

Epigenase™ Universal SIRT Activity/Inhibition Assay Kit (Colorimetric)

Base Catalog # P-4036

PLEASE READ THIS ENTIRE USER GUIDE BEFORE USE

Uses: The Epigenase™ Universal SIRT Activity/Inhibition Assay Kit (Colorimetric) is suitable for measuring activity/inhibition of total SIRT enzyme using nuclear extracts or purified SIRT isoforms (SIRT1-7) from a broad range of species such as mammals, plants, fungi, and bacteria, in a variety of forms including, but not limited to cultured cells, fresh and frozen tissues. For SIRT1, SIRT6, and SIRT7, nuclear extracts are required and can be prepared by using your own successful method. For your convenience and the best results, EpigenTek offers a nuclear extraction kit (Cat # OP-0002) optimized for use with this kit. Nuclear extracts can be used immediately or stored at -80°C for future use. For SIRT2, SIRT4, and SIRT5, cytoplasmic extracts are required. For SIRT3, mitochondria fractions should be used. Purified enzymes can be active SIRTs from recombinant proteins or isolated from cell/tissues.

Starting Materials: Input materials can be cell extracts or purified SIRT enzymes. The amount of nuclear extracts for each assay can be between 0.5 μg to 20 μg with optimized range of 5-10 μg . The amount of purified enzymes can be 5 ng to 500 ng, depending on the purity and catalytic activity of the enzymes.

Internal Control: A SIRT assay standard (deacetylated histones) is provided in this kit for the quantification of SIRT enzyme activity. Because SIRT activity can vary from tissue to tissue, and from normal and diseased states, it is advised to run replicate samples to ensure that the signal generated is validated.

Precautions: To avoid cross-contamination, carefully pipette the sample or solution into the strip wells. Use aerosol-barrier pipette tips and always change pipette tips between liquid transfers. Wear gloves throughout the entire procedure. In case of contact between gloves and sample, change gloves immediately.

KIT CONTENTS

Component	48 Assays Cat. #P-4036-48	96 Assays Cat. #P-4036-96	Storage Upon Receipt
WB (10X Wash Buffer)	14 ml	28 ml	4°C
HO1 (SIRT Assay Buffer)	4 ml	8 ml	RT
HO2 (SIRT Substrate, 50 X)*	60 µl	120 µl	-20°C
HO3 (SIRT Assay Standard, 50 µg/ml)*	10 µl	20 µl	-20°C
HO4 (Capture Antibody, 1000 X*)	5 µl	10 µl	4°C
HO5 (Detection Antibody, 2000 X*)	6 µl	12 µl	-20°C
NAD (SIRT Co-factor, 50 X)*	50 µl	100 µl	-20°C
TSA (HDAC inhibitor, 50 µM)	50 µl	100 µl	-20°C
NAM (SIRT Inhibitor, 50 mM)*	40 µl	80 µl	-20°C
DS (Developer Solution)	5 ml	10 ml	4°C
SS (Stop Solution)	5 ml	10 ml	RT
8-Well Assay Strips (With Frame)	6	12	4°C
Adhesive Covering Film	1	1	RT

* Spin the solution down to the bottom prior to use.

SHIPPING & STORAGE

The kit is shipped in two parts: the first part at ambient room temperature and the second part on frozen ice packs at 4°C. Upon receipt: (1) Store **HO2, HO3, HO5, NAD, TSA, and NAM** at -20°C away from light; (2) Store **WB, HO4, DS, and 8-Well Assay Strips** at 4°C away from light; (3) Store remaining components (**HO1, SS, and Adhesive Covering Film**) at room temperature away from light.

All components of the kit are stable for 6 months from the date of shipment, when stored properly.

Note: (1) Check if **WB** (10X Wash Buffer) contains salt precipitates before use. If so, warm (at room temperature or 37°C) and shake the buffer until the salts are re-dissolved; and (2) check if a blue color present in **DS** (Developer Solution), which would indicate contamination of the solution and should not be used. To avoid contamination, transfer the amount of **DS** required into a secondary container (tube or vial) before adding **DS** into the assay wells.

