AC Kerazyme®
Toxicology Data

Code: 16594
INCI Name: Hydrolyzed Keratin & Trametes Versicolor Extract
CAS #: 69430-36-0 & 999999-99-4
EINECS #: 274-001-1 & 310-127-6

EINECS #: N/A Name of Study	Type of Study	Results
Dermal & Ocular Irritation Tests	*In-vitro*	Both the dermal and ocular assays reveal that **AC Kerazyme®** is non-irritating and should not cause any of the aforementioned conditions.
AMES Test	*In-vitro*	The results of the Bacterial Reverse Mutation Assay indicate that under the conditions of this assay, that **AC Kerazyme®** was considered to be Non-Mutagenicto Salmonella typhimurium testerstrains TA98, TA100, TA1537, TA1535 and Escherichia coli WP2uvrA.
OECD TG 442D In-Vitro Skin Sensitization	*In-vitro*	The results using the ARE-Nrf2 Luciferase Test Method in accordance with UN GHS indicate that **AC Kerazyme®** was not predicated to be a skin sensitizer.
OECD TG 442C Direct Peptide Reactivity	*In-chemico*	Based on HPLC-UV analysis **AC Kerazyme®** was determined as a non-sensitizer and will not cause allergic contact dermatitis.
OECD 301B Ready Biodegradability	*In-chemico*	The results of the Modified Sturm Test ensure **AC Kerazyme®** met method requirements for the Readily Biodegradable classification.

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Name of Study	Type of Study	Results
OECD 202 Acute Daphnia	*In-vivo*	According to the EU Directive 93/67/EEC, **AC Kerazyme®** is not classified as harmful to aquatic organisms.
UV-Vis Report	*Instrumental*	The results exclude **AC Kerazyme®** as a photoxic substance.

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Dermal and Ocular Irritation Tests

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Tradename: AC Kerazyme®

Code: 16594

CAS #: 69430-36-0 & 999999-99-4

Test Request Form #: 410

Sponsor: *Active Concepts, LLC; 107 Technology Drive Lincolnton, NC 28092*
Study Director: *Erica Segura*
Principle Investigator: *Meghan Darley*

Test Performed:
In Vitro EpiDerm™ Dermal Irritation Test (EPI-200-SIT)
EpiOcular™ Eye Irritation Test (OCL-200-EIT)

SUMMARY

In vitro dermal and ocular irritation studies were conducted to evaluate whether **AC Kerazyme**® would induce dermal or ocular irritation in the EpiDerm™ and EpiOcular™ model assays.

The product was tested according to the manufacture's protocol. The test article solution was found to be a **non-irritant**. Reconstructed human epidermis and cornea epithelial model were incubated in growth media overnight to allow for tissue equilibration after shipping from MatTek Corporation, Ashland, MA. Test substances were applied to the tissue inserts and incubated for 60 minutes for liquid and solid substances in the EpiDerm™ assay and 30 minutes for liquid substances and 90 minutes for solid substances in the EpiOcular™ assay at 37°C, 5% CO_2, and 95% relative humidity (RH). Tissue inserts were thoroughly washed and transferred to fresh plates with growth media. After post substance dosing incubation is complete, the cell viability test begins. Cell viability is measured by dehydrogenase conversion of MTT [(*3-4,5-dimethyl thiazole 2-yl*)], present in the cell mitochondria, into blue formazan salt that is measured after extraction from the tissue. The irritation potential of the test chemical is dictated by the reduction in tissue viability of exposed tissues compared to the negative control.

Under the conditions of this assay, the test article was considered to be **non-irritating**. The negative and positive controls performed as anticipated.

I. Introduction

A. Purpose

In vitro dermal and ocular irritation studies were conducted to evaluate whether a test article would induce dermal or ocular irritation in the EpiDerm™ and EpiOcular™ model assays. MatTek Corporation's reconstructed human epidermal and human ocular models are becoming a standard in determining the irritancy potential of test substances. They are able to discriminate between irritants and non-irritants. The EpiDerm™ assay has accuracy for the prediction of UN GHS R38 skin irritating and no-label (non-skin irritating) test substances. The EpiOcular™ assay can differentiate chemicals that have been classified as R36 or R41 from the EU classifications based on Dangerous Substances Directive (DSD) or between the UN GHS Cat 1 and Cat 2 classifications.

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II. Materials

A. Incubation Conditions: 37°C at 5% CO_2 and 95% relative humidity

B. Equipment: Forma humidified incubator, ESCO biosafety laminar flow hood, Synergy HT Microplate reader; Pipettes

C. Media/Buffers: DMEM based medium; DPBS; sterile deionized H_2O

D. Preparation: Pre-incubate (37°C) tissue inserts in assay medium; Place assay medium and MTT diluent at 4°C, MTT concentrate at -20°C, and record lot numbers of kit components

E. Tissue Culture Plates: Falcon flat bottom 96-well, 24-well, 12-well, and 6-well tissue culture plates

F. Reagents: MTT (1.0mg/mL); Extraction Solution (Isopropanol); SDS (5%); Methyl Acetate

G. Other: Nylon Mesh Circles (EPI-MESH); Cotton tip swabs; 1mL tuberculin syringes; Ted Pella micro-spatula; 220mL specimen containers; sterile disposable pipette tips; Parafilm

III. Test Assay

A. Test System

The reconstructed human epidermal model, EpiDerm™, and cornea epithelial model, EpiOcular™, consist of normal human-derived epidermal keratinocytes which have been cultured to form a multilayer, highly differentiated model of the human epidermis and cornea epithelium. These models consist of organized basal, spinous, and granular layers, and the EpiDerm™ systems also contains a multilayer stratum corneum containing intercellular lamellar lipid layers that the EpiOcular™ system is lacking. Both the EpiDerm™ and EpiOcular™ tissues are cultured on specially prepared cell culture inserts.

B. Negative Control

Sterile DPBS and sterile deionized water are used as negative controls for the EpiDerm™ and EpiOcular™ assays, respectfully.

C. Positive Control

Known dermal and eye irritants, 5% SDS solution and Methyl Acetate, were used as positive controls for the EpiDerm™ and EpiOcular™ assays, respectfully.

D. Data Interpretation Procedure

a. EpiDerm™

An irritant is predicted if the mean relative tissue viability of the 3 tissues exposed to the test substance is reduced by 50% of the mean viability of the negative controls and a non-irritant's viability is > 50%.

b. EpiOcular™

An irritant is predicted if the mean relative tissue viability of the 2 tissues exposed to the test substance is reduced by 60% of the mean viability of the negative controls and a non-irritant's viability is > 40%.

IV. Method

A. Tissue Conditioning

Upon MatTek kit arrival at Active Concepts, LLC the tissue inserts are removed from their shipping medium and transferred into fresh media and tissue culture plates and incubated at 37°C at 5% CO_2 and 95% relative humidity for 60 minutes. After those 60 minutes the inserts are transferred into fresh media and tissue culture plates and incubated at 37°C at 5% CO_2 and 95% relative humidity for an additional 18 to 21 hours.

