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UK NEQAS for Immunology, Immunochemistry & Allergy Safety Data Sheet (SDS)

Products

All EQA samples distributed by UK NEQAS for Immunology, Immunochemistry & Allergy (IIA) are covered by this document.

Recommended use: Quality Assessment/Proficiency Testing programs. Not to be used in the treatment and diagnosis of patients.

Hazard Identification

Chemical hazard: Not applicable

Environmental hazard: Not applicable

Health hazard: **Exempt human specimens**

No known test method can offer complete assurance that products derived from inactivated microorganisms and/or human sources will not transmit infection. All EQA samples supplied by UK NEQAS IIA must be handled appropriately and with care. The participant is responsible for the safe handling, storage and disposal of UK NEQAS IIA EQA samples in such a way that ensures that the EQA samples will not cause any harm to any person.

The participant understands and acknowledges that, given the nature and characteristics of UK NEQAS IIA EQA samples;

- laboratory staff should be trained in the handling of infectious materials.
- EQA samples should be processed in a laboratory environment as identified by the relevant legislative requirements.
- they are aware of all matters that concern the safe handling, storage and disposal of EQA samples.
- they have the facilities and processes required for the safe handling, storage and disposal of EQA samples.
- that they follow Standard Safety Precautions when handling potentially infectious materials.
- they utilise Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as identified by the relevant legislative requirements for the routine handling of potentially infectious materials.

Composition and Information on Ingredients

Products contain the below components:

CAS#	Not Applicable
Component	Human Fluids
Percentage	100%

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First-aid Measures

If accidental contact with material occurs laboratory staff should follow appropriate first aid procedures for exposure to an equivalent clinical specimen. Following exposure, medical advice should be sought. If accidental spillage occurs, follow routine procedures for clean-up of potentially biohazardous materials.

Firefighting Measures

Not applicable, not flammable.

Accidental Release Measures

Personal protective equipment such as gloves, gown and protective eyewear should be used before cleaning any spills. Dispose any sharps in a safe disposal system. Clean the area with absorbent paper and clean excess with suitable disinfectant.

Handling and Storage

UK NEQAS IIA samples are freshly prepared prior to dispatch and are stable at ambient temperature during normal transit times. Upon receipt, all packages should be opened immediately. Samples may be stored for up to seven days under refrigeration ($4 \pm 3^{\circ}\text{C}$), or frozen ($-20 \pm 6^{\circ}\text{C}$) if longer storage is required. For analysis, thaw frozen samples at room temperature for 2-3 hours or warm refrigerated samples for one hour before use. Mix gently by inverting the tubes before analysis.

Exposure Controls and Personal Protection

Samples are generally intended for processing in a clinical laboratory facility and should be handled in the same manner as routine patient samples using universal precautions and appropriate personal protective equipment. Biosafety Level 2 precautions at a minimum should be used in laboratory settings.

Physical and Chemical Properties

Serum/plasma: straw colour and odourless, pH neutral

Urine: straw colour and odourless, pH neutral

CSF – clear to straw colour and odourless, pH neutral

Stability and Reactivity

Samples are freshly prepared prior to dispatch and are transported in a liquid format, and contain ProClin 150™ as an antimicrobial agent, unless specified to the contrary. Samples may be stored for up to seven days under refrigeration ($4 \pm 3^{\circ}\text{C}$), or frozen ($-20 \pm 6^{\circ}\text{C}$) if longer storage is required.

Toxicological Information

All serum-based materials distributed by UK NEQAS IIA are of human origin. They are tested at the single donor stage and shown to be negative for Hepatitis B surface antigen (HbsAg), antibodies to Hepatitis C virus (anti-HCV), and antibodies to Human Immunodeficiency Virus (anti-HIV-1/HIV-2) in accordance with DH, IRMM and FDA requirements. For most of the programmes the materials also contain ProClin 150™ as an antimicrobial agent.

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Ecological Information

Same biodegradability as human blood, urine and other bodily fluids.

Disposal Information

Dispose as clinical waste in suitably identified containers using a registered clinical waste disposal contractor (same as for patient samples).

Transport Information

Proper Shipping Name: Exempt Human Specimens

UN Number: Not Applicable

Hazard Class/Packing Group: Exempt Human Specimens

Labels Required: Exempt Human Specimens

IATA Packaging Requirements: Sample is not subject to the IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations as long as the specimen is transported in packaging that consists of three components: Primary receptacle, Secondary packaging containing absorbent material, Outer packaging of adequate strength.

Regulatory Information

Not Applicable.

Other Information

Reviewed annually as part of the UK NEQAS IIA compliance with ISO/IEC 17043.

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