MATERIALS REQUIRED BUT NOT SUPPLIED

- Adjustable pipette or multiple-channel pipette
- Multiple-channel pipette reservoirs
- Aerosol resistant pipette tips
- Microplate reader capable of reading absorbance at 450 nm
- 1.5 ml microcentrifuge tubes

- Incubator for 37°C incubation
- Plate seal
- Distilled water
- Nuclear extract or purified enzymes
- Parafilm M or aluminum foil

GENERAL PRODUCT INFORMATION

Quality Control: Each lot of the Epigenase™ Universal SIRT Activity/Inhibition Assay Kit (Colorimetric) is tested against predetermined specifications to ensure consistent product quality. EpigenTek guarantees the performance of all products in the manner described in our product instructions.

Product Warranty: If this product does not meet your expectations, simply contact our technical support unit or your regional distributor. We also encourage you to contact us if you have any suggestions about product performance or new applications and techniques.

Safety: Suitable lab coat, disposable gloves, and proper eye protection are required when working with this product.

Product Updates: EpigenTek reserves the right to change or modify any product to enhance its performance and design. The information in this User Guide is subject to change at any time without notice. Be sure to use the latest User Guide for this kit which can be accessed online at www.epigentek.com/datasheet.

Usage Limitation: The Epigenase™ Universal SIRT Activity/Inhibition Assay Kit (Colorimetric) is for research use only and is not intended for diagnostic or therapeutic application.

Intellectual Property: The Epigenase™ Universal SIRT Activity/Inhibition Assay Kit (Colorimetric) and methods of use contain proprietary technologies by EpigenTek.

A BRIEF OVERVIEW

Acetylation of the epsilon amino group of specific lysine residues contained in core histones is one of the most robust epigenetic marks and is essential for the regulation of multiple cellular processes. The acetylation of histone-by-histone acetyltransferases (HAT) seems to be of particular significance, as it is associated with active regions of the genome. In contrast, histone deacetylation by histone deacetylase (HDAC) leads to transcription repression. So far, at least 4 classes of HDACs have been identified. Class I HDACs include 1, 2, 3 and 8. Class II HDACs are comprised of 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10. Class III enzymes, known as the sirtuins, require NAD⁺ cofactors and include SIRT1-7. Class IV enzymes, which contains only HDAC11, has features of both Class I and II.

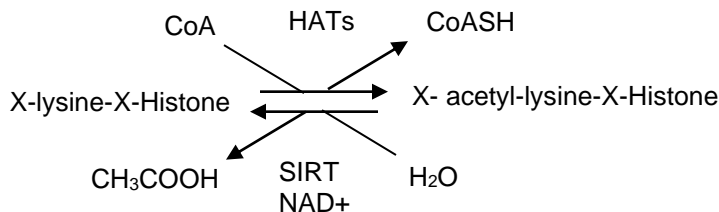


Fig 1. Histone acetylation and deacetylation catalyzed by HATs and HDACs.

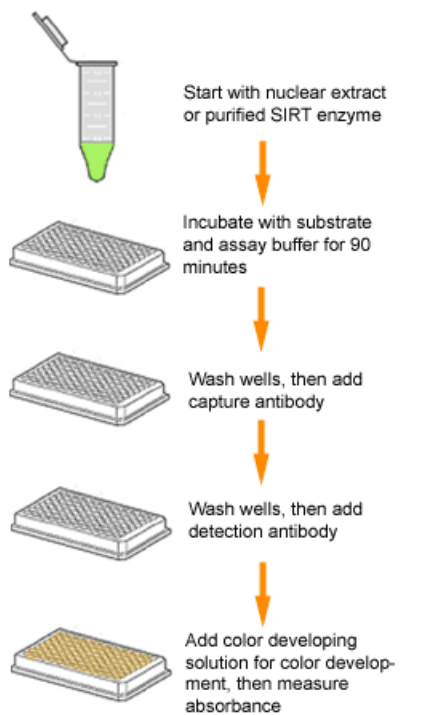
Unlike other known protein deacetylases, which simply hydrolyze acetyl-lysine residues, sirtuins catalyze a reaction that couples lysine deacetylation to NAD hydrolysis, yielding O-acetyl-ADP-ribose and nicotinamide. Sirtuins have been implicated in influencing aging and regulating transcription, apoptosis, and stress resistance, as well as energy efficiency and alertness during low-calorie situations. SIRT1s are also involved in the development of human diseases including cancer, diabetes, and various neurological diseases. For example, in prostate cancer, SIRT1 was found to be overexpressed. It was also observed that SIRT1s protect neurons in Alzheimer's disease. Detection of inhibition or activation of SIRT1s would be important in elucidating mechanisms of epigenetic regulation of gene activation and silencing and benefiting diagnostics and therapeutics of cancer or neurological diseases.