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B. Test Substance Exposure

a. EpiDerm™

30µL (liquid) or 25mg (solid) of the undiluted test substance is applied to 3 tissue inserts and allowed to incubate for 60 minutes in a humidified incubator (37°C, 5% CO_2, 95% RH).

b. EpiOcular™

Each tissue is dosed with 20µL DPBS prior to test substance dosing. 50µL (liquid) or 50mg (solid) of the undiluted test substance is applied to 2 tissue inserts and allowed to incubate for 90 minutes in a humidified incubator (37°C, 5% CO_2, 95% RH).

C. Tissue Washing and Post Incubation

a. EpiDerm™

All tissue inserts are washed with DPBS, dried with cotton tipped swab, and transferred to fresh media and culture plates. After 24 hours the inserts are again transferred into fresh media and culture plates for an additional 18 to 20 hours.

b. EpiOcular™

Tissue inserts are washed with DPBS and immediately transferred into 5mL of assay medium for 12 to 14 minutes. After this soak the inserts are transferred into fresh media and tissue culture plates for 120 minutes for liquid substances and 18 hours for solid substances.

D. MTT Assay

Tissue inserts are transferred into 300µL MTT media in pre-filled plates and incubated for 3 hours at 37°C, 5% CO_2, and 95% RH. Inserts are then removed from the MTT medium and placed in 2mL of the extraction solution. The plate is sealed and incubated at room temperature in the dark for 24 hours. After extraction is complete the tissue inserts are pierced with forceps and 2 x 200µL aliquots of the blue formazan solution is transferred into a 96 well plate for Optical Density reading. The spectrophotometer reads the 96-well plate using a wavelength of 570 nm.

V. Acceptance Criterion

A. Negative Control

The results of this assay are acceptable if the mean negative control Optical Density (OD_{570}) is ≥ 1.0 and ≤ 2.5 (EpiDerm™) or ≥ 1.0 and ≤ 2.3 (EpiOcular™).

B. Positive Control

a. EpiDerm™

The assay meets the acceptance criterion if the mean viability of positive control tissues expressed as a % of the negative control is ≤ 20%.

b. EpiOcular™

The assay meets the acceptance criterion if the mean viability of positive control tissues is < 60% of control viability.

C. Standard Deviation

Since each irritancy potential is predicted from the mean viability of 3 tissues for EpiDerm™ and 2 tissues for EpiOcular™, the variability of the replicates should be < 18% for EpiDerm™ and < 20% EpiOcular™.

VI. Results

A. Tissue Characteristics

The tissue inserts included in the MatTek EpiDerm™ and EpiOcular™ assay kits were in good condition, intact, and viable.

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B. Tissue Viability Assay

The results are summarized in Figures 1 and 2. In no case was the tissue viability ≤ 50% for EpiDerm™ or ≤ 60% for EpiOcular™ in the presence of the test substance. The negative control mean exhibited acceptable relative tissue viability while the positive control exhibited substantial loss of tissue viability and cell death.

C. Test Validity

The data obtained from this study met criteria for a valid assay.

VII. Conclusion

Under the conditions of this assay, the test article substance was considered to be **non-irritating**. The negative and positive controls performed as anticipated.

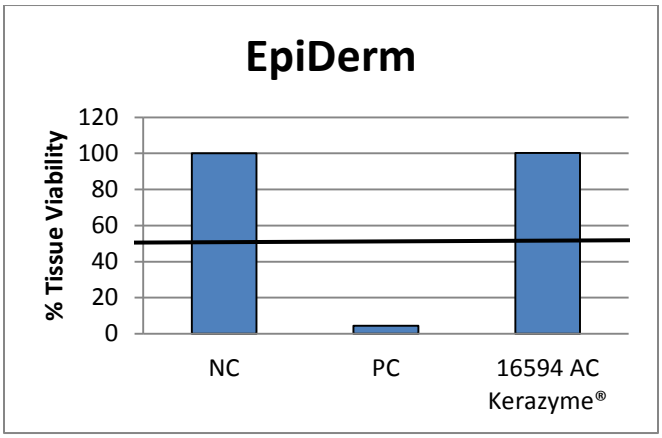

Figure 1: EpiDerm tissue viability

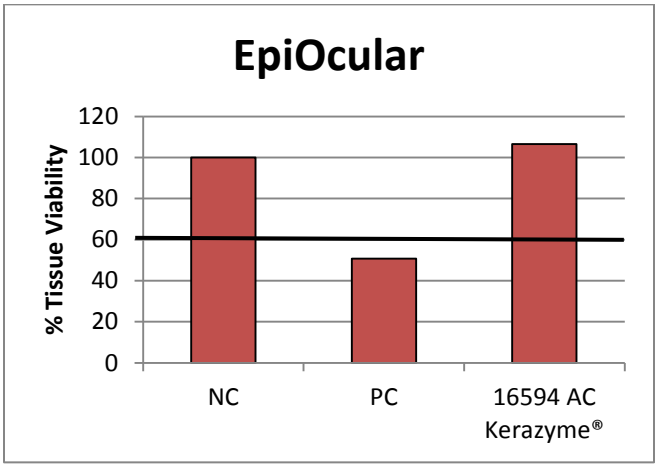

Figure 2: EpiOcular tissue viability

Bacterial Reverse Mutation Test

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Test Article: AC Kerazyme®
Code Number: 16594
CAS #: 69430-36-0 & 999999-99-4

Sponsor:
Active Concepts, LLC
107 Technology Drive
Lincolnton, NC 28092

Study Director: *Maureen Danaher*
Principle Investigator: *Monica Beltran*

Test Performed:
Genotoxicity: Bacterial Reverse Mutation Test

Reference:
OECD471/ISO10993.Part 3

Test Request Number: 2044

SUMMARY

A *Salmonella typhimurium/Escherichia coli* reverse mutation standard plate incorporation study described by Ames *et al.* (1975) was conducted to evaluate whether a test article solution **AC Kerazyme®** would cause mutagenic changes in the average number of reveratants for histidine-dependent *Salmonella typhimurium* strains TA98, TA100, TA1537, TA1535 and tryptophan-dependent *Escherichia coli* strain WP2*uvr*A in the presence and absence of Aroclor-induced rat liver S9. This study was conducted to satisfy, in part, the Genotoxicity requirement of the International Organization for Standardization: Biological Evaluation of Medical Devices, Part 3: Tests for Genotoxicity, Carcinogenicity and Reproductive Toxicity.

The stock test article was tested at eight doses levels along with appropriate vehicle control and positive controls with overnight cultures of tester strains. The test article solution was found to be noninhibitory to growth of tester strain TA98, TA100, TA1537, TA1535 and WP2*uvr*A after Sport Inhibition Screen.

