

Cellomics® Phospho-Chk2 Activation Kits

For High-Content Screening

1990.0

Number	Description
8402801	Phospho-Chk2 Activation Kit , sufficient materials for 1 × 96 wells
8402802	Phospho-Chk2 Activation Kit , sufficient materials for 5 × 96 wells

Kit Contents	8402801	8402802
Phospho-Chk2 Primary Antibody	12 µl	60 µl
DyLight™ 549 Conjugated Goat Anti-Rabbit IgG	30 µl	72 µl
Hoechst Dye	30 µl	30 µl
Wash Buffer (10X Dulbecco's PBS)	100 ml	100 ml
Wash Buffer II (10X Dulbecco's PBS with 1% Tween®-20)	100 ml	100 ml
Permeabilization Buffer (10X Dulbecco's PBS with 1% Triton® X-100)	100 ml	100 ml
Blocking Buffer (10X)	85 ml	85 ml
Thin Plate Seal Assembly	7/pack	7/pack

Storage: Upon receipt immediately store the Phospho-Chk2 Primary Antibody at -20°C. Store all other components at 4°C. Keep vials containing the fluorescent antibody and Hoechst Dye solutions protected from light. Allow buffers to warm to room temperature before use. See the **Solution Preparation** section for storage and stability of prepared solutions.

Warning: Please completely read these instructions and the accompanying material safety data sheets before using this product. The Cellomics Reagents are not for diagnostic use in humans or animals.

Introduction

The Cellomics Phospho-Chk2 Activation Kit contains optimized reagents for the detection and quantitation of phosphorylated Chk2 (Thr68) in the nuclei. The kit contains a primary monoclonal antibody that detects only the phosphorylated form of human Chk2, a goat anti-mouse secondary antibody conjugated to DyLight 549 Fluorophore and various other reagents and buffers required for immunofluorescence staining for high-content screening (HCS) assays.

Chk1 and Chk2 are kinases involved in DNA damage-induced cell-cycle check-point signaling. Chk2 is phosphorylated by ATM kinase in response to DNA damage, and Chk2 activation results in cell-cycle inhibition by p53 phosphorylation and other downstream targets. Phosphorylation at Thr68 is a prerequisite for the subsequent activation step, which is caused by Chk2 autophosphorylation on residues Thr383 and Thr387 in the kinase domain activation loop.¹⁻³

Phospho-Chk2 in A549 cells treated with etoposide was quantitatively assayed using the Cellomics Phospho-Chk2 Activation Kit, Cellomics ArrayScan® HCS Reader⁴ (Figure 1) and the Cellomics Compartmental Analysis BioApplication Software Module. Induction of DNA damage by etoposide leads to phosphorylation of Chk2 at Thr68 resulting in increased staining of the nucleus. Cells labeled using this kit also can be imaged by fluorescence or confocal microscopy.

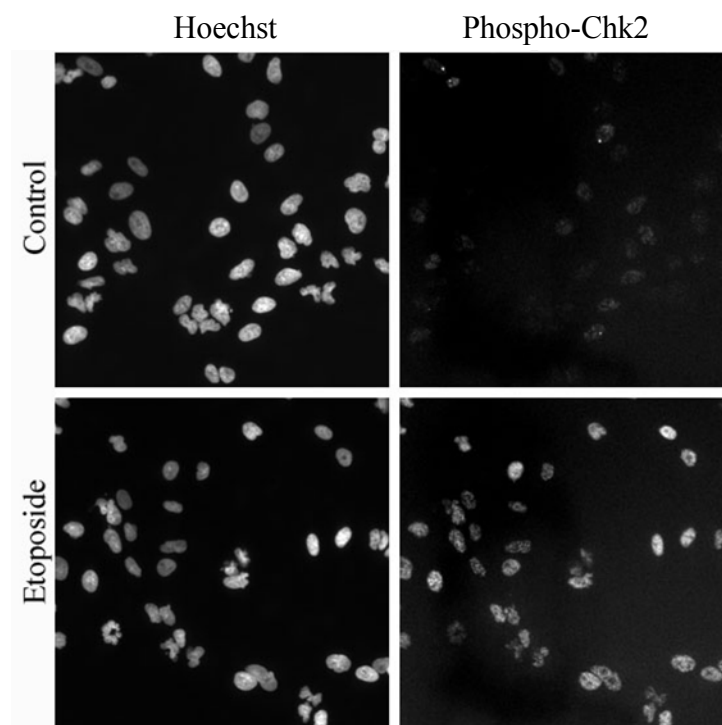


Figure 1. Staining of Phospho-Chk2 in A549 cells treated with vehicle (0.1% DMSO in media) or with 50 μ M etoposide for 3 hours. Cells were stained according to the kit protocol and imaged using a Cellomics ArrayScan HCS Reader.

