

## INTENDED USE

The **Mouse anti-Anthrax Protective Antigen (PA83) Ig** ELISA Kit is an immunoassay suitable for quantifying or titrating total antibody activity specific for PA83 in serum or plasma. Other biological fluids, including tissue culture medium, may be validated for use.

## GENERAL INFORMATION



Anthrax, a zoonotic disease caused by the spore-forming bacterium *Bacillus anthracis* has become a biological warfare agent of concern due to the stability and extreme lethal consequences of human inhalation of spores. Exposure to infected animals or tissue is also a major safety concern. The disease can occur in three forms: cutaneous, gastrointestinal, and inhalation. Spores can remain viable and infective in the soil for many years. *B. anthracis* evades the immune system by producing an anti-phagocytic capsule. In addition, three proteins - protective antigen (PA), lethal factor (LF), and edema factor (EF) – are produced that act in combinations to form two exotoxins known as lethal toxin and edema toxin. Development of improved vaccines for protection of livestock and for human immunization have involved preparations that include combinations of these antigens. Immunoassays that measure titer of host antibody directed against the specific *B. anthracis* antigens (PA83/LF/EF) can be used to study the efficacy of anthrax vaccines and the exposure to the bacterium and/or separate antigens.

## PRINCIPLE OF THE TEST

The **Mouse anti-Anthrax PA83 Ig** ELISA kit is based on the binding of mouse anti-PA83 Ig in samples to PA83 immobilized on the microwells. Total anti-PA83 antibody is detected by anti-mouse Ig-specific antibody conjugated to HRP (horseradish peroxidase) enzyme. After a washing step, chromogenic substrate (TMB) is added and color is developed by the enzymatic reaction of HRP on the substrate which is directly proportional to the amount of anti-PA83 Ig present in the sample. Stopping Solution is added to terminate the reaction and absorbance at 450nm is then measured using an ELISA microwell reader. The activity of total mouse Ig antibody in samples is calculated relative to anti-Anthrax PA83 calibrators.

## PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS

### Specificity

Recombinant Anthrax PA83 is used to coat the microwells; thus the assay is specific for antibodies directed to PA83. The anti-Mouse IgG+IgA+IgM (H+L) HRP conjugate reacts with mouse IgG, IgA, and IgM class antibodies that bind to PA83 on the plate. IgE antibody would not be measured above background signals.

### Assay Sensitivity

The PA83 coating level and HRP conjugate concentration are optimized to differentiate anti-PA83 IgG from background (non-antibody) signal with mouse serum samples diluted 1:100.

### Calibrator Values

The calibrators are composed of dilutions of antibody reactive to PA83. Values are assigned as arbitrary anti-PA83 activity units (see Limits of the Assay).

## KIT CONTENTS

The microtiter well plate and all other reagents, if unopened, are stable at 2-8°C until the expiration date printed on the box label. Stabilities of the working solutions are indicated under Reagent Preparation.

**To Be Reconstituted:** Store as indicated.

Component	Preparation Instructions
<b>Wash Solution Concentrate (100x)</b> Cat. No. WB-100, 10ml	Dilute the entire volume 10ml + 990ml with distilled or deionized water into a clean stock bottle. Label as <b>Working Wash Solution</b> and store at ambient temperature until kit is used entirely.
<b>Sample Diluent Concentrate (20x)</b> Cat. No. SD-20T, 10ml	Dilute the entire volume, 10ml + 190ml with distilled or deionized water into a clean stock bottle. Label as <b>Working Sample Diluent (WSD)</b> and store at 2-8°C until the kit lot expires or is used.
<b>Anti-Mouse Ig - HRP Conjugate Concentrate (100x)</b> Part No. H- MsGAM.2a11, 0.15ml	Peroxidase conjugated anti-Mouse Ig in buffer with protein, detergents, and antimicrobial as stabilizers. Dilute fresh as needed; 10ul of concentrate to 1ml of <b>Working Sample/Conjugate Diluent</b> is sufficient for 1 8-well strip. Use within the working day and discard. Return 100X to 2-8°C storage.

**Ready For Use:** Store as indicated on labels.

Component	Part	Amt	Contents
<b>PA83 Microwell Strip Plate</b>	900-101	8-well strips (12)	Coated with PA83 and post-coated with stabilizers.
<b>Anti-PA83 Calibrators</b>			
10 U/ml	900-123B	0.65ml	Five (5) vials, each containing anti-PA83 levels in arbitrary activity Units; diluted in buffer with stabilizers antimicrobial.
20 U/ml	900-123C	0.65ml	
40 U/ml	900-123D	0.65ml	
80 U/ml	900-123E	0.65ml	
160 U/ml	900-123F	0.65ml	
<b>Anti-PA83 Positive Control</b>	900-123PC	0.65 ml	Antibody reactive with PA83. [Value range is on label]
<b>TMB Substrate</b>	80091	12 ml	Chromogenic substrate for HRP containing TMB and peroxide.
<b>Stop Solution</b>	80101	12 ml	Dilute sulfuric acid.

