

# HEK-Blue™ IL-6 Cells

Interleukin-6 sensor cells

Catalog code: hkb-hil6

<https://www.invivogen.com/hek-blue-il6>

For research use only

Version 24H20-NJ

## PRODUCT INFORMATION

### Contents:

- 3-7 x 10<sup>6</sup> of HEK-Blue™ IL-6 cells in a cryovial or shipping flask.  
*Note: If cells provided in a cryovial are not frozen upon arrival, contact InvivoGen immediately.*
- 2 x 1 ml HEK-Blue™ Selection (250X concentrate). A solution containing the required selection antibiotics. HEK-Blue™ Selection can be stored at 4°C or at -20°C.\*
- 1 ml of Normocin® (50 mg/ml), a formulation of three antibiotics active against mycoplasmas, bacteria and fungi. Store at -20°C.\*  
\*The expiry date is specified on the product label.
- 1 ml of QB reagent and 1 ml of QB buffer (sufficient to prepare 100 ml of QUANTI-Blue™ Solution, a SEAP detection reagent). QB reagent and QB buffer are stable for 1 year at -20°C. QUANTI-Blue™ Solution is stable for 2 weeks at 4°C and for 2 months at -20°C.  
*Note: Data sheets for all components are available on our website.*

### Handling Frozen Cells Upon Arrival

Cells are shipped in dry ice, and upon receipt should immediately be thawed for culture or stored below -130°C, preferably in liquid nitrogen vapor, for long-term storage.

**IMPORTANT: Do not store cell vials at -80°C as this will decrease cell viability and performance.** Contact technical support if the cells are not frozen or in dry ice upon arrival.

To insure the highest level of viability and best assay performance, we strongly recommend that you thaw the cells and initiate the culture as soon as possible upon receipt (as described on the next page).

### Warranties

- InvivoGen's cells are provided 'AS IS' and their viability is guaranteed upon shipment from our facilities for a period of 30 days, provided that the customer has properly stored and handled the product.
- Our cell lines are guaranteed free of mycoplasma contamination.
- The stability of our cell lines is guaranteed for 20 passages.

### Quality Control

- SEAP reporter activity in response to IL-6 is validated using functional assays.
- The stability for 20 passages following thawing is confirmed.
- These cells are tested for mycoplasma contamination.

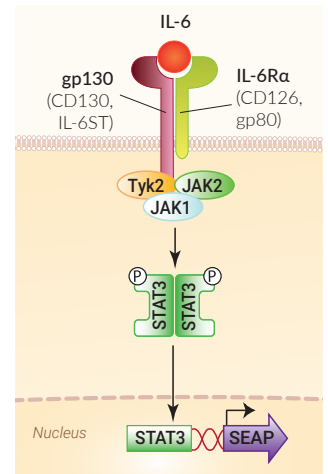
## USE RESTRICTIONS

These cells are distributed for research purposes only.

This product is covered by a Limited Use License. By use of this product, the buyer agrees to the terms and conditions of all applicable Limited Use Label Licenses. For non-research use, such as screening, quality control or clinical development, contact [outlicensing@invivogen.com](mailto:outlicensing@invivogen.com).

## PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

HEK-Blue™ IL-6 cells are specifically designed to monitor the activation of the STAT6 pathway induced by IL-6. They were generated by stable transfection of human embryonic kidney 293 (HEK293)-derived cells with the genes encoding the IL-6R $\alpha$  chain of the human IL-6 receptor, as well as human STAT3 to obtain a fully active IL-6 signaling pathway. The gp130 chain of the IL-6 receptor is endogenously expressed. They were further transfected with a reporter gene expressing a secreted embryonic alkaline phosphatase (SEAP) under the control of the IFN- $\beta$  minimal promoter fused to four STAT3 binding sites. Upon IL-6 stimulation, HEK-Blue™ IL-6 cells trigger the activation of STAT3 and the subsequent secretion of SEAP. This can be readily assessed when using QUANTI-Blue™ Solution, a SEAP detection reagent.



HEK-Blue™ IL-6 cells are resistant to Blasticidin, Hygromycin B, and Zeocin®.

