



**WHO Reference Reagent  
NERVE GROWTH FACTOR (NGF) Human, rDNA-derived  
NIBSC code: 93/556  
Instructions for use  
(Version 5.0, Dated 02/04/2013)**

**1. INTENDED USE**

The preparation coded 93/556 was established as the 1st WHO Reference Reagent for nerve growth factor (NGF) by the WHO Expert Committee on Biological Standardization in 1996.

**2. CAUTION**

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

The preparation contains material of human origin, and either the final product or the source materials, from which it is derived, have been tested and found negative for HBsAg, anti-HIV and HCV RNA. 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**

The assigned potency of the 1st WHO Reference Reagent for NGF is 10 000 units per ampoule.

**4. CONTENTS**

Country of origin of biological material: United Kingdom.

Each ampoule contains the residue after freeze-drying of 1.0 ml of a solution that contained:

nerve growth factor (NGF)	10 microgram/ml
trehalose	2 mg/ml
human serum albumin	5 mg/ml
sodium citrate, pH 5.0	10 mmol/l

The ampouled material has been tested at NIBSC for biological activity and stability by in vitro bioassay using PC-12, a rat pheochromocytoma cell line, and TF-1, a human erythroleukemia cell line, and by an independent laboratory using PC-12 cells. The NGF used in this preparation is the human form of the molecule, synthesized in CHO cells by recombinant DNA technology.

**5. STORAGE**

The ampoules are shipped at ambient temperature. Unopened ampoules should be stored at -20 degrees C in the dark. For economy of use, it is recommended that the reconstituted solution be subdivided into several small containers and stored at, or below, -40 degrees C. Repeated freezing and thawing should be avoided. The ampoules do not contain bacteriostat and solutions of the ampouled material should not be assumed to be sterile.

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

**6. DIRECTIONS FOR OPENING**

DIN ampoules have an 'easy-open' coloured stress point, where the narrow ampoule stem joins the wider ampoule body. Various types of ampoule breaker are available commercially. To open the ampoule, tap the ampoule gently to collect material at the bottom (labelled) end and follow manufacturers instructions provided with the ampoule breaker.

**7. USE OF MATERIAL**

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

The WHO Reference Reagent is intended for calibration of local standards. For all practical purposes, each ampoule contains the same quantity of NGF. The entire contents of each ampoule should be completely dissolved in a known volume of suitable solvent. It is recommended that, when possible, buffer containing carrier protein should be used to minimize loss by surface adsorption.

**8. STABILITY**

Reference materials are held at NIBSC within assured, temperature-controlled storage facilities and they should be stored on receipt as indicated on the label. Accelerated degradation studies have indicated that this material is suitably stable, when stored at -20°C or below, for the assigned values to remain valid until the material is withdrawn or replaced. These studies have also shown that the material is suitably stable for shipment at ambient temperature without any effect on the assigned values. Users who have data supporting any deterioration in the characteristics of any reference preparation are encouraged to contact NIBSC.

**9. REFERENCES**

WHO TRS ECBS report No. 878, 47<sup>th</sup> report; WHO/BS document 96.1836

**10. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The NGF ampouled as this Reference Reagent was generously donated to WHO by Genentech, South San Francisco, California.

**11. FURTHER INFORMATION**

Further information can be obtained as follows:  
This material: [enquiries@nibsc.org](mailto: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](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](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](mailto: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: No	Oxidising: No
Hygroscopic: Yes	Irritant: No
Flammable: No	Handling: See caution, Section 2
Other (specify): Contains material of human origin	
<b>Toxicological properties</b>	
Effects of inhalation: Not established, avoid inhalation	
Effects of ingestion: Not established, avoid ingestion	
Effects of skin absorption: Not established, avoid contact with skin	
<b>Suggested First Aid</b>	
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.	
<b>Action on Spillage and Method of Disposal</b>	
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](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

<b>Country of origin for customs purposes*:</b> 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.
<b>Net weight:</b> 10mg
<b>Toxicity Statement:</b> Toxicity not assessed
<b>Veterinary certificate or other statement</b> if applicable. <b>Attached:</b> No

#### 17. CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS

NIBSC does not provide a Certificate of Analysis for WHO Biological Reference Materials because they are internationally recognised primary reference materials fully described in the instructions for use. The reference materials are established according to the WHO Recommendations for the preparation, characterization and establishment of international and other biological reference standards [http://www.who.int/bloodproducts/publications/TRS932Annex2\\_Inter\\_biologicalstandardsrev2004.pdf](http://www.who.int/bloodproducts/publications/TRS932Annex2_Inter_biologicalstandardsrev2004.pdf) (revised 2004). They are officially endorsed by the WHO Expert Committee on Biological Standardization (ECBS) based on the report of the international collaborative study which established their suitability for the intended use.