Separate tubes containing 2 ml of molten top agar at 45^0C supplemented with histidine-biotin solution for the *Salmonella typhimurium* strains and supplemented with tryptophan for *Escherichia coli* strain were inoculated with 100 µl of tester strains, 100 µl of vehicle or test article dilution were added and 500 µl aliquot of S9 homogenate, simulating metabolic activation, was added when necessary. After vortexing, the mixture was poured across the Minimal Glucose Agar (GMA) plates. Parallel testing was also conducted with positive control correspond to each strain, replacing the test article aliquot with 50µl aliquot of appropriate positive control. After the overlay had solidified, the plates were inverted and incubated for 48 hours at 37^0C. The mean numbers of revertants of the test plates were compared to the mean number of revertants of the negative control plates for each of the strains tested. The means obtained for the positive controls were used as points of reference.

Under the conditions of this assay, the test article solution was considered to be Non-Mutagenic to *Salmonella typhimurium* tester strains TA98, TA100, TA1537, TA1535 and *Escherichia coli* tester strain WP2*uvr*A. The negative and positive controls performed as anticipated. The results of this study should be evaluated in conjunction with other required tests as listed in ISO 100993, Part 3: Tests for Genotoxicity, Carcinogenicity, and Reproductive Toxicology.

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I. Introduction

A. **Purpose**
A *Salmonella typhimurium/Escherichia coli* reverse mutation standard plate incorporation study was conducted to evaluate whether a test article solution would cause mutagenic changes in the average number of revertants for *Salmonella typhimurium* tester strains TA98, TA100, TA1537, TA1535 and *Escherichia coli* WP2*uvr*A in the presence and absences of the S9 metabolic activation. Bacterial reverse mutation tests have been widely used as rapid screening procedures for the determination of mutagenic and potential carcinogenic hazards.

II. Materials

A. **Storage Conditions:** Room temperature (23-25C).
B. **Vehicle:** Sterile DI Water.
C. **Preparation:** Eight different doses level were prepared immediately before use with sterile DI water.
D. **Solubility/Stability:** 100% Soluble and Stable.
E. **Toxicity:** No significant inhibition was observed.

III. Test System

A. Test System
Each *Salmonella typhimurium* and *Escherichia coli* tester strain contains a specific deep rough mutation (*rfa)*, the deletion of *uvr*B gene and the deletion in the *uvr*A gene that increase their ability to detect mutagens, respectively. These genetically altered *Salmonella typhimurium* strains (TA98, TA100, TA1537 and TA1535) and *Escherichia coli* strain (WP2*uvr*A) cannot grow in the absence of histidine and tryptophan, respectively. When placed in a histidine-tryptophan free medium, only those cells which mutate spontaneously back to their wild type states are able to form colonies. The spontaneous mutation rate (or reversion rate) for any one strain is relatively constant, but if a mutagen is added to the test system, the mutation rate is significantly increased.

Tester strain	Mutations/Genotypic Relevance
TA98	hisD3052, Dgal chlD bio *uvr*B *rfa* pKM101
TA100	hisG46, Dgal chlD BIO *uvr*B *rfa* pKM101
TA1537	hisC3076, *rfa*, Dgal chlD bio *uvrB*
TA 1535	hisG46, Dgal chlD bio *uvr*B *rfa*
WP2*uvr*A	trpE, *uvr*A

rfa	=	causes partial loss of the lip polysaccharide wall which increases permeability of the cell to large molecules.
uvrB	=	deficient DNA excision-repair system (i.e., ultraviolet sensitivity)
pKM101	=	plasmid confers ampicillin resistance (R-factor) and enhances sensitivity to mutagens.
*uvr*A	=	All possible transitions and transversions, small deletions.

B. Metabolic Activation
Aroclor induced rat liver (S9) homogenate was used as metabolic activation. The S9 homogenate is prepared from male Sprague Dawley rats. Material is supplied by MOLTOX, Molecular Toxicology, Inc.

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C. Preparation of Tester strains
Cultures of *Salmonella typhimurium* TA98, TA100,TA1537, TA1535 and *Escherichia coli* WP2uvrA were inoculated to individual flasks containing Oxoid broth No.2. The inoculated broth cultures were incubated at 37°C in an incubator shaker operating at 140-150 rpm for 12-16 hours.

D. Negative Control
Sterile DI water (vehicle without test material) was tested with each tester strain to determine the spontaneous reversion rate. Each strain was tested with and without S9 activation. These data represented a base rate to which the number of reveratants colonies that developed in each test plate were compared to determine whether the test material had significant mutagenic properties.

E. Positive Control
A known mutagen for each strain was used as a positive control to demonstrate that tester strains were sensitive to mutation to the wild type state. The positive controls are tested with and without the presence of S9 homogenate.

F. Titer of the Strain Cultures:
Fresh cultures of bacteria were grown up to the late exponential or early stationary phase of growth; to confirm this, serial dilutions from each strain were conducted, indicating that the initial population was in the range of 1 to $2x10^9$/ml.

IV. Method

A. Standard Plate Incorporation Assay:
Separate tubes containing 2 ml of molten top agar supplemented with histidine-biotin solution for the *Salmonella typhimurium* and tryptophan for *Escherichia coli* were inoculated with 100 µl of culture for each strain and 100 µl of testing solution or vehicle without test material. A 500 µl aliquot of S9 homogenate, simulating metabolic activation, was added when necessary. The mixture was poured across Minimal Glucose Agar plates labeled with strain number and S9 activation (+/-). When plating the positive controls, the test article aliquot was replaced by 50µl aliquot of appropriate positive control. The test was conducted per duplicate. The plates were incubated for 37°C for 2 days. Following the incubation period, the revertant colonies on each plate were recorded. The mean number of reveratnts was determined. The mean numbers of revertants of the test plates were compared to the mean number of reverants of the negative control of each strain used.

V. Evaluation

For the test solution to be evaluated as a test failure or “potential mutagen” there must have been a 2-fold or greater increase in the number of mean revertants over the means obtained from the negative control for any or all strains. Each positive control mean must have exhibited at least a 3-fold increase over the respective negative control mean of the *Salmonella* and *Escherichia coli* tester strain used.

VI. Results and Discussion

A. Solubility:
Water was used as a solvent. Solutions from the test article were made from 0.015 to 50mg/ml.

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B. Dose levels tested:
The maximum dose tested was 5000 µg per plate. The dose levels tested were 1.5, 5.0, 15, 50, 150, 500, 1500 and 5000 µg per plate.

C. Titer (Organisms/ml):
5 x 10^8 UFC/ml plate count indicates that the initial population was in the range of 1 to 2 x 10^9 UFC/ml.

C. Standard Plate Incorporation Assay
In no case was there a 2-fold or greater increase in the mean number of revertant testing strains TA98, TA100, TA1537, TA1535 and WP2*uvr*A in the presence of the test solution compared with the mean of vehicle control value. The positive controls mean exhibited at least a 3-fold increase over the respective mean of the *Salmonella typhimurium* and *Escherichia coli* tester strains used. The results are summarized in Appendix 2.

VII. Conclusion

All criteria for a valid study were mete as described in the protocol. The results of the Bacterial Reverse Mutation Assay indicate that under the conditions of this assay, the test article solution was considered to be Non-Mutagenic to *Salmonella typhimurium* tester strains TA98, TA100, TA1537, TA1535 and *Escherichia coli* WP2*uvr*A.The negative and positive controls performed as anticipated. The results of this study should be evaluated in conjunction with other required tests as listed in ISO 100993, Part 3: Tests for Genotoxicity, Carcinogenicity, and Reproductive Toxicology.