Detection range for human IL-6: 0.03-10 ng/ml

## BACKGROUND

Interleukin-6 (IL-6) is a multifunctional cytokine that plays an important role in the regulation of the immune response, hematopoiesis, and inflammation<sup>1,2</sup>. It is secreted by many cell types, including endothelial cells, fibroblasts, macrophages and T lymphocytes. IL-6 exhibits both pro- and anti-inflammatory properties which are context dependent. For example, following exercise smooth muscle cells produce IL-6 which displays anti-inflammatory activity while during acute infection macrophages produce IL-6 which exerts pro-inflammatory activity<sup>3</sup>.

IL-6 exerts its action by binding to the IL-6 receptor. The complex of IL-6 and IL-6R $\alpha$  chain associates with the signal-transducing membrane protein gp130. This leads to the activation of a signaling cascade through the tyrosine kinases of the Janus family (JAK1, JAK2, and Tyk2) and the signal transducer and transcription activator 3 (STAT3) which binds elements of IL-6-inducible genes<sup>1-3</sup>.

1. Johnson DE. *et al.*, 2018. Targeting the IL-6/JAK/STAT3 signalling axis in cancer. *Nat Rev Clin Oncol.* 15(4):234.
2. Hunter CA. & Jones SA., 2015. IL-6 as a keystone cytokine in health and disease. *Nat Immunol.* 16(5):448.
3. Scheller J. *et al.*, 2017. The pro- and anti-inflammatory properties of the cytokine interleukin-6. *Biochim Biophys Acta.* 1813(5):878.

## TECHNICAL SUPPORT

InvivoGen USA (Toll-Free): 888-457-5873

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## SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

HEK-Blue™ IL-6 cells were derived from HEK293 cells (transformed with adenovirus 5 DNA) that require **Biosafety level 2** according to the American Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines. The biosafety level may vary depending on the country. For example, in Germany HEK293 cell lines are designated Biosafety Level 1 according to the Central Committee of Biological Safety, Zentrale Kommission für die Biologische Sicherheit (ZKBS). Please check with your country's regulatory authority regarding the use of these cells.

## HANDLING PROCEDURES

### Required Cell Culture Medium

- **Growth Medium:** DMEM, 4.5 g/l glucose, 2 mM L-glutamine, 10% (v/v) heat-inactivated (HI) fetal bovine serum (FBS; 30 min at 56 °C), Pen-Strep (100 U/ml-100 µg/ml), 100 µg/ml **Normocin™**
- **Freezing Medium:** DMEM, 20% (v/v) FBS, 10% (v/v) DMSO
- **Test Medium:** DMEM, 4.5 g/l glucose, 2 mM L-glutamine, 10% (v/v) HI FBS, Pen-Strep (100 U/ml-100 µg/ml) **without Normocin® and HEK-Blue™ Selection**

*Note: Some FBS may contain alkaline phosphatases that can interfere with SEAP quantification. We recommend to use heat-inactivated FBS to inactivate these thermosensitive enzymes.*

### Required Selective Antibiotic(s)

- **HEK-Blue™ Selection**

### Initial Culture Procedure

The first propagation of cells should be for generating stocks for future use. This ensures the stability and performance of the cells for subsequent experiments.

1. Thaw the vial by gentle agitation in a 37 °C water bath. To reduce the possibility of contamination, keep the O-ring and cap out of the water. Thawing should be rapid.
2. Remove the vial from the water bath as soon as the contents are thawed, and decontaminate by dipping in or spraying with 70% (v/v) ethanol.

*Note: All steps from this point should be carried out under strict aseptic conditions.*

3. Transfer cells in a larger vial containing 15 ml of pre-warmed growth medium. **Warning: Do not add selection antibiotics until the cells have been passaged twice.**
4. Centrifuge vial at 150 x g (RCF) for 10 minutes.
5. Remove supernatant containing the cryoprotective agent and resuspend cells with 1 ml of growth medium without selection antibiotics.
6. Transfer the vial contents to a 25 cm<sup>2</sup> tissue culture flask containing 5 ml of growth medium without selection antibiotics.

*Note: To avoid excessive alkalinity of the medium during recovery of the cells, place the tissue culture flask containing the growth medium into the incubator for at least 15 minutes prior to the addition of the vial contents.*

7. Place the culture at 37 °C in 5% CO<sub>2</sub>.

### Frozen Stock Preparation

1. Resuspend cells at a density of 5-7 x 10<sup>6</sup> cells/ml in freezing medium freshly prepared with cold growth medium.

