



**Non WHO Reference Material
Bee Venom.
NIBSC code: 78/628
Instructions for use
(Version 6.0, Dated 24/07/2013)**

This material is not for in vitro diagnostic use.

1. INTENDED USE

This is comprised of a batch of ampoules coded 78/628. Each ampoule containing the residue after freeze drying of approximately 0.5ml of bee venom.

2. CAUTION

This preparation is not for administration to humans or animals in the human food chain.

The material is not of human or bovine origin. As with all materials of biological origin, this preparation should be regarded as potentially hazardous to health. It should be used and discarded according to your own laboratory's safety procedures. Such safety procedures should include the wearing of protective gloves and avoiding the generation of aerosols. Care should be exercised in opening ampoules or vials, to avoid cuts.

3. UNITAGE

No unitage has been assigned to this material.

4. CONTENTS

Country of origin of biological material: United Kingdom.

The bulk material was filtered ending with a Millipore membrane of pore size 0.22µm, and distributed in 0.5ml volumes at room temperature into 4,000 ampoules, coded 78/628. The mean weight of liquid content of 65 checkweight ampoules taken at intervals during the fill was 0.50326gm ± 0.42% (range, 0.50076-0.50498gm). The contents of the ampoules were then freeze dried and secondarily desiccated under the conditions normally used for international biological standards⁽²⁾. The mean dry weight was 2.52mg +/- 5.15% (range, 2.39-2.65mg; n=6) and the moisture content as measured by Karl Fischer coulometric titration was 2.1111% (range, 2.0159-2.1667; n=3).

The reagent was prepared by NIBSC from 2mg of honey bee venom (obtained from Sigma) dissolved in 2 litres of 0.02M ammonium bicarbonate buffer solution containing 0.5% w/v of lactose. The buffer solution was prepared one day before the scheduled filling date and held at 4°C before the bee venom was added.

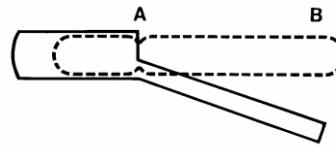
5. STORAGE

Unopened ampoules should be stored at -20°C.

Please note: because of the inherent stability of lyophilized material, NIBSC may ship these materials at ambient temperature.

6. DIRECTIONS FOR OPENING

Tap the ampoule gently to collect the material at the bottom (labelled) end. Ensure ampoule is scored all round at the narrow part of the neck, with a diamond or tungsten carbide tipped glass knife file or other suitable implement before attempting to open. Place the ampoule in the ampoule opener, positioning the score at position 'A'; shown in the diagram below. Surround the ampoule with cloth or layers of tissue paper. Grip the ampoule and holder in the hand and squeeze at point 'B'. The ampoule will snap open. Take care to avoid cuts and projectile glass fragments that enter eyes. Take care that no material is lost from the ampoule and that no glass falls into the ampoule.



Side view of ampoule opening device containing an ampoule positioned ready to open. 'A' is the score mark and 'B' the point of applied pressure.

7. USE OF MATERIAL

No attempt should be made to weigh out any portion of the freeze-dried material prior to reconstitution

The total contents of the ampoule should be reconstituted with 0.5ml of distilled water and dissolved by gently swirling to avoid froth. The reconstituted reagent should be used as soon as possible after reconstitution. The reagent can be used in *in vitro* assays such as the radioallergosorbent test (RAST), RAST inhibition, quantitative immunoelectrophoresis (CIE & CRIE), SDS-PAGE and immunoblotting.

8. STABILITY

Accelerated degradation studies⁽¹⁾ have shown freeze dried allergen extracts stored in unopened ampoules at -20°C to be extremely stable over a number of years.

Reference materials are held at NIBSC within assured, temperature-controlled storage facilities.

Reference Materials should be stored on receipt as indicated on the label.

9. REFERENCES

1. Jerne, N.K, Perry, W.L.M. The stability of biological standards. Bull. WHO 14: 167-182 (1956).

2. Campbell, P.J., International Biological Standards and Reference Preparations. II. Procedures used for the production of biological standards and reference preparations. J. Biol. Stand. 2: 259-267 (1974).

10. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

N/A

11. FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information can be obtained as follows:

This material: enquiries@nibsc.org

WHO Biological Standards:

<http://www.who.int/biologicals/en/>

JCTLM Higher order reference materials:

<http://www.bipm.org/en/committees/jc/jctlm/>

Derivation of International Units:

http://www.nibsc.org/standardisation/international_standards.aspx

Ordering standards from NIBSC:

<http://www.nibsc.org/products/ordering.aspx>

NIBSC Terms & Conditions:

http://www.nibsc.org/terms_and_conditions.aspx

12. CUSTOMER FEEDBACK

Customers are encouraged to provide feedback on the suitability or use of the material provided or other aspects of our service. Please send any comments to enquiries@nibsc.org

13. CITATION

In all publications, including data sheets, in which this material is referenced, it is important that the preparation's title, its status, the NIBSC code number, and the name and address of NIBSC are cited and cited correctly.

14. MATERIAL SAFETY SHEET



Classification in accordance with Directive 2000/54/EC, Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008: Not applicable or not classified

Physical and Chemical properties	
Physical appearance: Freeze-dried powder	Corrosive: No
Stable: Yes	Oxidising: No
Hygroscopic: No	Irritant: No
Flammable: No	Handling: See caution, Section 2
Other (specify): <i>Contains material of biological origin</i>	
Toxicological properties	
Effects of inhalation:	Not established, avoid inhalation
Effects of ingestion:	Not established, avoid ingestion
Effects of skin absorption:	Not established, avoid contact with skin
Suggested First Aid	
Inhalation:	Seek medical advice
Ingestion:	Seek medical advice
Contact with eyes:	Wash with copious amounts of water. Seek medical advice
Contact with skin:	Wash thoroughly with water.
Action on Spillage and Method of Disposal	
Spillage of ampoule contents should be taken up with absorbent material wetted with an appropriate disinfectant. Rinse area with an appropriate disinfectant followed by water. Absorbent materials used to treat spillage should be treated as biological waste.	

15. LIABILITY AND LOSS

In the event that this document is translated into another language, the English language version shall prevail in the event of any inconsistencies between the documents.

Unless expressly stated otherwise by NIBSC, NIBSC's Standard Terms and Conditions for the Supply of Materials (available at http://www.nibsc.org/About_Us/Terms_and_Conditions.aspx or upon request by the Recipient) ("Conditions") apply to the exclusion of all other terms and are hereby incorporated into this document by reference. The Recipient's attention is drawn in particular to the provisions of clause 11 of the Conditions.

16. INFORMATION FOR CUSTOMS USE ONLY

Country of origin for customs purposes*: United Kingdom * Defined as the country where the goods have been produced and/or sufficiently processed to be classed as originating from the country of supply, for example a change of state such as freeze-drying.
Net weight: 0.01g
Toxicity Statement: Non-toxic
Veterinary certificate or other statement if applicable.
Attached: No