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Appendix 2:

Bacterial Mutation Assay
Plate Incorporation Assay Results

	Concentration µg per Plate	***TA98***		
		Revertants per plate (CFU)		Mean
Test Solution w/ S9	5000	27	33	30
	1500	33	42	34
	500	18	17	18
	150	24	35	30
	50	28	13	21
	15	23	45	34
	5.0	15	18	22
	1.5	36	38	37
Test Solution w/o S9	5000	41	42	42
	1500	29	36	33
	500	34	34	34
	150	23	25	24
	50	45	34	40
	15	32	42	37
	5.0	51	52	52
	1.5	43	29	36
DI Water w/S9		32	45	39
DI Water w/o S9		45	52	49
2-aminoanthracen w/ S9		182	133	158
2-nitrofluorene w/o S9		125	136	131
Historical Count Positive w/S9		**43-1893**		
Historical Count Positive w/o S9		**39-1871**		
Historical Count Negative w/S9		**4-69**		
Historical Count Negative w/o S9		**3-59**		

*CFU = Colony Forming Units
*Mean = Average of duplicate plates

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	Concentration µg per Plate	***TA100***		
		Revertants per plate (CFU)		Mean
Test Solution w/ S9	5000	210	192	201
	1500	176	165	171
	500	208	201	205
	150	176	203	190
	50	145	166	156
	15	156	165	161
	5.0	133	162	148
	1.5	144	153	149
Test Solution w/o S9	5000	123	145	134
	1500	125	127	126
	500	156	188	172
	150	166	135	151
	50	214	166	190
	15	132	147	140
	5.0	147	166	157
	1.5	141	156	149
DI Water w/S9		201	215	208
DI Water w/o S9		152	126	139
2-aminoanthracen w/ S9		585	576	581
Sodium azide w/o S9		645	656	651
Historical Count Positive w/S9		**224-3206**		
Historical Count Positive w/o S9		**226-1837**		
Historical Count Negative w/S9		**55-268**		
Historical Count Negative w/o S9		**47-250**		

*CFU = Colony Forming Units
*Mean = Average of duplicate plates

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	Concentration µg per Plate	***TA1537***		
		Revertants per plate (CFU)		Mean
Test Solution w/ S9	5000	19	21	20
	1500	21	15	18
	500	25	20	23
	150	13	12	13
	50	15	16	16
	15	10	15	13
	5.0	19	25	22
	1.5	21	12	17
Test Solution w/o S9	5000	13	16	15
	1500	17	21	19
	500	15	16	16
	150	25	21	23
	50	15	16	16
	15	19	22	21
	5.0	18	19	19
	1.5	22	22	22
DI Water w/S9		32	33	33
DI Water w/o S9		35	42	39
2-aminoanthracen w/ S9		482	510	496
2-aminoacridine w/o S9		235	246	241
Historical Count Positive w/S9		**13-1934**		
Historical Count Positive w/o S9		**17-4814**		
Historical Count Negative w/S9		**0-41**		
Historical Count Negative w/o S9		**0-29**		

*CFU = Colony Forming Units
*Mean = Average of duplicate plates

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	Concentration µg per Plate	***TA1535***		
		Revertants per plate (CFU)		Mean
Test Solution w/ S9	5000	35	23	29
	1500	26	24	25
	500	26	20	23
	150	12	15	14
	50	33	27	30
	15	23	16	20
	5.0	17	25	21
	1.5	35	35	35
Test Solution w/o S9	5000	28	35	32
	1500	21	21	21
	500	36	21	29
	150	16	12	14
	50	21	19	20
	15	32	33	33
	5.0	12	23	18
	1.5	18	18	18
DI Water w/S9		42	56	49
DI Water w/o S9		56	25	41
2-aminoanthracen w/ S9		210	166	188
Sodium azide w/o S9		702	715	709
Historical Count Positive w/S9		**22-1216**		
Historical Count Positive w/o S9		**47-1409**		
Historical Count Negative w/S9		**1-50**		
Historical Count Negative w/o S9		**1-45**		

*CFU = Colony Forming Units
*Mean = Average of duplicate plates

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	Concentration µg per Plate	***WP2uvrA***		
		Revertants per plate (CFU)		Mean
Test Solution w/ S9	5000	25	23	24
	1500	43	43	43
	500	15	25	20
	150	12	35	24
	50	25	16	21
	15	21	32	27
	5.0	45	33	39
	1.5	15	23	19
Test Solution w/o S9	5000	40	31	36
	1500	12	33	21
	500	18	17	18
	150	33	32	33
	50	25	30	28
	15	26	23	25
	5.0	12	33	23
	1.5	30	23	27
DI Water w/S9		45	55	50
DI Water w/o S9		56	32	44
2-aminoanthracen w/ S9		215	123	169
Methylmethanesulfonate w/o S9		245	312	279
Historical Count Positive w/S9		**44-1118**		
Historical Count Positive w/o S9		**42-1796**		
Historical Count Negative w/S9		**8-80**		
Historical Count Negative w/o S9		**8-84**		

*CFU = Colony Forming Units
*Mean = Average of duplicate plates

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Tradename: AC Kerazyme®

Code: 16594

CAS #: 69430-36-0 & 999999-99-4

Test Request Form #: 2115

Lot #: 46421P

Sponsor: *Active Concepts, LLC; 107 Technology Drive Lincolnton, NC 28092*
Study Director: *Maureen Danaher*
Principle Investigator: *Jennifer Goodman*

Test Performed:
OECD TG 442D: In Vitro Skin Sensitization *ARE-Nrf2 Luciferase Test Method*

Introduction

Skin sensitization refers to an allergic response following skin contact with the tested chemical, as defined by the United Nations Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals[1]. Substances are classified as skin sensitizers if there is evidence in humans that the substance can lead to sensitization by skin contact or positive results from appropriate tests, both *in vivo* and *in vitro*. Utilization of the KeratinoSens™ cell line allows for valid *in vitro* testing for skin sensitization.

This assay was conducted to determine skin sensitization potential of **AC Kerazyme®** in accordance with the UN GHS.

Assay Principle

The ARE-Nrf2 luciferase test method addresses the induction of genes that are regulated by antioxidant response elements (ARE) by skin sensitizers. The Keap1-Nrf2-ARE pathways have been shown to be major regulator of cytoprotective responses to oxidative stress or electrophilic compounds. These pathways are also known to be involved in the cellular processes in skin sensitization. Small electrophilic substances such as skin sensitizers can act on the sensor protein Keap1 (Kelch-like ECH-associated protein 1), by covalent modification of its cysteine residue, resulting in its dissociation from the transcription factor Nrf2 (nuclear factor-erythroid 2-related factor 2). The dissociated Nrf2 can then activate ARE-dependent genes such as those coding for phase II detoxifying enzymes.