There are only a couple of methods used for detecting SIRT activity/inhibition. These methods are based on the measurement of the deacetylated histone cleavage by lysyl endopeptidase or trypsin, and have significant weaknesses: (1) nuclear extracts from cell/tissues cannot be used because of interfering by lysyl endopeptidases from extracts; (2) Trypsin-sensitive SIRT inhibitors or activators are not suitable for testing with these methods, as trypsin digestion can lead to false positives when trypsin inhibitors or activators present in the compound library; (3) High interference by DMSO and thiol-containing chemicals, which are often contained in enzyme solutions or tested compound solvents; and (4) Less accurate than a direct measurement of SIRT-converted deacetylated products. We have now added the Epigenase™ Universal SIRT Activity/Inhibition Assay Kit (Colorimetric) to address this issue. This kit has the following advantages:

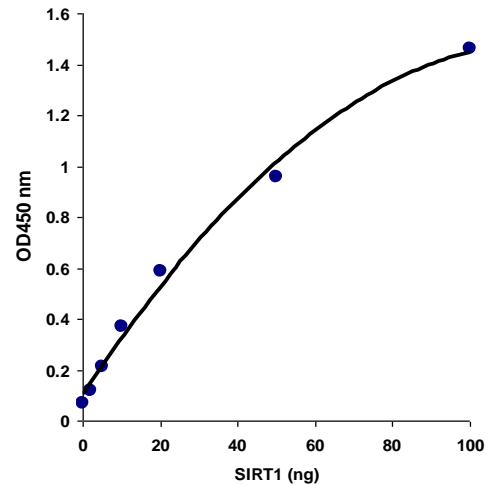
- Strip microplate format makes the assay flexible and quick: manual or high throughput analysis can be completed within 3.5 hours.
- Unique kit composition enables background signals to be very low, which allows the assay to be accurate, sensitive, reliable, and consistent.
- Innovative colorimetric assay measures SIRT activity/inhibition by directly detecting SIRT-converted deacetylated products, rather than trypsin-based peptide cleavage, thus eliminating assay interference caused by DMSO and thiol-containing chemicals, trypsin, and cellular lysyl endopeptidases.
- Both cell/tissue extracts and purified SIRT enzymes can be used, which allows for the detection of inhibitory effects of SIRT inhibitor in vivo and in vitro.
- Novel assay principle allows high sensitivity to be achieved. The activity can be detected from as low as 1 ng of purified SIRT enzyme, which is about 10-fold higher than that obtained by trypsin-based peptide cleavage assays.
- A deacetylated histone standard is included, which allows for the specific activity of SIRT1s to be quantified.
- Nicotinamide, a SIRT inhibitor as the positive inhibition control, and trichostatin A (TSA), an inhibitor of HDAC1/II used to block HDAC activity, are both included.

