Fetal Bovine Serum, Standard

Cat. No.: 164230
Size: 500mL / 100mL

General Information

Product Form	Liquid
Serum Level	Standard
Shipping	Low temperature, sealed, protect from light
Storage	Store at ≤-15°C, storage for up to 5 years Store at 2-8°C for no more than one month

Product Characteristics

1. Low endotoxin, free from Bacteria, Mycoplasma, Bacteriophages, Viruses, and other Contaminants.
2. No added factors, hormones, antibiotics or other supplementary components.
3. This product is benchmarked against South American fetal bovine serum and can be applied to the culture of most conventional cells. It can provide cells with the necessary nutrients and various growth factors, thereby effectively promoting the rapid growth of cells and keeping them in good condition.

Product Acceptance

1. The serum's internal and external packaging should be intact, without any damage, cracks, leakage or seepage.
2. Upon arrival, the serum should be in a frozen or ice-water mixed state, and should not be fully thawed.
3. In the event of above issues, please take photos for documentation and contact us promptly for a timely replacement.

Thawing Method

1. Please thaw the serum at 2-8°C environment. Thawing at higher temperatures is not recommended, as it may cause the serum to become turbid, increase precipitation, and degrade its quality.
2. Please shake the serum gently from time to time during the thawing process to ensure that the serum composition and temperature are uniform, thus reducing the production of precipitation. Be careful not to create bubbles when shaking.
3. Once thawed, serum should be used as soon as possible. Repeated freezing and thawing should be avoided to maintain its quality.
4. Serum should not be placed at room temperature for extended periods. After use, promptly return it to a 2-8°C environment.
5. High-temperature thawing, vigorous shaking, repeated freezing and thawing, and prolonged storage can all lead to a decrease in serum quality.

Notes

1. This product is only used for scientific research or further research, not for diagnosis and treatment.
2. To maintain the optimal performance of this product, please avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles.

Common Issues and Solutions

1. Optimal Serum Thawing to Preserve Product Integrity

(1) **Thawing Procedure**：Remove the serum from the freezer and place it in a **2–8°C refrigerator for 12–24 hours** to partially thaw. Then transfer it to room temperature until completely thawed. **During thawing, gently swirl or invert the bottle periodically to mix the contents.**

(2) **Do Not Thaw Directly in a Water Bath**：**Never thaw serum stored at −20°C directly in a water bath, neither at room temperature nor at 37°C**. Direct water-bath thawing exposes the serum to an extreme temperature gradient (−20°C → 37°C, a 57°C difference), causing rapid melting that readily leads to the formation of precipitates.

(3) **Do Not Thaw at High Temperature**：Never place cold-stored serum directly into a 56°C water bath for thawing.

(4) Storage Conditions：Store serum at −15°C or below. **If an entire bottle cannot be used at one time, we recommend aseptically aliquotting the serum into sterile containers and storing frozen to avoid repeated freeze–thaw cycles.**

2. What precipitates occur in serum?

(1) Fibrin is a typical larger precipitate that can reach 1-2 mm in size, and is visible to the naked eye.

(2) Calcium phosphate, another common precipitate, typically causes the serum to appear cloudy and may increase when cultured at 37°C. Under an inverted microscope, these precipitates appear as small black dots that, due to Brownian motion, may appear to move, often leading to a misidentification as microbial contamination.

(3) Cholesterol, fatty acid esters, and certain proteins are also common causes of precipitates in serum.

Regarding cell growth, our experiments and experience indicate that these precipitates do not affect cell culture. This has also been confirmed by our customers and serum manufacturers.

3. What to do if flocculent precipitates appear after thawing serum?

(1) If you wish to remove these flocculent precipitates, aliquot the serum into sterile centrifuge tubes and centrifuge at 400-600 g for 5 min. The supernatant can then be added to the culture medium for cultivation.

(2) It is not recommended to remove these flocculent precipitates through filtration as it may clog the filter membrane. Additionally, filtration could lead to the loss of certain nutritional components in the serum.

4. Why heat-inactivate Serum? Is heat inactivation necessary?

(1) Heating inactivates the complement system in serum, rendering it inactive. Typically, active complement components can stimulate smooth muscle contraction, release histamine from mast cells and platelets, activate lymphocytes and macrophages, and contribute to the process of cell lysis.

(2) Numerous studies have shown that most cell cultures do not require serum heat inactivation. However,heat-inactivated serum is recommended in immunological research for the cultivation of embryonic stem (ES) cells, insect cells and smooth muscle cells. Experiments have demonstrated that serum treated with proper heat inactivation has only a minimal or no promoting effect on cell growth. However, high temperature treatment usually affects the quality of serum, resulting in reduced in cell growth rate. Furthermore,heat-treated serum often shows a significant increase in precipitates, which appear as "small dark spots" under an inverted microscope, which often makes researchers mistakenly think that the serum has been contaminated. When the serum is placed at

37°C, the precipitates will increase further potentially leading to the misconception that microbial division and proliferation are occurring. Therefore, we recommend avoiding heat treatment unless absolutely necessary, as it saves time and ensures the quality of the serum.

5. How to avoid the formation of precipitate in serum?

Excessive temperature, prolonged incubation and uneven shaking can all lead to an increase in precipitation. We recommend that serum heat inactivation should be avoided unless absolutely necessary. If heat inactivate is required, it should be strictly performed at 56°C for 30 minutes, with gentle and continuous shaking to ensure uniformity.

6. What is the best way to store serum?

Serum intended for long-term storage must be stored at -15°C or lower. Studies have shown that serum stored at -80°C does not exhibit any change in performance, but the large temperature differential during thawing can lead to increased precipitate formation. Therefore, it is not recommended to store at -80°C. When stored at 2-8°C, serum should not be kept for more than one month. If the entire bottle cannot be used at once, it is advised to aliquot and store it to avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles. Additionally, serum volume increases by approximately 10% upon freezing, so leave sufficient space when aliquoting.

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