The skin sensitization assay utilizes the KeratinoSens™ method which uses an immortalized adherent human keratinocyte cell line (HaCaT cell line) that has been transfected with a selectable plasmid to quantify luciferase gene induction as a measure of activation of Keap1-Nrf2-antioxidant/electrophile response element (ARE). This test method has been validated by independent peer review by the EURL-ECVAM. The addition of a luciferin containing reagent to the cells will react with the luciferase produced in the cell resulting in luminescence which can be quantified with a luminometer.

1. United Nations (UN) (2013). Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS), Fifth revised edition, UN New York and Geneva, 2013

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Materials

A. Incubation Conditions:	37°C at 5% CO_2 and 95% relative humidity (RH)
B. Equipment:	Humidified incubator; Biosafety laminar flow hood; Microplate Reader; Pipettes
C. Cell Line:	KeratinoSens™ by Givaudan Schweiz AG
D. Media/Buffers:	Dulbecco's Modified Eagle Medium (DMEM); Fetal Bovine Serum (FBS); Phosphate Buffered Saline (PBS); Geneticin
E. Culture Plate:	Flat bottom 96-well tissue culture treated plates
F. Reagents:	Dimethyl Sulfoxide (DMSO); Cinnamic Aldehyde; ONE-Glo Reagent; 3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide (MTT); sodium lauryl sulfate (SLS)
G. Other:	Sterile disposable pipette tips; wash bottles

Methods

KeratinoSens™ were into seeded four 96-well tissue culture plates and allowed to grow to 80 – 90% confluency in DMEM containing 10% FBS and 500µg/mL G418 geneticin. Twelve test concentrations of **AC Kerazyme®** were prepared in DMSO with a concentration range from 0.98 - 2000 µM. These 12 concentrations were assayed in triplicate in 2 independently performed experiments. The positive control was cinnamic aldehyde for which a series of 5 concentrations prepared in DMSO had final test concentrations of 4 – 64 µM. The negative control was a 1% test concentration of DMSO.

24 hour post KeratinoSens™ seeding, the culture media was removed and replaced with fresh media containing 10% FBS without G418 geneticin. 50 µL of the above described test concentrations was added to the appropriate wells. The treated plates were then incubated for 48 hours at 37°C in the presence of 5% CO_2 and 95% relative humidity. After treatment incubation was complete the media was removed and the wells were washed with PBS 3 times.

One of the four plates was used for a cytotoxicity endpoint, where MTT was added to the wells and incubated for 4 hours at 37°C in the presence of 5% CO_2. SLS was then added to the wells and incubated overnight at room temperature. A spectrometer measured the absorbance at 570 nm. The absorbance values (optical density) were then used to determine the viability of each well by comparing the optical density of each test material treated well to that of the solvent control wells to determine the IC_{50} and IC_{30} values.

The remaining 3 plates were used in the luciferase induction endpoint of the assay. 100 µL of Promega's ONE-Glo Reagent was added to 100 µL of fresh media containing 10% FBS without geneticin. Cells were incubated for 5 minutes to induce cell lysis and release luciferin into the media. Plates were read with a luminometer and $EC_{1.5}$ and maximum response (I_{max}) values were obtained.

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Data and Reporting

Acceptance Criteria:

1. Gene induction obtained with the positive control, cinnamic aldehyde, should be statistically significant above the threshold of 1.5 in at least one of the tested concentrations (from 4 to 64 µM).
2. The EC1.5 value should be within two standard deviations of the historical mean and the average induction in the three replicates for cinnamic aldehyde at 64 µM should be between 2 and 8.
3. The average coefficient of variability of the luminescence reading for the negative (solvent) control DMSO should be below 20% in each experiment.

A KeratinoSens™ prediction is considered positive if the following conditions are met:

1. The Imax is higher than 1.5-fold and statistically significantly higher as compared to the solvent (negative) control
2. The cellular viability is higher than 70% at the lowest concentration with a gene induction above 1.5 fold (i.e., at the EC1.5 determining concentration)
3. The $EC_{1.5}$ value is less than 1000 µM (or < 200 µg/ml for test chemicals with no defined MW)
4. There is an apparent overall dose-response for luciferase induction

Results

Compound	Classification	$EC_{1.5}$ (µM)	IC_{50}	I_{max}
Cinnamic aldehyde	Sensitizer	19	289.19 µM	31.43
DMSO	Non-Sensitizer	No Induction	243.24 µM	0.17
AC Kerazyme®	Non-Sensitizer	No Induction	> 1000 µM	0.35

Table 1: Overview of KeratinoSens™ Assay Results (I_{max} equals the average induction values Fg.1)

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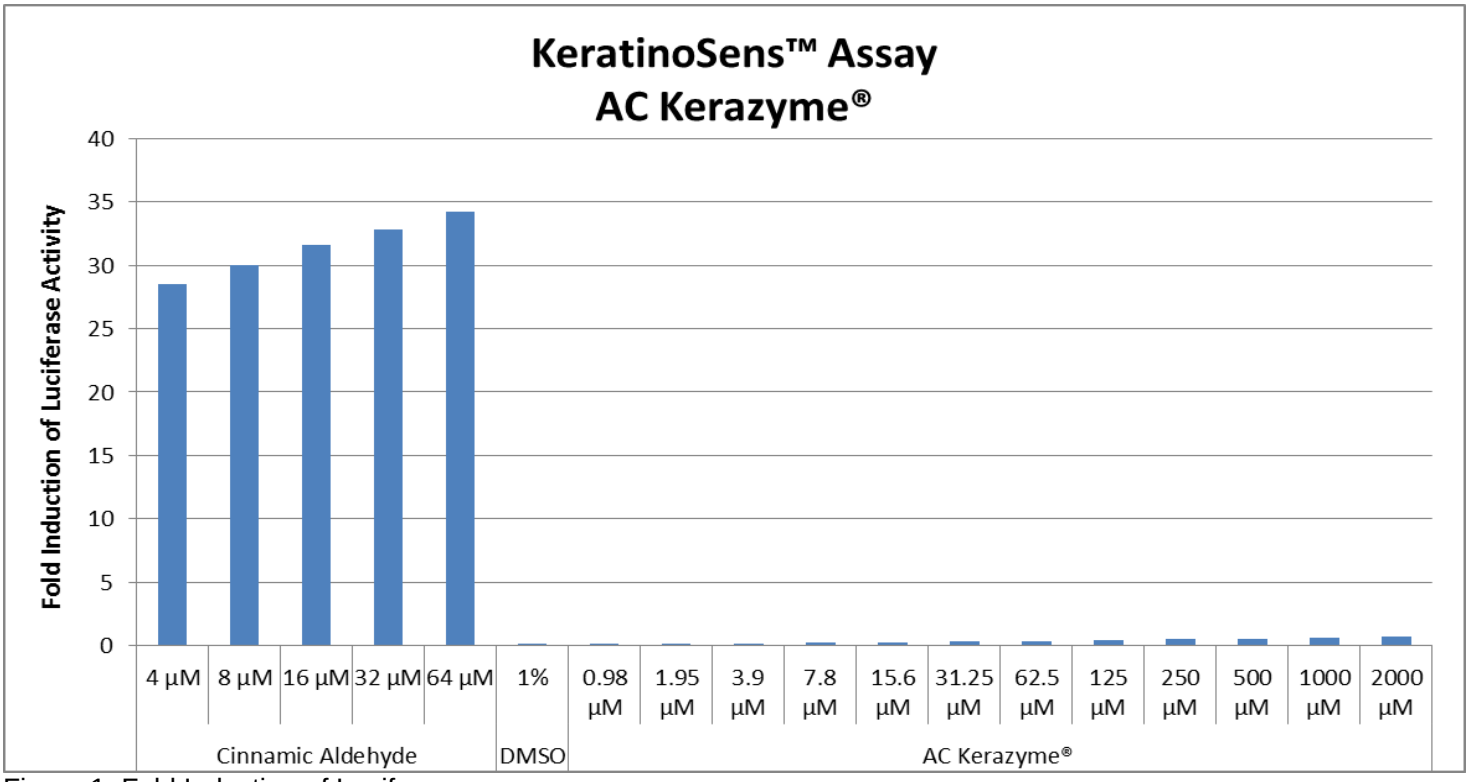