### Materials Required But Not Provided:

- Pipettors and pipettes that deliver 100ul and 1-10ml. A multi-channel pipettor is recommended.
- Disposable glass or plastic 5-15ml tubes for diluting samples and Anti-Mouse Ig HRP Concentrate.
- Graduated cylinder to dilute Wash Concentrate; 0.2 to 1L.
- Stock bottle to store diluted Wash Solution; 0.2 to 1L.
- Distilled or deionized water to dilute reagent concentrates.
- Microwell plate reader at 450 nm wavelength.

## PRECAUTIONS AND SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

Calibrators, Sample Diluent, and Antibody HRP contain bromonitrodioxane (BND: 0.05%, w/v). Stop Solution contains dilute sulfuric acid. Follow good laboratory practices and avoid ingestion or contact of any reagent with skin, eyes, or mucous membranes. All reagents may be disposed of down a drain with copious amounts of water. Applicable **MSDS** for the following reagents can be requested or obtained from ADI web site: TMB (substrate), H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> (stop solution), and BND (0.1% v/v in standards, sample diluent, and HRP-conjugates).

## LIMITATIONS OF THE ASSAY

### Quantitation of Antibody in a Sample

The ELISA measures anti-PA83 activity, a combination of antibody concentration and avidity for the PA83 antigens. Antibodies with substantially different total Ig concentrations may display similar anti-PA83 activities due to differences in avidity. The quantitation or activity of the samples is, therefore, appropriately expressed in activity Units (titer), rather than mass units of Ig (e.g., ug/ml).

### Calibrator Curve Quantitation

To quantitate antibody activity from a calibrator curve (such as provided with the kit), the dilution curve of the samples must be parallel to the calibrator curve to avoid different values being obtained from different regions of the curve. Antibodies that are not matched in PA83 avidity will often have non-parallel dilution curves. In these cases, antibody activity is best expressed as a titer relative to a reference positive such as the 40 U/ml Calibrator, or another Calibrator in the kit (see Calculation of Results).

## ASSAY DESIGN AND SET-UP

### Sample Collection and Handling

Culture medium, serum, and other biological fluids may be used as samples with proper dilution to avoid solution matrix interference. For **serum**, collect blood by venipuncture, allow clotting, and separate the serum by centrifugation at room temperature. For other samples, including **tissue culture media**, clarify the sample by centrifugation and/or filtration prior to dilution in Sample Diluent. If samples will not be assayed immediately, store refrigerated for up to a few weeks or frozen for long-term storage. Avoid freeze-thaw cycles.

### Assay Design

Review Calculation of Results (p. 5-7) and Limits of the Assay (above) before proceeding:

- Select the proper sample dilutions accounting for expected potency of positives and minimizing non-specific binding (NSB) and other matrix effects; for example, net signal for non-immune samples should be <0.5 OD. This is usually 1:100 or greater dilution for mouse sera with normal levels of IgG and IgM.
- Run a Sample Diluent **Blank**. This signal is an indicator of proper assay performance, especially of washing efficacy, and is used for net OD calculations, if required (See **Method A, B**). Blank OD should be <0.3.
- Run a set of **Calibrators**. Calibrators validate that the assay was performed to specifications; results can be used to normalize between-assay variation for enhanced precision. Reading values off a Calibrator curve, **Method C**, has limitations. See Limits of the Assay (above).
- Run the **Anti-PA83 Positive Control**. The value range is on the vial label.
- Run a range of sample dilutions for expected higher positives that allows calculation of antibody **Titer** (when specific titer is at least 4-fold higher than non-immune). See **Method D**.
- Run samples in duplicate if used for quantitation; non-immunes that are significantly lower than immunes may be run in singlicate. The Calibrators that are used for quantitation, e.g., for between-assay normalization, should be run in duplicate. When determining titer from a dilution curve, singlicates can be run if more than two dilution points are used for titer calculations.

## Plate Set-up

Bring all reagents to room temperature (18-30°C) equilibration (at least 30 minutes).

- Determine the number of wells for the assay run. Duplicates are recommended, including 8 Calibrator wells and 2 wells for each sample and control to be assayed.
- Remove the appropriate number of microwell strips from the pouch and return unused strips to the pouch. Reseal the pouch and store refrigerated.
- Add 200-300ul Working Wash Solution to each well and let stand for about 1-5 minutes. Aspirate or dump the liquid and pat dry on a paper towel before sample addition.