*Note: A T-75 culture flask typically yields enough cells for preparing 3-4 frozen vials.*

2. Prepare 1 ml aliquots of cells in cryogenic vials.
3. Place vials in a freezing container and store at -80 °C overnight.
4. Transfer vials to liquid nitrogen for long term storage.

*Note: If properly stored, cells should remain stable for years.*

## Cell Handling Recommendations

To ensure the best results, use HEK-Blue™ IL-6 cells with less than 20 passages.

## Cell Maintenance

1. HEK-Blue™ IL-6 cells grow as adherent cells. Detach the cells using PBS at 37 °C or trypsin at room temperature (RT) for 2-3 min. **Warning: Prolonged action of trypsin or incubation at 37 °C may alter the cell surface expression of cytokine receptors.**
2. Maintain and subculture the cells in growth medium supplemented with 1X **HEK-Blue™ Selection**.
3. Renew growth medium twice a week.
4. Cells should be passaged when a 70-80% confluency is reached. Do not let the cells grow to 100% confluency.

## DETECTION OF IL-6 ACTIVITY

We recommend to use **test medium** one passage prior to the assay.

### Day 1:

1. Prepare HEK-Blue™ IL-6 cell suspension: gently rinse cells twice with pre-warmed phosphate buffered saline (PBS), detach the cells using PBS at 37 °C or trypsin at room temperature (RT) for 2-3 min. Tap the flask if needed. Resuspend cells in fresh, pre-warmed test medium and prepare a cell suspension at ~280,000 cells/ml.
2. Add 20 µl of sample per well of a flat-bottom 96-well plate.
3. In separate wells, add 20 µl of a positive control, such as **recombinant human IL-6** (3 ng/ml final concentration), and 20 µl of a negative control, such as **recombinant human IL-4** (3 ng/ml final concentration).
4. Add 20 µl of at 3 ng/ml (positive control) in one well.
4. Add 180 µl of HEK-Blue™ IL-6 cell suspension (~50,000 cells) per well.
5. Incubate overnight at 37 °C in 5% CO<sub>2</sub>.

### Day 2:

1. Prepare **QUANTI-Blue™ Solution** following the instructions on the enclosed data sheet.
2. Add 20 µl of induced HEK-Blue™ IL-6 cells supernatant per well of a flat-bottom 96-well plate.
3. Add 180 µl of resuspended **QUANTI-Blue™ Solution** per well.
4. Incubate the plate at 37 °C for 30 min to 3 hours.
5. Determine SEAP levels using a spectrophotometer at 620-655 nm.

## RELATED PRODUCTS

| Product                | Description              | Cat. Code  |
|------------------------|--------------------------|------------|
| HEK-Blue™ Selection    | Selection antibiotic mix | hb-sel     |
| Normocin®              | Antimicrobial reagent    | ant-nr-1   |
| QUANTI-Blue™ Solution  | SEAP detection reagent   | rep-qbs    |
| Recombinant human IL-4 | Recombinant cytokine     | rcyec-hil4 |
| Recombinant human IL-6 | Recombinant cytokine     | rcyec-hil6 |

## TECHNICAL SUPPORT

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# QUANTI-Blue™ Solution

Medium for detection and quantification of alkaline phosphatase in standard and HTS assays

Catalog code: rep-qbs, rep-qbs2, rep-qbs3

<https://www.invivogen.com/quant-blue>

For research use only

Version 23C09-MM

## PRODUCT INFORMATION

**Contents:** QUANTI-Blue™ Solution is available in three pack sizes

- **rep-qbs:** 5 x 1 ml of QB reagent and 5 x 1 ml QB buffer, sufficient to prepare QUANTI-Blue™ Solution for **25 x 96-well plates** (500 ml using the standard procedure) or **20 x 1536-well plates** (85 ml using the HTS screening procedure).

- **rep-qbs2:** 10 x 1 ml of QB reagent and 10 x 1 ml QB buffer, sufficient to prepare QUANTI-Blue™ Solution for **50 x 96-well plates** (1 L using the standard procedure) or **40 x 1536-well plates** (170 ml using the HTS screening procedure).