Figure 1: Fold Induction of Luciferase

Discussion

As shown in the results, **AC Kerazyme® (16594)** was not predicted to be a skin sensitizer based on the KeratinoSens™ ARE-Nrf2 Luciferase Test Method as there was not a significant increase in luciferase expression. It can be concluded that **AC Kerazyme®** can be safely used in cosmetics and personal care products at typical use levels.

Active Concepts

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OECD TG 442C: *In Chemico* Skin Sensitization

Tradename: AC Kerazyme®

Code: 16594

CAS #: 69430-36-0 & 999999-99-4

Test Request Form #: 2260

Lot #: 47371P

Sponsor: *Active Concepts, LLC; 107 Technology Drive Lincolnton, NC 28092*
Study Director: *Maureen Danaher*
Principle Investigator: *Jennifer Goodman*

Test Performed:
OECD TG 442C: *In Chemico* Skin Sensitization Direct Peptide Reactivity Assay (DPRA)

Introduction

A skin sensitizer is a substance that will lead to an allergic response following skin contact[1]. Haptenation is the covalent binding of a hapten, or low-molecular weight substance or chemical, to proteins in the skin. This is considered the prominent mechanism which defines a chemical as a sensitizer. Haptenation is described as a "molecular initiating event" in the OECD Adverse Outcome Pathway (AOP) for skin sensitization which summarizes the key events known to be involved in chemically-induced allergic contact dermatitis[2]. The direct peptide reactivity assay (DPRA) is designed to mimic the covalent binding of electrophilic chemicals to nucleophilic centers in skin proteins by quantifying the reactivity of chemicals towards the model synthetic peptides containing cysteine and lysine. The DPRA is able to distinguish sensitizers from non-sensitizer with 82% accuracy (sensitivity of 76%; specificity of 92%)[3].

This assay was conducted to determine skin sensitization hazard of **AC Kerazyme®** in accordance with European Union Reference Laboratory for Alternatives to Animal Testing (EURL ECVAM) and OECD Test Guideline 442C.

Assay Principle

The DPRA is an *in chemico* method which addresses peptide reactivity by measuring depletion of synthetic heptapeptides containing either cysteine or lysine following 24 hours incubation with the test substance. The peptide is a custom material containing phenylalanine to aid in detection. Depletion of the peptide in the reaction mixture is measured by HPLC with gradient elution and UV detection at 220 nm. Cysteine and lysine peptide percent depletion values are then calculated and used in a prediction model which allows assigning the test chemical to one of four reactivity classes used to support the discrimination between sensitizers and non-sensitizers.

1. United Nations Economic Commission (UNECE) (2013) Global Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) 5th Revised Edition
2. OECD (2012). The Adverse Outcome Pathway for Skin Sensitization Initiated by Covalent Binding to Proteins. Part 1: Scientific Evidence. Series on Testing and Assessment No. 168
3. EC EURL ECVAM (2012) Direct peptide reactivity assay (DPRA) validation study report; pp 1 -74.

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Materials

A.	**Equipment:**	HPLC-UV (Waters Breeze - Waters 2998 Photodiode Array Detector); Pipettes; Analytical balance
B.	**HPLC/Guard Columns:**	Agilent Zorbax SB-C18 2.1mm x 100mm x 3.5µm; Phenomenex Security Guard C18 4mm x 2mm
C.	**Chemicals:**	Trifluoroacetic acid; Ammonium acetate; Ammonium hydroxide; Acetonitrile; Cysteine peptide (Ac-RFAA**C**AA-COOH); Lysine peptide (Ac-RFAA**K**AA-COOH); Cinnamic aldehyde
D.	**Reagents/Buffers:**	Sodium phosphate buffer (100mM); Ammonium acetate buffer (100mM)
E.	**Other:**	Sterile disposable pipette tips

Methods

Solution Preparation:

- 0.667mM Cysteine Peptide in 100mM Phosphate Buffer (pH 7.5)
- 0.667mM Lysine Peptide in 100mM Ammonium Acetate Buffer (pH 10.2)
- 100mM Cinnamic Aldehyde in Acetonitrile
- 100mM* **AC Kerazyme®** in Acetonitrile

*For mixtures and multi-constituent substances of known composition such as **AC Kerazyme®** a single purity should be determined by the sum of the proportion of its constituents (excluding water), and a single apparent molecular weight determined by considering the individual molecular weights of each component in the mixture (excluding water) and their individual proportions. The resulting purity and apparent molecular weight can then be used to calculate the weight of test chemical necessary to prepare a 100 mM solution.

Reference Controls:

- Reference Control A: For calibration curve accuracy
- Reference Control B: For peptide stability over analysis time of experiment
- Reference Control C: For verification that the solvent does not impact percent peptide depletion

Sample, Reference Control, and Co-Elution Control Preparation:

- Once these solutions have been made they should be incubated at room temperature, protected from light, for 24±2 hours before running HPLC analysis.
- Each chemical should be analyzed in triplicate.