PRINCIPLE & PROCEDURE

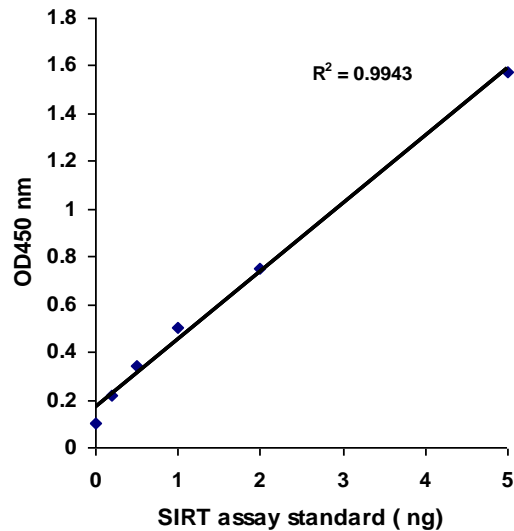
The Epigenase™ Universal SIRT Activity/Inhibition Assay Kit (Colorimetric) contains all reagents necessary for the measurement of SIRT activity/inhibition. In this assay, an acetylated histone SIRT substrate is stably coated onto the microplate wells. Active SIRTs bind to the substrate and removes acetyl groups from the substrate. The SIRT-deacetylated products can be recognized with a specific antibody. The ratio or amount of deacetylated products, which is proportional to the enzyme activity, can then be colorimetrically measured by reading the absorbance in a microplate spectrophotometer at 450 nm. The activity of the SIRT enzyme is proportional to the OD intensity measured.



Schematic procedure of Epigenase™ Universal SIRT Activity/Inhibition Assay Kit (Colorimetric)



Demonstration of high sensitivity of a SIRT activity assay achieved by using recombinant SIRT1 with Epigenase™ Universal SIRT Activity/Inhibition Assay Kit (Colorimetric).



Illustrated standard curve generated with SIRT assay standard.

PROTOCOL

For the best results, please read the protocol in its entirety prior to starting your experiment.

Starting Materials

Input Amount: The amount of nuclear extracts for each assay can be between 0.5 µg to 20 µg with an optimal range of 5-10 µg. The amount of purified enzymes can be 5 ng to 500 ng, depending on the purity and catalytic activity of the enzymes.

Cell Extraction: You can use your method of choice for preparing nuclear extracts, cytoplasmic or mitochondria fractions. EpigenTek offers a nuclear extraction kit (Cat # OP-0002) optimized for use with this kit for SIRT1, SIRT6, and SIRT7 assay.

Cell Extract or Purified SIRT Enzyme Storage: Cell extract or purified SIRT enzyme should be stored in aliquot at –80°C until use.

1. Working Buffer and Solution Preparation

- a. Prepare 1X Wash Buffer:

48-Assay Kit: Add 13 ml of **WB** 10X Wash Buffer to 117 ml of distilled water and adjust pH to 7.2-7.5.

96-Assay Kit: Add 26 ml of **WB** 10X Wash Buffer to 234 ml of distilled water and adjust pH to 7.2-7.5.

This **Diluted WB** 1X Wash Buffer can now be stored at 4°C for up to six months.

- b. Prepare **Diluted HO4** Capture Antibody Solution:

Dilute **HO4** Capture Antibody with **Diluted WB** 1X Wash Buffer at a ratio of 1:1000 (add 1 µl of **HO4** to 1000 µl of **Diluted WB** 1X Wash Buffer). 50 µl of **Diluted HO4** will be required for each assay well.

- c. Prepare **Diluted HO5** Detection Antibody Solution:

Dilute **HO5** Detection Antibody with **Diluted WB** 1X Wash Buffer at a ratio of 1:2000 (add 1 µl of **HO5** Detection Antibody to 2000 µl of **Diluted WB** 1X Wash Buffer). 50 µl of **Diluted HO5** will be required for each assay well.

- d. Prepare **Diluted HO3** Standard Solution:

Suggested Standard Curve Preparation: First, dilute **HO3** Assay Standard with **HO1** Assay Buffer to 5 ng/µl by adding 1 µl of **HO3** to 9 µl of **HO1**. Then, further prepare five concentrations by combining the 5 ng/µl diluted **HO3** with **HO1** into final concentrations of 0.2, 0.5, 1, 2, and 5 ng/µl according to the following dilution chart

Tube	HO3 (5 ng/µl)	HO1	Resulting HO3 Concentration
1	1.0 µl	24.0 µl	0.2 ng/µl
2	1.0 µl	9.0 µl	0.5 ng/µl
3	1.0 µl	4.0 µl	1.0 ng/µl
4	2.0 µl	3.0 µl	2.0 ng/µl
5	4.0 µl	0.0 µl	5.0 ng/µl