## Assay Procedure

ALL STEPS ARE PERFORMED AT ROOM TEMPERATURE. After each reagent addition, gently tap the plate to mix the well contents prior to beginning incubation.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Incubation [100ul – 60 min; 4 washes]**
  - Add 100ul of 1X sample diluent (blank), calibrators, samples, and controls each to pre-determined wells.
  - Tap the plate gently to mix reagents and incubate for 60 minutes.
  - Wash wells 4 times and pat dry on fresh paper towels. As an alternative, an automatic plate washer may be used. Improper washes may lead to falsely elevated signals and poor reproducibility.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Incubation [100ul – 30 min; 5 washes]**
  - Add 100ul of diluted Anti-Mouse Ig HRP to each well.
  - Incubate for 30 minutes.
  - Wash wells 5 times as in step 1.
- 3. Substrate Incubation [100ul – 15 min]**
  - Add 100ul TMB Substrate to each well. The liquid in the wells will begin to turn blue.
  - Incubate for 15 minutes in the dark, e.g., place in a drawer or closet.

Note: If your microplate reader does not register optical density (OD) above 2.0, incubate for less time, or read OD at 405-410 nm (results are valid).
- 4. Stop Step [Stop: 100ul]**
  - Add 100ul of Stop Solution to each well.
  - Tap gently to mix. The enzyme reaction will stop; liquid in the wells will turn yellow.
- 5. Absorbance Reading**
  - Use any commercially available microplate reader capable of reading at 450nm wavelength. Use a program suitable for obtaining OD readings and data calculations if available.
  - Read absorbance of the entire plate at 450nm using a single wavelength within 30 minutes after Stop Solution addition. If available, program to subtract OD at 630nm to normalize well background.

## INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS

### Calculation of Results

Consider several data reduction methods to best represent the relationships among experimental and control groups, to determine **Positive Immune** and **Negative Non-immune**, and to **Quantitate** positive antibody levels.

### Method A. Antibody Activity [ELISA Signal & Sample Dilution]

Represent data as net OD units (A450 signal; blank subtracted) ÷ dilution = **Total Activity Units**.

A Calibrator value in the mid-OD range (e.g., 40 U/ml) can be used to normalize inter-assay values.

### Method B. Positive Index

Experimental sample values may be expressed relative to the values of Control or Non-immune samples, by calculation of a **Positive Index**. One typical method is as follows:

1. Calculate the net OD mean + 2 SD of the Control/Non-immune samples = **Positive Index**.
2. Divide each sample net OD by the Positive Index. Values above 1.0 are a measure of **Positive** Antibody Activity; below 1.0 are **Negative** for antibody.

A sample value would be **Positive** if significantly above the value of the pre-immune serum sample or a suitably determined non-immune panel or pool of samples, tested at the same sample dilution. This calculation **quantifies** the positive Antibody Activity level.

### Example:

Sample	Assay Net OD		Calculated Antibody Activity	
	Control	Exptl	Control	Exptl
1	0.243	2.358	0.49	<b>4.79</b>
2	0.351	0.597	0.71	<b>1.21</b>
3	0.286	1.421	0.58	<b>2.89</b>
4	0.357	1.268	0.73	<b>2.58</b>
5	0.512	0.857	<b>1.04</b>	<b>1.74</b>
6	0.342	1.296	0.70	<b>2.63</b>
7	0.298	0.608	0.61	<b>1.24</b>
8	0.285	0.369	0.58	0.75
9	0.157	0.864	0.32	<b>1.76</b>
10	0.187	0.543	0.38	<b>1.10</b>
Mean	0.302			
SD	0.095			
Mean + 2 SD	<b>0.492</b>			<b>= Positive Index</b>

## CALCULATION OF RESULTS (continued)

### Method C. Use of a Calibrator Curve

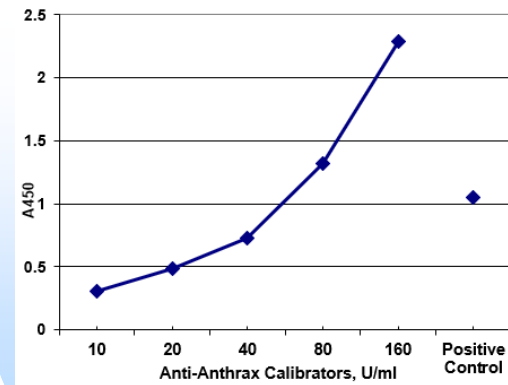
When the dilution curves of samples are parallel to the Calibrator curve (see Limits of the Assay), the anti-PA83 activity units may be determined by interpolation from the Calibrator curve. The results may be calculated using any immunoassay software package. If software is not available, anti-PA83 activity concentrations may be determined as follows:

1. Calculate the mean OD of duplicate samples.
2. On graph paper plot the mean OD of the calibrators (y-axis) against the concentration (U/ml) of anti-PA83 (x-axis). Draw the best fit curve through these points to construct the calibrator curve. A point-to-point construction is most common and reliable.
3. The anti-PA83 activity concentrations in unknown samples and controls can be determined by interpolation from the calibrator curve.
4. Multiply the values obtained for the samples by the dilution factor of each sample.
5. Samples producing signals higher than the 160 U/ml calibrator should be further diluted and re-assayed.

