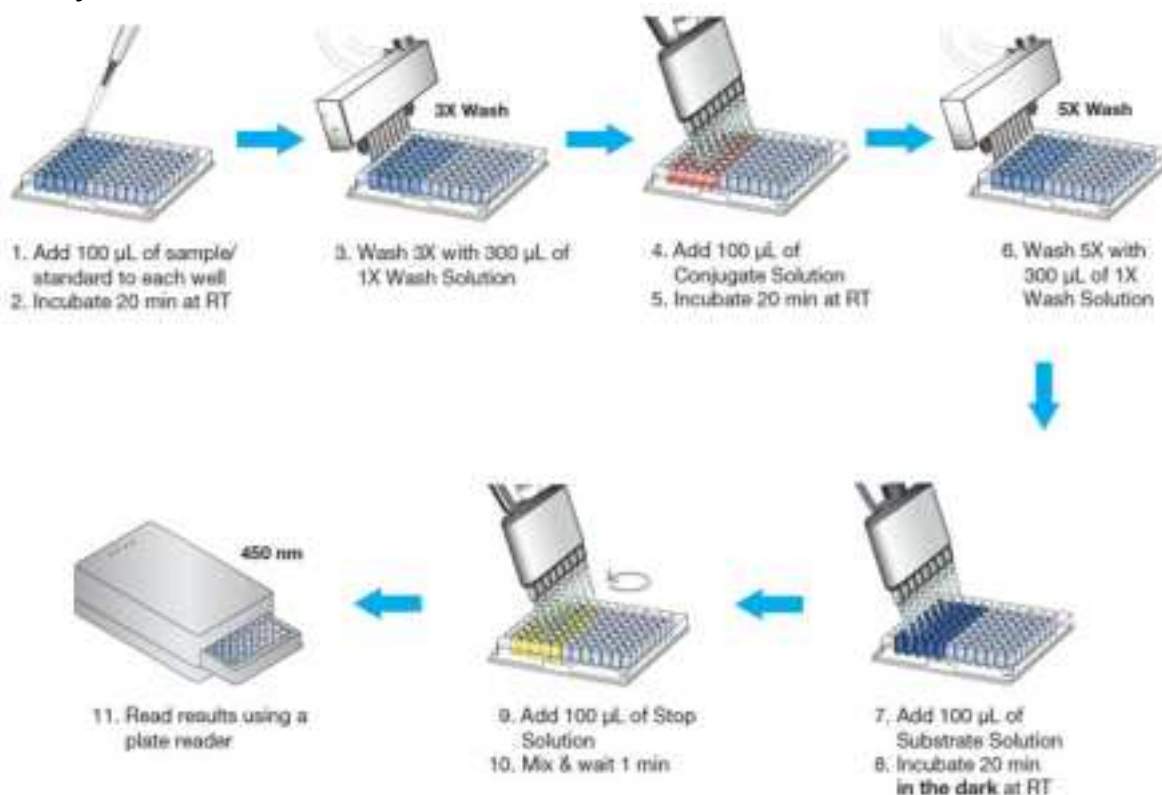
Note: Wells containing blue color turn yellow in the presence of casein and BLG.

11. To measure results, use an ELISA plate reader with a 450 nm filter ($\text{OD}_{450\text{ nm}}$), following the instrument manufacturer's instructions.

Note: Measure the color change within 30 minutes.

Important: If any sample results fall outside the range of the milk protein standard curve, do not extrapolate the data. Instead, dilute the sample extract further with 1X Extraction & Sample Dilution Buffer and repeat the ELISA test using this diluted sample extract and standards, in duplicate.

3.3.1 Workflow Overview



4. Results Calculations

The results are measured as the concentration of whole milk proteins (casein and BLG). See below for conversion factors to calculate results for meat, sausage and CIP water (Step 4) or concentrations for various milk products (Step 5).

The standards are prepared for a direct determination of whole milk protein concentrations in samples. The dilution of samples in the extraction process, as described in the sample preparation procedures, is already taken into consideration when calculating levels. However, results must account for any additional dilution (e.g., due to high sample concentration or some alternative sample extraction procedures) (Step 4, notes below). Use the *AlerTox ELISA Calculation Worksheet* (available at www.hygiena.com/documents) or the following instructions to calculate results.

Important: Do not use the *AlerTox ELISA Calculation Worksheet* if the Zero Standard on the plate reader software is defined as the Blank for the calculation of $B - B_0$.

When interpreting the results, the arithmetic mean is used for calculations.

1. Calculate the mean OD value ($OD_{450\text{ nm}}$) for each set of duplicate reference standards and duplicate samples.
2. Subtract the mean value of the Zero Standard from each mean OD value of standards or samples ($OD - OD_{\text{Standard } 0} = B - B_0$). See below, *Example Assay Data*.