- **rep-qbs3:** 1 x 20 ml bottle of QB reagent and 1 x 20 ml bottle of QB buffer, sufficient to prepare QUANTI-Blue™ Solution for **100 x 96-well plates** (2 L using the standard procedure) or **80 x 1536-well plates** (340 ml using the HTS screening procedure).

**Required Material (not provided)**

- Sterile water
- Sterile screw cap tube, glass bottle or flask

### Storage and stability

- Product is shipped at room temperature. Upon receipt, store QB reagent and QB buffer at -20°C. Product is stable for 1 year at -20°C when properly stored.

- The 20 ml bottles of QB reagent and QB buffer are designed for single use. If required, individual aliquots of QB reagent and QB buffer can be prepared upon receipt or following a single freeze-thaw cycle. Store aliquots at -20°C. **Avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles.**

*Note:* During storage, a precipitate may form in the 20 ml bottle of QB reagent and QB buffer. If this occurs, heat the product at 37°C for 30 seconds and vortex until the precipitate disappears. The formation of a precipitate does not affect the activity of the product.

- Reconstituted QUANTI-Blue™ Solution is stable for 2 weeks at 2-8°C and for 2 months at -20°C. Protect from light.

### Quality Control

Each lot is thoroughly tested to ensure the absence of lot-to-lot variation.

- Physicochemical characterization (pH, appearance).
- Functional assays using alkaline phosphatase or SEAP-expressing reporter cells.

## DESCRIPTION

QUANTI-Blue™ is a colorimetric enzyme assay developed to determine any alkaline phosphatase activity (AP) in a biological sample, such as supernatants of cell cultures. QUANTI-Blue™ Solution changes from pink to a purple-blue color in the presence of AP. Secreted embryonic alkaline phosphatase (SEAP) is a widely used reporter gene. It is a truncated form of placental alkaline phosphatase, a glycosylphosphatidylinositol (GPI)-anchored protein. SEAP is secreted into the cell culture supernatant and therefore offers many advantages over intracellular reporters.

QUANTI-Blue™ is highly sensitive for quantitative measurement. It has a higher saturation threshold than with pNPP (p-nitrophenyl phosphate) resulting in more significant differences between no, low or high AP activity. Another advantage of QUANTI-Blue™ is that it can determine secreted AP activity without disturbing cells, thus allowing the repeated sampling of cell cultures for kinetic studies.

## METHODS

QUANTI-Blue™ Solution has been optimized for use in 96-well plates (standard procedure) and in 1536-well plates (high throughput screening procedure).

### A. Standard procedure

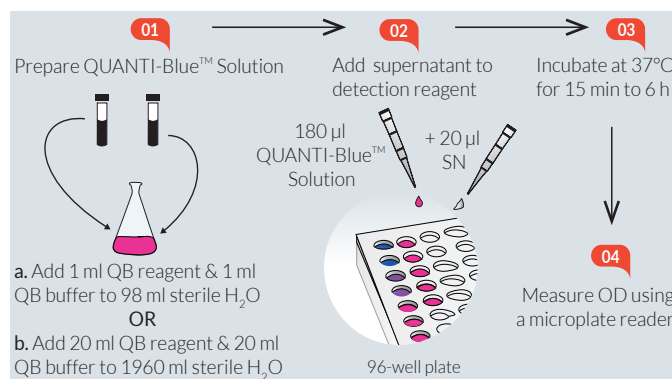


Figure 1. Standard procedure using QUANTI-Blue™ Solution.

The following protocol refers to the use of 96-well plates. Ensure QB reagent and QB buffer are completely thawed before use.

*Note:* For fast thawing, QB reagent and QB buffer can be placed at 37°C for 2 minutes. Ensure heating at 37°C does **not** exceed 5 minutes.

1. In a sterile bottle or flask, prepare QUANTI-Blue™ Solution by adding:
  - a. 1 ml of QB reagent and 1 ml of QB buffer to 98 ml of sterile water.
  - b. 20 ml of QB reagent and 20 ml of QB buffer to 1960 ml of sterile water.
2. Mix by vortexing and incubate at room temperature for 10 min before use.
3. Use QUANTI-Blue™ Solution immediately or store at 2-8°C or -20°C.
4. Dispense 180 µl of QUANTI-Blue™ Solution per well into a flat-bottom 96-well plate.
5. Add 20 µl of the sample (supernatant of SEAP-expressing cells) or negative control (cell culture medium).
6. Incubate at 37°C for 15 min to 6 h.
7. Measure optical density (OD) at 620-655 nm using a microplate reader.