Note: Keep each of the diluted solutions except **Diluted WB** 1X Wash Buffer on ice until use. Any remaining diluted solutions other than **Diluted WB** should be discarded if not used within the same day

2. Enzymatic Reaction

- a. Predetermine the number of strip wells required for your experiment. It is advised to run replicate samples (include blank and positive control) to ensure that the signal generated is validated. Carefully remove un-needed strip wells from the plate frame and place them back in the bag (seal the bag tightly and store at 4°C).
- b. **Blank Wells:** Add 48 µl of **HO1** and 1 µl of **HO2** and 1 µl of **NAD**. Total volume should be 50 µl/well.
- c. **No NAD Control (NNC) Wells:** Add 44 to 47 µl of **HO1** and 1 µl of **HO2**, 1 µl of **TSA**, and 1 to 4 µl of nuclear extracts or 1 to 4 µl of purified SIRT enzyme. Total volume should be 50 µl/well.
- d. **Standard Wells:** Add 49 µl of **HO1** and 1 µl of **Diluted HO3** to each standard well with a minimum of five wells, each at different concentrations between 0.2 to 5 ng/µl (based on the dilution chart in Step 1d; see [Table 2](#) under the “Suggested Working Buffer & Solution Setup” section as an example).
- e. **Sample Wells Without Inhibitor:** Add 43 to 46 µl of **HO1**, 1 µl of **HO2**, 1 µl of **TSA**, 1 µl of **NAD**, and 1 to 4 µl of nuclear extracts or 1 to 4 µl of purified SIRT enzyme. Total volume should be 50 µl/well.
- f. **Sample Wells With Inhibitor:** Add 38 to 41 µl of **HO1**, 1 µl of **HO2**, 1 µl of **TSA**, 1 µl of **NAD**, and 1 to 4 µl of nuclear extracts or 1 to 4 µl of purified HDAC enzyme, and 5 µl of inhibitor solution. Total volume should be 50 µl/well.

Note: (1) Follow the suggested well setup diagrams under “Suggested Working Buffer & Solution Setup” section; (2) It is recommended to use 2 µg to 10 µg of cell extract per well or 10 ng to 200 ng of purified enzyme per well; (3) The concentration of inhibitors to be added into the sample wells can be varied (e.g., 1 µM to 1000 µM). However, the final concentration of the inhibitors before adding to the wells should be prepared with **HO1** at a 1:10 ratio (e.g., add 0.5 µl of inhibitor to 4.5 µl of **HO1**), so that the original solvent of the inhibitor can be reduced to 1% of the reaction solution or less. The SIRT inhibitor, nicotinamide (**NAM**) included in the kit can be used as a control inhibitor.

- g. Tightly cover strip plate with **Adhesive Covering Film** to avoid evaporation and incubate at 37°C for 60-90 min.

Note: (1) The incubation time may depend on intrinsic SIRT activity. However, in general, 60 min incubation is suitable for active purified SIRT enzyme and 90 min incubation is required for nuclear extract; (2) The **Adhesive Covering Film** can be cut to the required size to cover the strips based on the number of strips to be used.

- h. Remove the reaction solution from each well. Wash each well three times with 150 µl of the **Diluted WB** 1X Wash Buffer each time

3. Antibody Binding and Signal Enhancing

- a. Add 50 µl of the **Diluted HO4** to each well, then cover with Parafilm M or aluminum foil and incubate at room temperature for 60 min.
- b. Remove the **Diluted HO4** solution from each well.

- c. Wash each well three times with 150 µl of the **Diluted WB** each time.
- d. Add 50 µl of the **Diluted HO5** to each well, then cover with Parafilm M or aluminum foil and incubate at room temperature for 30 min.
- e. Remove the **Diluted HO5** solution from each well.
- f. Wash each well four times with 150 µl of the **Diluted WB** each time.

Note: Ensure any residual wash buffer in the wells is removed as much as possible at each wash step. The wash can be done by simply pipetting the washing buffer into the wells and then pipetting the buffer out from the wells (discard the buffer).