Important: If the Zero Standard on the plate reader software is defined as the Blank for the calculation of $B - B_0$, skip this step.

3. To create the standard curve, plot the adjusted OD values of standards 1 to 4 on the y-axis versus the concentration of milk proteins in ppm on the x-axis. See below, *Example of a Typical Standard Curve*.
4. For each sample extract, find the value $B - B_0$ on the y-axis. Then, read the corresponding value on the x-axis of the standard curve to determine the concentration of milk proteins.

Notes:

- When using the standard sample preparation procedure (Section 3.2), it is *not* necessary to multiply the resulting concentration of the foodstuff sample by the dilution factor of 20.
 - For meat and sausage samples, multiply the results by 5 to account for the additional dilution during sample extraction (Step 5).
 - When testing rinse or CIP water, divide the result by 4 to compensate for the dilution factor used for this extraction procedure. (The sample concentration will be in mg/L.)
5. To convert ppm of milk protein to ppm of a milk product, multiply by the appropriate conversion factor listed in the following table:

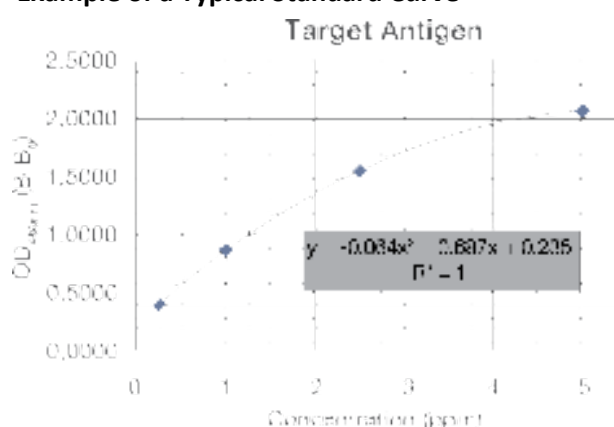
Matrix	Conversion Factor* (Multiply by)	Matrix	Conversion Factor* (Multiply by)
Total milk	33	β-Lactoglobulin	1.0
Whole milk powder (NIST RM1549a)	4.8	Caseinate	1.0
Skim milk powder (NIST RM1549)	3.6	Curd	19
Skim milk powder (MoniQA 092014)	3.3	Yogurt	31

* Conversion factors were determined during kit validation.

Example Assay Data

Standard	Target Antigen [ppm]	Mean OD _{450nm}	B – B ₀
Zero	0.0	0.108	—
1	2.0	0.265	0.157
2	10.0	0.606	0.498
3	25.0	1.193	1.085
4	50.0	1.928	1.820

Example of a Typical Standard Curve



5. General Precautions

- If your skin comes in contact with toxic or irritating substances, rinse the affected area with plenty of water and seek medical attention if needed. Please refer to the SDS, available at www.hygiena.com/SDS.
 - The Substrate Solution contains TMB, which is highly toxic if inhaled, ingested or contacts skin. Please refer to the SDS.
 - The Stop Solution contains H₂SO₄, which is corrosive. Please refer to the SDS.
- Handle the test kit in accordance with GLP.
 - Do not use reagents beyond the expiration date of the kit.
 - Handle all solutions with gloves.
 - During the sample extraction, avoid cross-contamination.
 - Devices, such as a blender, must be cleaned after each sample preparation.
 - Use sterile pipette tips.
 - Do not exchange reagent vial caps.
 - Do not interchange reagents between kits of different lot numbers.
- Do not alter reagents. Doing so can cause inaccurate results.
- All reagents must be equilibrated to room temperature (15 to 25 °C, 59 to 77 °F) before use.
- Do not use solutions if they become cloudy or precipitate. The only exceptions are 10X Washing Solution and 5X Extraction & Sample Dilution Buffer, which may have crystalline precipitants that must be completely dissolved before use (see Section 2.2).
- Substrate Solution is light sensitive. Avoid exposure to direct light and store in the dark.
- Use only distilled water for the dilution of concentrated buffers.
- Do not allow wells to dry completely.
- Avoid incubating microtiter plates on cold work benches.

6. Additional Information

6.1 Sample Extraction Compatibility

Individual samples must be extracted separately when using the following kits:

Individual Sample Extractions Required		
AlerTox ELISA Casein	AlerTox ELISA Crustacean	AlerTox ELISA Fish
AlerTox ELISA Histamine*	AlerTox ELISA Lysozyme†	AlerTox ELISA Milk

* The AlerTox ELISA Histamine Kit is based on a competitive ELISA test, while all other AlerTox ELISA Kits are based on sandwich ELISA tests.