### Typical Results:

Wells	Calibrators	A450 nm
A1,2	Negative Diluent Blank	0.19
B1,2	10 U/ml Calibrator	0.31
C1,2	20 U/ml Calibrator	0.49
D1,2	40 U/ml Calibrator	0.73
E1,2	80 U/ml Calibrator	1.32
F1,2	160 U/ml Calibrator	2.29
G1,2	Positive Control	1.05
H1,2	Sample 1:100	1.45

Sample Result: 88 U/ml x 100 dilution = 8.8 kU/ml



## CALCULATION OF RESULTS (continued)

### Method D. Titers from Sample Dilution Curves

The titer of antibody activity calculated from a dilution curve of each sample is recommended as the most accurate quantitative method. Best precision can be obtained using the following guidelines:

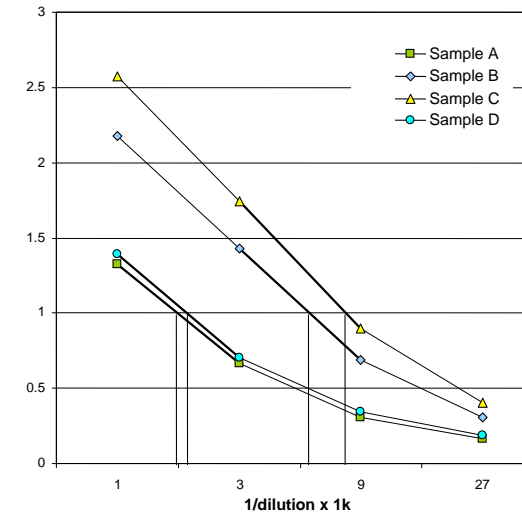
1. Use an OD value Index in the mid-range of the assay (2.0 – 0.5 OD); this provides the best sensitivity and reproducibility for comparing experimental groups and replicates. An arbitrary 1.0 OD is commonly used.
2. Prepare serial dilutions of each sample to provide a series that will produce signals higher and lower than the selected index. With accurate diluting, duplicates may not be required if at least 4 dilutions are run per sample.
3. A 5-fold dilution scheme is useful to efficiently cover a wide range which produces ODs both above and below 1.0 OD. The dilution scheme can be tightened to 3-fold or 2-fold for more precise comparative data.
4. A Calibrator value in the mid-OD range (e.g., 40 U/ml) can be used to normalize inter-assay values.

### Calculations

1. On a log scale of inverse of Sample Dilution as the x-axis, plot the OD values of the two dilutions of each positive sample having ODs above and below the OD value of the Index (arbitrary or selected Calibrator).
2. From a point-to-point line drawn between the two sample ODs, read the dilution value (x-axis) corresponding to the OD of the selected Index  
= **Total Ig Antibody Activity Units**

### Example:

II. A 1.0 OD Index was used to determine titer of 4 antibodies.



### Titer Values

Sample A = 1.72 kU  
Sample B = 5.70 kU  
Sample C = 1.85 kU  
Sample D = 7.90 kU

Instruction Manual No. M-900-100-83T

# Mouse Anti-Anthrax Protective Antigen (PA83) Total Ig

Cat. #900-100-83T, 96 Tests

For Quantitation of Anti-Anthrax PA83  
Ig (IgG+IgA+IgM) in Serum, Plasma, or  
other biological fluids

For research use only, not for diagnostic or therapeutic use



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ELISA Kit Components	Amount	Part
PA83 Coated Microwell Strip Plate	8-well strips (12)	900-101
Anti-PA83 Positive Control	0.65 ml	900-123PC
Anti-PA83 Calibrator	10 U/ml 0.65 ml	900-123B
Anti-PA83 Calibrator	20 U/ml 0.65 ml	900-123C
Anti-PA83 Calibrator	40 U/ml 0.65 ml	900-123D
Anti-PA83 Calibrator	80 U/ml 0.65 ml	900-123E
Anti-PA83 Calibrator	160 U/ml 0.65 ml	900-123F
Anti-Mouse Ig HRP Conjugate (100X)	0.15 ml	H-MSGAM.2a11
Sample Diluent (20X)	10 ml	SD20T
Wash Solution Concentrate (100X)	10 ml	WB-100
TMB Substrate	12 ml	80091
Stop Solution	12 ml	80101
Product Manual	1 ea	M-900-100-83T