Additional Materials Required

- Thermo Scientific 16% Formaldehyde (Product No. 28906)
- Packard View 96-well Microplates (e.g., Perkin-Elmer, Product # 6005182)
- Positive control compound such as etoposide (Sigma Aldrich # E1383)
- Fetal bovine serum

Cell Preparation Information

- This protocol is optimized for A549 cells (American Type Culture Collection #CCL-185). Using cells other than A549 may require optimization.
- For routine culture of cells, use F12K medium supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum, 100 units/ml penicillin and 100 μ g/ml streptomycin (F12K complete medium).
- Split cells when they reach 90% confluence at a dilution of 1:3. Use cells at a passage number \leq 20.
- For phospho-Chk2 detection, harvest cells by trypsinization, dilute into F12K complete medium and determine cell density. Dilute cells to 15×10^4 cells/ml in F12K complete medium and add 100 μ l of the cell suspension per well of a 96-well microplate to achieve the recommended plating density of 15,000 cells/well.
- Incubate cells overnight at 37°C in 5% CO₂ before drug treatment.
- This kit also effectively stains the following cell types: HeLa, HT1080 and HepG2.

Phospho-Chk2 Activation Kit Protocol

A. Solution Preparation (per 96-well plate)

1X Wash Buffer	Add 20 ml 10X Wash Buffer to 180 ml ultrapure water for a final volume of 200 ml. Store buffer at 4°C for up to 7 days.
1X Wash Buffer II	Add 6 ml 10X Wash Buffer II to 54 ml ultrapure water for a final volume of 60 ml. Store buffer at 4°C for up to 7 days.
Fixation Solution	Add 3 ml of 16% Formaldehyde to 9 ml of 1X Wash Buffer just before use.
1X Blocking Buffer	Add 5 ml of 10X Blocking Buffer to 45 ml Wash Buffer. Store buffer at 4°C for up to 7 days.
1X Permeabilization Buffer	Add 10 ml of 10X Permeabilization Buffer to 90 ml of ultrapure water for a final volume of 100 ml. Store buffer at 4°C for up to 7 days.
Primary Antibody Solution	Add 12 µl of anti-phospho-Chk2 primary antibody to 6 ml of 1X Blocking Buffer. Prepare solution just before each assay.
Staining Solution	Add 0.6 µl of Hoechst Dye and 12.0 µl of the DyLight 549 Goat Anti-Mouse Antibody to 6 ml of 1X Blocking Buffer. Prepare solution just before each assay.

B. Procedure

1. Prepare 2X solution of etoposide (100 µM) and add 100 µl to the cells. Incubate cells for 1 hour at 37°C.
2. Aspirate culture medium and add 100 µl of Fixation Solution to each well. Incubate plate in a fume hood at room temperature (RT) for 15 minutes.
3. Aspirate Fixation Solution completely, and then wash plate twice with 100 µl/well of 1X Wash Buffer.
4. Aspirate Wash Buffer completely, add 100 µl/well of 1X Permeabilization Buffer and incubate for 15 minutes at RT.
5. Aspirate Permeabilization Buffer and wash plate twice with 100 µl/well of 1X Wash Buffer.
6. Aspirate Wash Buffer, add 100 µl/well 1X Blocking Buffer supplemented with 2% fetal bovine serum (FBS), and incubate at room temperature for 15 minutes.
7. Aspirate Blocking Buffer and add 50 µl/well Primary Antibody Solution. Incubate for 1 hour at RT.
8. Aspirate Primary Antibody Solution and wash with 100 µl/well of 1X Wash Buffer II.
9. Aspirate Wash Buffer II and wash twice with 100 µl/well of 1X Wash Buffer.
10. Aspirate Wash Buffer and add 50 µl/well of staining solution containing goat secondary antibody. Incubate plate at RT for 45 minutes.
11. Aspirate Staining Solution and wash plate twice with 100 µl/well of 1X Wash Buffer II.
12. Aspirate Wash Buffer II and wash plate twice with 100 µl/well of 1X Wash Buffer.
13. Seal plate and evaluate on the ArrayScan HCS Reader. Store plates at 4°C.