4. Signal Detection

- a. Add 100 µl of **DS** to each well and incubate at room temperature for 1 to 10 min away from light. Begin monitoring color change in the sample wells and control wells. The **DS** solution will turn blue in the presence of sufficient deacetylated products.
- b. Add 100 µl of **SS** to each well to stop enzyme reaction when the color in the positive control wells turns medium blue. The color will change to yellow after adding **SS** and the absorbance should be read on a microplate reader within 2 to 10 min at 450 nm with an optional reference wavelength of 655 nm.

Note: (1) Most microplate readers have the capability to carry out dual wavelength analysis and will automatically subtract reference wavelength absorbance from the test wavelength absorbance. If your plate reader does not have this capability, the plate can be read twice, once at 450 nm and once at 655 nm. Then, manually subtract the 655 nm ODs from 450 nm ODs; (2) If the strip-well microplate frame does not fit in the microplate reader, transfer the solution to a standard 96-well microplate.

5. SIRT Activity Calculation

- a. Calculate average duplicate readings for sample wells and blank wells.
- b. Calculate SIRT activity or inhibition using the following formulas:

For simple calculation:

$$\text{SIRT Activity (OD/min/mg)} = \frac{(\text{Sample OD} - \text{NNC OD})}{(\text{Protein Amount } (\mu\text{g}) * \text{x min}^{**})} \times 1000$$

* Protein amount added into the reaction at step 2e.

** incubation time (minutes) at step 2g.

Example calculation:

Average OD450 of sample is 0.75
 Average OD450 of NNC is 0.15
 Protein amount is 5 µg
 Incubation time is 2 hours (120 min)

$$\text{SIRT activity} = \frac{(0.75 - 0.15)}{(5 \times 120)} \times 1000 = 1 \text{ OD/min/mg}$$

For accurate or specific activity calculation:

1. Generate a standard curve and plot OD value versus amount of **HO3** at each concentration point.
2. Determine the slope as OD/ng (you can use Microsoft Excel statistical functions for slope calculation), then calculate the amount of SIRT-converted deacetylated product using the following formulas:

$$\text{Deacetylated product (ng)} = \frac{(\text{Sample OD} - \text{NNC OD})}{\text{Slope}}$$

$$\text{SIRT Activity (ng/min/mg)} = \frac{\text{Deacetylated Product (ng)}}{(\text{Protein Amount } (\mu\text{g}) \times \text{min}^*)} \times 1000$$

* Incubation time (minutes) at Step 2g.

For inhibition calculation:

$$\text{Inhibition \%} = \left[1 - \frac{\text{Inhibitor Sample OD} - \text{NNC OD}}{\text{No Inhibitor Sample OD} - \text{NNC OD}} \right] \times 100\%$$

SUGGESTED WORKING BUFFER AND SOLUTION SETUP

Table 1. Amount of required buffers and solutions for defined assay wells

Reagents	1 well	1 strip (8 wells)	2 strips (16 wells)	6 strips (48 wells)	12 strips (96 wells)
Diluted WB	2.5 ml	20 ml	40 ml	120 ml	240 ml
HO1	50 μ l	400 μ l	800 μ l	2400 μ l	4800 μ l
HO2	1 μ l	8 μ l	16 μ l	50 μ l	120 μ l
HO3	N/A	N/A	1 μ l (optional)	2 μ l	2 μ l
Diluted HO4	50 μ l	400 μ l	800 μ l	2400 μ l	4800 μ l
Diluted HO5	50 μ l	400 μ l	800 μ l	2400 μ l	4800 μ l
NAD	2 μ l	16 μ l	32 μ l	96 μ l	192 μ l
Developer Solution	0.1 ml	0.8 ml	1.6 ml	4.8 ml	9.6 ml
Stop Solution	0.1 ml	0.8 ml	1.6 ml	4.8 ml	9.6 ml

SUGGESTED STRIP WELL SETUP

Table 2. The suggested strip-well plate setup for SIRT activity assay in a 48-assay format (in a 96-assay format, Strips 7 to 12 can be configured as Sample). The controls and samples can be measured in duplicate.