1:10 Ratio, Cysteine Peptide 0.5mM Peptide, 5mM Test Chemical	1:50 Ratio, Lysine Peptide 0.5mM Peptide, 25mM Test Chemical
• 750µL Cysteine Peptide Solution (or 100mM Phosphate Buffer, pH 7.5, for Co-Elution Controls) • 200µL Acetonitrile • 50µL Test Chemical Solution (or Acetonitrile for Reference Controls)	• 750µL Lysine Peptide Solution (or 100mM Ammonium Acetate Buffer, pH 10.2, for Co-Elution Controls) • 250µL Test Chemical Solution (or Acetonitrile for Reference Controls)

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Calibration Curve:

- Standards are prepared in a solution of 20% Acetonitrile:Buffer
  - For the Cysteine peptide using the phosphate buffer, pH 7.5
  - For the Lysine peptide using the ammonium acetate buffer, pH 10.2

	Standard 1	Standard 2	Standard 3	Standard 4	Standard 5	Standard 6	Standard 7
mM Peptide	0.534	0.267	0.1335	0.0667	0.0334	0.0167	0.000

HPLC Analysis:

- HPLC-UV system should be equilibrated at 30°C with 50% Mobile Phase A (0.1% (v/v) trifluoroacetic acid in water) and 50% Mobile Phase B (0.085% (v/v) trifluoroacetic acid in acetonitrile) for 2 hours
- Absorbance is measured at 220nm
- Flow Conditions:

Time	Flow	%A	%B
0 minutes	0.35 mL/min	90	10
10 minutes	0.35 mL/min	75	25
11 minutes	0.35 mL/min	10	90
13 minutes	0.35 mL/min	10	90
13.5 minutes	0.35 mL/min	90	10
20 minutes	End Run		

Data and Reporting

Acceptance Criteria:

1. The following criteria must be met for a run to be considered valid:
   a. Standard calibration curve should have an $r^2 > 0.99$.
   b. Mean percent peptide depletion values of three replicates for the positive control cinnamic aldehyde should be between 60.8% and 100% for the cysteine peptide and between 40.2% and 69% for the lysine peptide and the maximum standard deviation should be <14.9 for the percent cysteine depletion and <11.6 for the percent lysine depletion.
   c. Mean peptide concentration of reference controls A should be 0.50±0.05mM and the coefficient of variable of the peptide peak areas for reference B and C in acetonitrile should be <15.0%.

2. The following criteria must be met for a test chemical's results to be considered valid:
   a. Maximum standard deviation should be <14.9 for percent cysteine depletion and <11.6 for percent lysine depletion.
   b. Mean peptide concentration of the three reference control C should be 0.50±0.05mM.

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Prediction Model:

Cysteine 1:10/Lysine 1:50 Prediction Model		
Mean of Cysteine and Lysine % Depletion	**Reactivity Class**	**Prediction**
0% < Mean % Depletion < 6.38%	Minimal Reactivity	Non-sensitizer
6.38% < Mean % Depletion < 22.62%	Low Reactivity	Sensitizer
22.62% < Mean % Depletion < 42.47%	Moderate Reactivity	Sensitizer
42.47% < Mean % Depletion < 100%	High Reactivity	Sensitizer

If co-elution occurs with the lysine peptide, than the cysteine 1:10 prediction model can be used:

Cysteine 1:10 Prediction Model		
Mean of Cysteine and Lysine % Depletion	**Reactivity Class**	**Prediction**
0% < Cys % Depletion < 13.89%	Minimal Reactivity	Non-sensitizer
13.89% < Cys % Depletion < 23.09%	Low Reactivity	Sensitizer
23.09% < Cys % Depletion < 98.24%	Moderate Reactivity	Sensitizer
98.24% < Cys % Depletion < 100%	High Reactivity	Sensitizer

Therefore the measured values of % depletion in the three separated runs for each peptide depletion assay include:

Cysteine 1:10/Lysine 1:50 Prediction Model		
Mean of Cysteine and Lysine % Depletion	**Reactivity Class**	**Prediction**
3.26	Minimal Reactivity	Non-sensitizer
3.24	Minimal Reactivity	Non-sensitizer
3.28	Minimal Reactivity	Non-sensitizer

Cysteine 1:10 Prediction Model		
Mean of Cysteine and Lysine % Depletion	**Reactivity Class**	**Prediction**
3.16	Minimal Reactivity	Non-sensitizer
3.11	Minimal Reactivity	Non-sensitizer
3.17	Minimal Reactivity	Non-sensitizer

Results and Discussion

The data obtained from this study met criteria for a valid assay and the controls performed as anticipated.

Percent peptide depletion is determined by the following equation:

$$Percent\ Peptide\ Depletion = \left[1 - \left(\frac{Peptide\ Peak\ Area\ in\ Replicate\ Injection}{Mean\ Peptide\ Peak\ Area\ in\ Reference\ Controls\ C}\right)\right] \times 100$$

Based on HPLC-UV analysis of **AC Kerazyme® (16594)** we can determine this product is not classified as a sensitizer and is not predicted to cause allergic contact dermatitis. The Mean Percent Depletion of Cysteine and Lysine was 3.20% causing minimal reactivity in the assay giving us the prediction of a non-sensitizer.

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Tradename: AC Kerazyme®

Code: 16594

CAS #: 69430-36-0 & 999999-99-4

Test Request Form #: 2444

Lot #: 47672P

Sponsor: *Active Concepts, LLC; 107 Technology Drive Lincolnton, NC 28092*
Study Director: *Maureen Danaher*
Principle Investigator: *Jennifer Goodman*

Test Performed:
OECD 202 *Daphnia* spp. Acute Immobilization Test

Introduction

The purpose of the present study is to determine the toxicity of **AC Kerazyme®** by exposing *Daphnia spp*. to the test substance for 48 hours and measuring the immobilization rate against the control. The present study defines an organism as being immobilized when it does not move for 15 seconds after the test vessel is gently shaken.

OECD Guideline 202 on "*Daphnia* spp., Acute Immobilization Test and Reproduction Test", adopted in 1984, included two parts: Part I – the 24 hour EC_{50} acute immobilization test and Part II – the reproduction test (at least 14 days). Revision of the reproduction test resulted in the adoption and publication of Test Guideline 211 on "*Daphnia magna* Reproduction Test" in September 1998. Consequently, the new version of Guideline 202 is restricted to the acute immobilization test.

Assay Principle

Young daphnids, aged less than 24 hours at the start of the test, are exposed to the test substance at a range of concentrations for a period of 48 hours. Immobilization is recorded at 24 hours and 48 hours and compared with control values. The results are analyzed in order to calculate the EC_{50} at 48 hours. EC_{50} is the concentration estimated to immobilize 50% of the daphnids within a stated exposure period. Immobilization refers to those animals that are not able to swim within 15 seconds after gentle agitation of the test vessel, even if they can still move their antennae.

The water solubility and vapor pressure of the test substance should be known. A reliable analytical method for the quantification of the substance in the test solutions with reported recovery efficiency and limit of determination should also be available.

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A reference substance may be tested for EC_{50} as a means of assuring that the test conditions are reliable.

For this assay to be valid, the following performance criteria apply:

- In the control, not more than 10% of the daphnids should have been immobilized.
- The dissolved oxygen concentration at the end of the test should be at least 3 mg/L in control and test vessels.

Materials

- Glass Test Tubes and/or Beakers
- Dissolved Oxygen Meter
- pH Meter
- Temperature Control Apparatus
- Total Organic Carbon (TOC) Analyzer
- Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) Analyzer
- *Daphnia magna* Straus
  - Use organisms less than 24 hours old. Do not use first offspring of parents.
- Water
  - Use water suitable for culturing and testing *Daphnia spp.* It can be natural water (surface water or groundwater), dechlorinated tap water, or artificially prepared water (Table 1), but must satisfy the conditions listed in Table 2. Do not use Elendt M4 or M7 media or water containing chelating agents for testing metal-containing substances. The water hardness should be 250 mg/L or smaller in terms of calcium carbonate concentration, and the pH should be 6-9. Aerate the material water before using it for the test.