Additional Information

A. Dose Response Curve

A549 cells were treated with different doses of etoposide treatment for 1 hour as described in the procedure, and intensity of phospho-Chk2 was measured (Figure 2). The feature plotted is the percent average intensity responders.

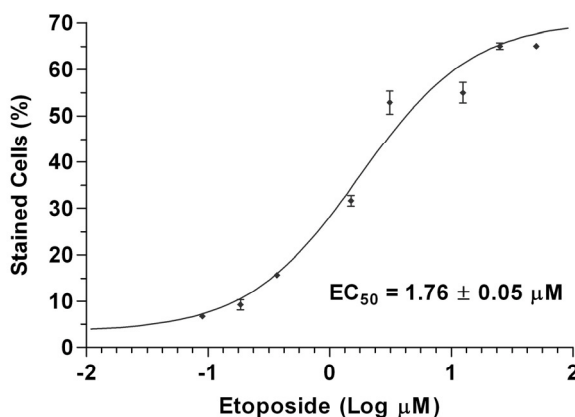


Figure 2. Dose response curve for phospho-Chk2-stained A549 cells treated with etoposide. The assay output parameter is the difference in percent cells with phospho-Chk2 staining after etoposide treatment. Data represents mean \pm SD from three plates (eight wells per 96-well plate per dose of etoposide).

B. Performance Robustness

The robustness of the kit was ascertained by determining the Z' for the difference in percent of average intensity responders in non-treated cells (vehicle) and cells treated with etoposide (50 μM).⁵ The Z' for phospho-Chk2 activation was 0.49 ± 0.04 .

DMSO tolerance: The assay performance using these kits was robust when compounds were added in DMSO up to a maximum concentration of 1% DMSO.

C. Microscope Information

Cells prepared and labeled according to these instructions can be used and analyzed by fluorescence microscopes using the appropriate filter set(s) or confocal microscopy. Optimization may be required when using slides, coverslips or multi-well chamber slides. Use image-processing software to quantify the targets. The approximate absorption/emission maxima of the fluorescent dyes are as follows:

DyLight 549 Conjugates = 550/568 nm

Hoechst Dye = 350/461 nm

D. Recommendations for Automation

- **Plating Cells:** To improve the uniformity and throughput of plating cells, use a liquid handling system such as a Thermo Scientific Multidrop[®] Combi or WellMate[®] Dispensers.
- **Dead Volumes:** Every piece of automation instrumentation has a non-recoverable dead volume associated with it. Be aware of these dead volumes, priming volumes and rinsing volumes when calculating your reagent requirements.
- **Nonspecific Binding:** Because of the potential of reagent interaction with large surface areas inherent to tubing, syringes and peristaltic pumps, pre-priming with reagents or pre-coating with protein blockers may be warranted.
- **Mixing:** Gentle mixing may be required when adding a DMSO-based solution to keep overly concentrated solutions from lying on top of the cell layer. Be careful not to dislodge cells or beads during mixing procedures.
- **Cell Washing:** Use an automated plate washer designed to gently wash attached cells. Be careful not to dislodge cells or beads during cell washing.
- **Incubation:** Minimize the time when plates with live cells are out of a controlled CO₂ environment. For best results, use an automated incubator to deliver plates to a pipetting deck.

- Exposure: Minimize operator exposure to fixative by some form of containment. Some reagents and compounds are light-sensitive; be aware of these constraints when scaling up for an automated run.
- Adapting to other plate formats: When using different plate types, adjust reagent volumes as needed. Some suggested starting volumes are listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Suggested volumes to use for different cell culture plates.

<u>Kit Component</u>	<u>96-Well Plates</u> (<u>µl/well</u>)	<u>384-Well Plates</u> (<u>µl/well</u>)	<u>24-Well Plates</u> (<u>µl/well</u>)
Fixation Solution	100	25	400
1X Wash Buffer	100	25	400
Wash Buffer II	100	25	400
1X Permeabilization Buffer	100	25	400
1X Blocking Buffer	100	25	400
Antibody Solution	50	12.5	200
Staining Solution	50	12.5	200
1X Wash Buffer (final wash)	150	37.5	200

Compatible BioApplication Software Modules

S50-0001-1 or S50-2001-1	Cytoplasm to Nucleus Translocation BioApplication
S50-5019-1 or S50-2019-1	Molecular Translocation BioApplication
S50-5011-1 or S50-2011-1	Target Detection BioApplication
S50-5017-1 or S50-2017-1	Compartmental Analysis BioApplication

References

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