† Cheese and other food samples, except for wine, must be extracted separately.

The following AlerTox ELISA kits share the same sample preparation protocol, meaning the sample extract can be tested using 16 different ELISA Assays:

Compatible Sample Extractions			
AlerTox ELISA Almond	AlerTox ELISA BLG*	AlerTox ELISA Cashew	AlerTox ELISA Coconut
AlerTox ELISA Egg	AlerTox ELISA Hazelnut	AlerTox ELISA Lupine	AlerTox ELISA Lysozyme†
AlerTox ELISA Macadamia	AlerTox ELISA Mustard	AlerTox ELISA Ovalbumin	AlerTox ELISA Peanut
AlerTox ELISA Pistachio	AlerTox ELISA Sesame	AlerTox ELISA Soy (STI‡)	AlerTox ELISA Walnut

* BLG = β -lactoglobulin

† Only the wine extract is compatible. (Cheese and other food extracts are not compatible.)

‡ STI = Soy trypsin inhibitor

6.2 AlerTox ELISA Milk Kit

6.2.1 Summary of Specifications

Specification	AlerTox ELISA Milk*
Results	Concentration of milk protein (casein and BLG)
Limit of Detection (LOD)	0.05 ppm
Limit of Quantification (LOQ)	0.5 ppm
Standard Range	0 – 10 ppm
Quantification Range	0.5 – 10 ppm

* ppm = mg of milk proteins per L or kg of sample



Specification, continued	AlerTox ELISA Milk*	
Calculation Factors [†]	<i>Food types</i>	<i>Multiply by</i>
	Total milk	33
	Whole milk powder (NIST RM1549a)	4.8
	Skim milk powder (NIST RM1549)	3.6
	Skim milk powder (MoniQA MQA 092014)	3.3
	β-Lactoglobulin	1.0
	Caseinate	1.0
	Curd	19
	Yogurt	31

[†] Use the calculation factor to convert the results to the concentration of different food types.

For lot-specific assay data and acceptance/rejection criteria for measured values, see the Certificate of Analysis (www.hygiena.com/COA).

6.2.2 Recovery

Matrix*	Recovery (%)
Almond milk	101
Chocolate	100
Coconut milk	107
Cookies	99
Oat milk	99
Orange juice	100
Sausage/meat	101
Soy milk	94
Spices	92
Sweets	102
Wine	101

* Tested in typical matrices.

**6.2.3 Non-Cross Reactivity**

Of the matrices that were tested, the following were found to be non-cross-reactive with the AlerTox ELISA Milk Kit:

Non-Cross-Reactive Matrices				
Adzuki bean	Almond	Apricot	Barley	Bean, white
Beef	Brazil nut	Buckwheat	Cabbage, white	Caraway
Cardamom	Carob gum	Carrot	Cashew	Cayenne
Celery	Cherry	Chestnut	Chia	Chicken
Chickpea	Chili	Cinnamon	Clove	Cocoa
Coconut	Cod	Corn	Cumin	Dill
Duck	Egg (dried)	Fennel	Fenugreek	Flaxseed
Garden cress	Garlic (fresh)	Garlic (granulated)	Gelatin, cow	Ginger (fresh)
Ginger (ground)	Gliadin	Guar gum	Gum arabic	Hazelnut
Horseradish	Kidney bean	Kiwi	Lamb	Leek
Lentil	Lupine	Macadamia	Mustard, yellow	Nutmeg
Oats	Onion	Paprika	Pea	Peach
Peanut	Pecan	Pepper, black	Pine seed	Pistachio
Poppy seed	Pork	Potato	Prawn	Pumpkin seed
Radish	Rapeseed	Rice	Rye	Saccharose
Sesame	Shrimps	Soy flour	Soy lecithin	Split pea
Sunflower seed	Thyme	Tofu	Tomato	
Turkey	Turmeric	Walnut	Wheat	



7. Example Assay Layout

S0: Zero Standard (without antigen): the mean value = B_0 .

S1 – S4: Standards: the mean value = B .

SP: Samples: the mean value = B .

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
A	S0	S0	SP4	SP4	SP12	SP12						
B	S1	S1	SP5	SP5	Etc.	Etc.						
C	S2	S2	SP6	SP6	Etc.	Etc.						
D	S3	S3	SP7	SP7	Etc.	Etc.						
E	S4	S4	SP8	SP8	Etc.	Etc.						
F	SP1	SP1	SP9	SP9	Etc.	Etc.						
G	SP2	SP2	SP10	SP10	Etc.	Etc.						
H	SP3	SP3	SP11	SP11	Etc.	Etc.						