Substance	Concentration
Particulate Matter	<20 mg/L
Total Organic Carbon	<2 mg/L
Unionized Ammonia	<1 ug/L
Residual Chlorine	<10 ug/L
Total Organophosphorus Pesticides	<50 ng/L
Total Organochlorine Pesticides plus Polychlorinated Biphenyls	<50 ng/L
Total Organic Chlorine	<25 ng/L

Table 1: Chemical Characteristics of Suitable Water

Substance	Amount Added to 1 Liter Water	To prepare the reconstituted water, add the following volumes of stock solutions to 1 liter water
Calcium Chloride	11.76 grams	25 mL
Magnesium Sulfate	4.93 grams	25 mL
Sodium Bicarbonate	2.59 grams	25 mL
Potassium Chloride	0.23 grams	25 mL

Table 2: Examples of Suitable Reconstituted Test Water

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Methods

Test Conditions

- Test Method
  - Test is performed under a static, semi-static, or flow-through condition. If test substance is unstable, a semi-static or flow-through test is recommended.
- Exposure Period
  - 48 hours
- Test Volume
  - At least 2 milliliters
- Number of Test Organisms
  - At least 20 organisms for each test concentration and the control.
- Test Concentration
  - Adopt a concentration range of at least 5 concentrations, with the highest concentration inducing 100% immobilization and no effect at the lowest concentration.
- Culture Method
  - Illumination: The photoperiod is set to 16 hours light and 8 hours dark
  - Temperature: The temperature is between 18°C to 22°C
  - Dissolved Oxygen Concentration: Must be kept at 3mg/L or higher
  - Feeding: Do not feed test organisms

Observation

- Observe mobility of the organisms at least twice (i.e., at 24 and 48 hours after exposure).
- The organisms are considered immobilized when they do not move for 15 seconds after test vessel is gently shaken.

Measurement of Test Substance Concentrations

- At the beginning and end of exposure, measure test substance concentrations at the lowest and highest test concentration groups.
  - For volatile or adsorptive substances, additional measurements are recommended at 24 hours intervals during exposure period.

Test Condition Measurements

- Measure dissolved oxygen in the control and at the highest test concentration at the beginning and end of the exposure period.
- Measure pH in the control and at the highest test concentration at the beginning and end of the exposure period.
- Water temperature should be measured at the beginning and end of the exposure period.

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Data and Reporting

I. Data
   a. Data should be summarized in tabular form, showing for each treatment group and control, the number of daphnids used, and immobilization at each observation. The percentages immobilized at 24 and 48 hours are plotted against test concentrations. Data are analyzed by appropriate statistical methods (e.g. probit analysis, etc.) to calculate the slopes of the curves and the EC_{50} with 95% confidence limits (p = 0.95).
   b. Where the standard methods of calculating the EC_{50} are not applicable to the data obtained, the highest concentration causing no immobility and the lowest concentration producing 100% immobility should be used as an approximation for the EC_{50} (this being considered the geometric mean of these two concentrations).

II. Test Report
   a. The test report must include the following:
      i. Test substance:
         1. Physical nature and relevant physical-chemical properties
         2. Chemical identification data, including purity
      ii. Test species:
         1. Source and species of *Daphnia*, supplier of source (if known), and the culture conditions (including source, kind and amount of food, feeding frequency)
      iii. Test conditions:
         1. Description of test vessels: type and volume of vessels, volume of solution, number of daphnids per test vessel, number of test vessels (replicates) per concentration
         2. Methods of preparation of stock and test solutions including the use of any solvent or dispersants, concentrations used
         3. Details of dilution water: source and water quality characteristics (pH, hardness, Ca/Mg ratio, Na/K ratio, alkalinity, conductivity, etc); composition of reconstituted water if used
         4. Incubation conditions: temperature, light intensity and periodicity, dissolved oxygen, pH, etc.
      iv. Results:
         1. The nominal test concentrations and the result of all analyses to determine the concentration of the test substance in the test vessels; the recovery efficiency of the method and the limit of determination should also be reported
         2. All physical-chemical measurements of temperature, pH and dissolved oxygen made during the test
         3. The EC_{50} at 48 hours for immobilization with confidence intervals and graphs of the fitted model used for calculation, the slopes of the dose-response curves and their standard error; statistical procedures used for determination of EC_{50}

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Results

General Information:

Name of new chemical substance	**AC Kerazyme®**		
INCI Nomenclature	Hydrolyzed Keratin & *Trametes versicolor* Extract		
CAS number	69430-36-0 & 999999-99-4		
Formulation Method	Hydrolysis & Extraction		
Molecular weight	3,000.00 Daltons		
Purity of the new chemical substance used for the test (%)	100%		
Lot number of the new chemical substance used for the test	47672P		
Names and contents of impurities	N/A		
Solubility in water	100%		
Properties at room temperature	Hazy, Viscous Yellow to Amber Liquid		
Stability	Stable Under Normal Conditions		
Solubility in solvents, etc.	**Solvent**	**Solubility**	**Stability in solvent**
	N/A	N/A	N/A

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Test Materials and Methods:

Items			Contents
Test Organisms	Species		*Daphnia magna*
	Source		Carolina Biological Supply Company
	Susceptibility to reference substance (EC_{50})		Potassium dichromate (0.94 mg/L)
Culture	Kind of Medium		Elendt Medium M4
	Conditions (Temperature/Photoperiod)		20°C/16 Hour Light-8 Hour Dark
Test Conditions	Test Vessel		Glass
	Material Water	Kind	Elendt Medium M4
		Hardness	250 mg/L
		pH	7.4
	Date of Exposure		06/20/2016
	Test Concentrations		200, 89.4, 42.3, 19.2, 7.8 mg/L
	Number of organisms		120
	Number of Replicates	Exposure Group	4
		Control Group	4
	Test Solution Volume		2 ml
	Vehicle	Use or Not	N/A
		Kind	N/A
		Concentration	N/A
		Number of Replicates	N/A
	Culture Method (Static, Semi-Static, Flow-Through)		Static
	Water Temperature		20°C ± 2°C
	Dissolved Oxygen Concentration (DO)		3 mg/L
	Photoperiod		16 Hour Light- 8 Hour Dark
Calculation of Results	Statistical Method		Probit Analysis

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Test Results:

Items		**Contents**
Toxicity Value	48hr EC50	848.63 mg/L
Exposure Concentrations Used for Calculation	Nominal Values	200, 89.4, 42.3, 19.2, 7.8 mg/L
Remarks		Not harmful to aquatic organisms

Discussion

After 48 hours, the EC50 value for **AC Kerazyme®** was determined to be 848.63 mg/L. The conditions of OECD guideline 202 for the validity of the test were adhered to: The immobility of controls in purified drinking water (dilution water) did not exceed 10%. According to the EU Directive 93/67/EEC, this product is not classified and therefore not harmful to aquatic organisms.