*Note:* If the negative control turns purple/blue, it means the fetal bovine serum (FBS) contains alkaline phosphatase. We recommend heating FBS at 56°C for 30 min to inactivate the alkaline phosphatase activity.

For different cell culture plate formats, please refer to the table below:

|              | 96-well plate | 24-well plate | 12-well plate |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| QUANTI-Blue™ | 180 µl        | 450 µl        | 900 µl        |
| Supernatant  | 20 µl         | 50 µl         | 100 µl        |

### TECHNICAL SUPPORT

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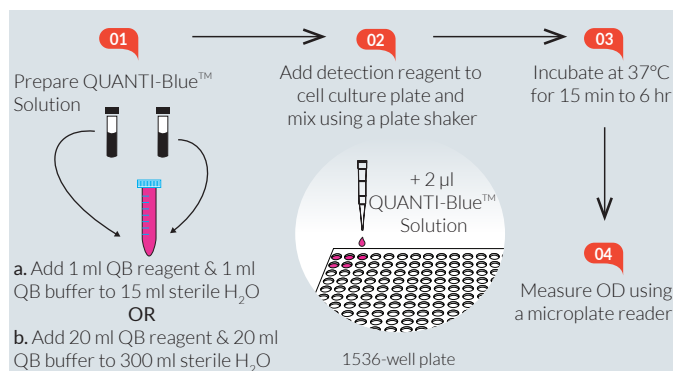
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## B. High Throughput Screening (HTS) procedure



**Figure 2. High throughput screening procedure using QUANTI-Blue™ Solution.**

This procedure has been optimized for use in HTS screening procedures in 1536-well plates. QUANTI-Blue™ Solution is added directly to the cell suspension to reduce liquid handling.

Ensure QB reagent and QB buffer are completely thawed before use.  
*Note:* For fast thawing, QB reagent and QB buffer can be placed at 37°C for 2 minutes. Ensure heating at 37°C does **not** exceed 5 minutes.

1. Dispense cell suspension and test compounds into a 1536-well plate in a volume that does not exceed **5 µl** per well. Incubate cells with test compounds for the desired period of time.
2. Prepare QUANTI-Blue™ Solution by adding:
  - a. **1 ml** of QB reagent and **1 ml** of QB buffer to **15 ml** of sterile water in a sterile 50 ml screw cap tube.
  - b. **20 ml** of QB reagent and **20 ml** of QB buffer to **300 ml** of sterile water in a sterile glass bottle or flask.
3. Mix well by vortexing and incubate at room temperature for 10 minutes before use.
4. Use QUANTI-Blue™ Solution immediately or store at 2-8°C or -20°C.
5. Dispense **2 µl** of QUANTI-Blue™ Solution to the wells containing ≤ 5 µl of cell culture in a 1536-well plate.
6. Mix using a plate shaker.
7. Incubate at 37°C for 15 min to 6 h.
8. Measure OD at 620-655 nm.

*Note:* If the negative control turns purple/blue, it means the fetal bovine serum (FBS) contains alkaline phosphatase. We recommend heating FBS at 56°C for 30 min to inactivate the alkaline phosphatase activity.

## RELATED PRODUCTS

| Product                  | Catalog Code |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| pNiFty2-SEAP (Zeo®)      | pnifty2-seap |
| pSELECT-zeo-SEAP         | psetz-seap   |
| HEK-Blue™ Detection      | hb-det2      |
| Recombinant SEAP Protein | rec-hseap    |
| <b>Reporter cells</b>    |              |
| HEK-Blue™ hTLR2          | hkb-htlr2    |
| HEK-Blue™ hTLR4          | hkb-htlr4    |
| RAW-Blue™ Cells          | raw-sp       |
| THP1-Blue™ NF-κB Cells   | thp-nfkb     |
| THP1-Blue™ ISG Cells     | thp-isg      |

For a complete list of InvivoGen's Reporter Cell Lines visit <https://www.invivogen.com/reporter-cells>

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