8. Disclaimer

Field of use: Use the Hygiena product for research and development, quality assurance and quality control under supervision of technically qualified persons. The information generated from the Hygiena product is only to be used in conjunction with the user's regular quality assurance program. The Hygiena product should not be used as the sole basis for assessing the safety of products for release to consumers. Data obtained from the Hygiena product must not be used for human diagnostic or human treatment purposes. Before using product, read the *Limitation of Warranty and Liability* (available in the *Hygiena General Terms and Conditions* at www.hygiena.com/terms-and-conditions).

These products are made from high-quality raw materials. No warranty of any kind is made, either expressed or implied, as to their suitability other than to measure the target antigen content when used exactly in accordance with these instructions, except regarding the quality of these materials.

Use of the kit for any other purpose is outside its intended use. For matrices that have not been previously validated, Hygiena cannot guarantee that the kit is fit for purpose and that the results obtained for these matrices are accurate. Customers may choose to use the product on unvalidated food or surface matrices; however, Hygiena strongly recommends that users perform their own fit-for-use testing to confirm suitability and performance in their specific application. Any damages, including consequential or special damage or expense arising directly or indirectly from using this product, are limited to the replacement value of the kit.

For additional information or assistance with matrix validation, contact Hygiena at www.hygiena.com/support. All Hygiena Terms and Conditions apply and can be found at: www.hygiena.com/terms-and-conditions.



9. Contact Information

For more information, visit www.hygiena.com/contact. For technical support, visit www.hygiena.com/support.

10. Change Index

INS3022 REVD, July 2020

Clarified parts of the conversion factors table.

INS-KIT3041-001-REVA, June 2025

Updated recovery data, selectivity data and document ID number. Included use of the AlerTox Polyphenol Additive for some sample preparations.

Appendix A. Specialized Sample Extraction Procedures

A.1 For Foods and Drinks Containing Polyphenols, Tannins or Antioxidants

Follow this sample preparation protocol when testing foods and drinks that are rich in polyphenols, including tannins and antioxidants. Examples are listed in the following table:

Representative Matrices		
Berries	Chocolate	Corn, purple
Corn fiber	Coffee	Legumes (e.g., chickpeas, lentils)
Soy	Tea	Wine

Important: This procedure is **not** for use with the following kits:

- AlerTox ELISA Crustacean Kit
 - AlerTox ELISA Histamine Kit
 - AlerTox ELISA Lysozyme Kit
 - Wine extracts for the following kits:
 - AlerTox ELISA Casein Kit
 - AlerTox ELISA Ovalbumin Kit
- a. For solid samples, maximize the sample homogeneity by finely pulverizing a minimum of 5 g of sample in a mortar, impact mill or similar device.
- Note:** For liquid samples, proceed to Step b.
- b. Mix the sample with the AlerTox Polyphenol Additive (Product No. ASY3213) and 1X Extraction & Sample Dilution Buffer, based on the kit used:
- i. For AlerTox ELISA Kits except Hazelnut and Pistachio: mix the sample and AlerTox Polyphenol Additive first, then add 1X Extraction & Sample Dilution Buffer (see table below) and mix well.
 - ii. For the AlerTox ELISA Hazelnut and Pistachio Kits: Dissolve 1 g of AlerTox Polyphenol Additive in 100 mL of 1X Extraction & Sample Dilution Buffer before mixing with the specified amount of sample (see table below).

Kit	Sample	AlerTox Polyphenol Additive	1X Extraction & Sample Dilution Buffer
AlerTox ELISA Kits*	1 g (Step a, solid)	2 g	20 mL
	1 mL	2 g	19 mL
AlerTox ELISA Milk Kit	0.5 g (Step a, solid)	1 g	10 mL
	0.5 mL	1 g	9.5 mL
AlerTox ELISA Hazelnut and Pistachio Kits	0.5 g (Step a, solid)	10 mL	
	0.5 mL	9.5 mL	

* i.e., all AlerTox ELISA Kits except those specific for hazelnut, pistachio, milk or those excluded in the Important note above.

- c. Incubate for 15 minutes in a preheated water bath at 60 °C (140 °F), shaking the samples every 2 minutes to ensure homogeneity.
- d. Centrifuge for 10 minutes at $\geq 2,500 \times g$.
- e. If the supernatant is still not completely separated from the particulates, filter the supernatant.
- f. Proceed with the *ELISA Procedure* (Section 3.3).

Important: The results calculations will **not** require additional dilution-factor adjustments for this procedure.



A.2 For Rinse Water or Clean-in-Place Water (AlerTox ELISA Milk Kit)

- a. Adjust the pH of the sample to 9.5 ± 0.5 .
- b. Dilute 1 mL of the sample in 4 mL of 1X Extraction and Sample Dilution Buffer.
- c. Proceed with the *ELISA Procedure* (Section 3.3).



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