Well #	Strip 1	Strip 2	Strip 3	Strip 4	Strip 5	Strip 6
A	Blank	Blank	Sample	Sample	Sample	Sample
B	NNC	NNC	Sample	Sample	Sample	Sample
C	HO3 0.2 ng	HO3 0.2 ng	Sample	Sample	Sample	Sample
D	HO3 0.5 ng	HO3 0.5 ng	Sample	Sample	Sample	Sample
E	HO3 1.0 ng	HO3 1.0 ng	Sample	Sample	Sample	Sample
F	HO3 2.0 ng	HO3 2.0 ng	Sample	Sample	Sample	Sample
G	HO3 5 ng	HO3 5 ng	Sample	Sample	Sample	Sample
H	Sample	Sample	Sample	Sample	Sample	Sample

TROUBLESHOOTING

Problem	Possible Cause	Suggestion
No signal or weak signal in both the positive control and sample wells	Reagents are added incorrectly.	Check if reagents are added in the proper order with the right amount, and if any steps in the protocol may have been omitted by mistake.
	The well is incorrectly washed before enzyme reaction	Ensure the well is not washed prior to adding the positive control and sample.
	Incubation time and temperature are incorrect.	Ensure the incubation time and temperature described in the protocol is followed correctly.
	Incorrect absorbance reading.	Check if appropriate absorbance wavelength (450 nm) is used.
	Kit was not stored or handled properly.	Ensure all components of the kit were stored at the appropriate temperature and the cap is tightly capped after each opening or use.
No signal or weak signal in only the standard curve wells	The standard amount is insufficiently added to the well in Step 2c.	Ensure a sufficient amount of standard is added.
	The standard is degraded due to improper storage conditions.	Follow the Shipping & Storage guidance in this User Guide for storage of HO3 (SIRT Assay Standard).
High background present in the blank wells	Insufficient washing of wells.	Check if washing recommendations at each step is performed according to the protocol.
	Contaminated by sample or standard.	Ensure the well is not contaminated from adding sample or standard accidentally or from using contaminated tips.

	Incubation time with Diluted HO5 is too long.	The incubation time at Step 3d should not exceed 2 hours.
	Over-development of color.	Decrease the development time in Step 4a before adding SS Stop Solution in Step 4b.
No signal or weak signal only in sample wells	Protein sample is not properly extracted or purified.	Ensure your protocol is suitable for SIRT protein extraction. For the best results, it is advised to use EpigenTek's Nuclear Extraction Kit (Cat. No. OP-0002). Also, use fresh cells or tissues for protein extraction, as frozen cells or tissues could lose enzyme activity.
	Sample amount added into the wells is insufficient.	Ensure a sufficient amount of purified enzymes or nuclear extracts is used as indicated in Step 2. The sample can be titrated to determine the optimal amount to use in the assay.
	Sample was not stored properly or has been stored for too long.	Ensure sample is stored in aliquots at – 80°C, with no more than 6 weeks for nuclear extracts and 6 months for purified enzymes. Avoid repeated freezing/thawing.
	Little or no activity of SIRT contained in the sample.	This problem may be a result of many factors. If the affecting factors cannot be determined, use new or re-prepared nuclear extracts or purified enzymes.
Uneven color development	Insufficient washing of the wells.	Ensure the wells are washed according to the guidance of washing and residue washing buffer is removed as much as possible.
	Delayed color development or delayed stopping of color development in the wells.	Ensure color development solution or stop solution is added sequentially and is consistent with the order you added the other reagents (e.g., from well A to well G or from well 1 to well 12).

RELATED PRODUCTS

Nuclear Extract Preparation

OP-0002 EpiQuik™ Nuclear Extraction Kit

SIRT Activity/Inhibition Assay

P-4034 Epigenase™ HDAC Activity/Inhibition Assay Kit (Colorimetric)

P-4035 Epigenase™ HDAC Activity/Inhibition Assay Kit (Fluorometric)

P-4037 Epigenase™ Universal SIRT Activity/Inhibition Assay Kit (Fluorometric)