

Instruction Manual

KEY TO SYMBOLS USED

	Catalogue number		Caution
	Batch code		Sufficient for
	Research use only		Use-by Date
	Version		Consult instructions for use
	Temperature limit		Keep away from sunlight
	Manufacturer		Negative control of amplification
	Date of manufacture		Negative control of extraction
	Keep dry		Positive control of extraction
			Internal Control

1. INTENDED USE

AmpliSens® HIV-Monitor-L PCR kit is not a medical device. PCR kit is an *in vitro* nucleic acid amplification test for quantitative detection of *human immunodeficiency virus* type 1 (HIV-1) RNA in biological material (blood plasma) taken from persons with a diagnosis of human immunodeficiency type 1 (HIV-1) or suspected to viral human immunodeficiency of type 1 (HIV-1) without distinction of form and presence of manifestation, using real-time hybridization-fluorescence detection of amplified products.

NOTE: For research use only. Not for diagnostic procedures.

2. PRINCIPLE OF PCR DETECTION

Principle of testing is based on the RNA extraction from the samples of test material with the exogenous internal control (IC) sample (Internal Control L), RNA reverse transcription and simultaneous amplification of cDNA fragments with hybridization-fluorescence detection. Exogenous internal control (Internal Control L) allows to control all PCR-analysis stages of each individual sample and to identify possible reaction inhibition.

HIV detection by the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) is based on the extraction of RNA from blood plasma, reverse transcription reaction of the RNA and the amplification of cDNA corresponding to a specific region using specific HIV primers. In real-time PCR the amplified product is detected using fluorescent dyes. These dyes are linked to oligonucleotide probes, which bind specifically to the amplified product. The real-time PCR monitoring of the fluorescence intensities during the real-time PCR allows the detection of accumulating product without re-opening of the reaction tubes after the PCR run.

The quantitative analysis of HIV-1 RNA is based on the linear dependence between the initial concentration logarithm of cDNA target in a test sample and the cycle threshold (Ct) (the cycle of beginning of fluorescence signal exponential growth). The quantitative PCR-analysis is carried out simultaneously with calibrators (samples with the known concentration of the HIV-1 RNA). Based on the calibrators' amplification results a calibration line is plotted and it is used for the estimation of concentration of the HIV-1 RNA in the test samples.

The results of amplification are registered in the following fluorescence channels.

Table 1

Channel for fluorophore	FAM	JOE
cDNA-target	IC cDNA	HIV cDNA
Target gene	Artificially synthesized sequence	pol gene, 5'UTR

3. CONTENT

AmpliSens® HIV-Monitor-L PCR kit is produced in 2 forms:

PCR kit variant FRT-L, H-4011-1-14-CE.

HIV calibration kit, H-4012-1-14-CE.

PCR kit variant FRT-L includes:

Reagent	Description	Volume, ml	Quantity
PCR-mix HIV-Lyo	white powder	–	5 packages each with 96 tubes of 0.2 ml
Internal Control L HIV	white powder	–	20 tubes
Positive Control 1L HIV	white powder	–	20 tubes
Positive Control 2L HIV	white powder	–	20 tubes
Calibrator C1L HIV	white powder	–	20 tubes
Calibrator C2L HIV	white powder	–	20 tubes
Negative Control (C-)	clear liquid from colorless to straw-yellow colour (flake sediment is allowed)	5.0	25 tubes
TE-buffer	colorless clear liquid	0.2	20 tubes

PCR kit variant FRT-L is intended for 480 reactions, including controls and calibrators.

HIV calibration kit includes:

Reagent	Description	Volume, ml	Quantity
Calibrator C1L HIV	white powder	–	20 tubes
Calibrator C2L HIV	white powder	–	20 tubes

HIV calibration kit is intended for 1 calibration.

4. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- Vacuum blood collection system.
- RNA extraction kit.
- Disposable powder-free gloves.
- Pipettes (adjustable).
- Sterile RNase-free pipette tips with filters up to 100 µl, 200 µl and up to 1000 µl.
- Tube racks.
- Vortex mixer.
- Desktop microcentrifuge up to 12,000 g (suitable for Eppendorf tubes).
- PCR box.
- Real-time instruments (for example, Rotor-Gene Q (QIAGEN, Germany), CFX 96 (Bio-Rad, USA)).
- Disposable polypropylene microtubes for PCR:
 - a) thin-walled 0.2-ml PCR tubes with optical transparent domed or flat caps with optical transparent caps if a plate-type instrument is used;
 - b) thin-walled 0.2-ml PCR tubes with flat caps or strips of four 0.1-ml Rotor-Gene PCR tubes if a rotor-type instrument is used.
- Refrigerator for 2–8 °C.
- Deep-freezer at the temperature from minus 24 to minus 16 °C.
- Reservoir for used tips.
- Disposable powder-free gloves and a laboratory coat.

5. GENERAL PRECAUTIONS

The user should always pay attention to the following:

- Use sterile pipette tips with aerosol filters and use a new tip for every procedure.
- Store all extracted positive material (specimens, controls and amplicons) away from all other reagents and add it to the reaction mix in a distantly separated facility.
- Thaw all components thoroughly at room temperature before starting an assay.
- When thawed, mix the components and centrifuge briefly.
- Use disposable protective gloves and laboratory cloths, and protect eyes while samples and reagents handling. Thoroughly wash hands afterwards.
- Do not eat, drink, smoke, apply cosmetics, or handle contact lenses in laboratory work areas.
- Do not use a kit after its expiration date.
- Dispose of all specimens and unused reagents in accordance with local regulations.
- Samples should be considered potentially infectious and handled in biological cabinet in compliance with appropriate biosafety practices.
- Clean and disinfect all samples or reagents spills using a disinfectant, such as 0.5 % sodium hypochlorite or another suitable disinfectant.
- Avoid inhalation of vapors, samples and reagents contact with the skin, eyes, and mucous membranes. Harmful if swallowed. If these solutions come into contact, rinse the injured area immediately with water and seek medical advice if necessary.
- Safety Data Sheets (SDS) are available on request.
- Use of this product should be limited to personnel trained in DNA amplification techniques.
- Workflow in the laboratory must be one-directional, beginning in the Extraction Area and moving to the Amplification and Detection Area. Do not return samples, equipment and reagents in the area where the previous step was performed.



Some components of this kit contain sodium azide as a preservative. Do not use metal tubing for reagent transfer.

6. SAMPLING AND HANDLING

Obtaining biological material samples for PCR-analysis, transportation, and storage are described in manufacturer's handbook [1]. It is recommended that this handbook is read before starting work

AmpliSens® HIV-Monitor-L PCR kit is intended for the analysis of RNA extracted with RNA extraction kits from the biological material (blood plasma).

Sampling

Blood samples are collected in the morning in the fasting state into the tube with EDTA solution as the anticoagulant. Several times invert the closed tubes to ensure proper mixing. To collect plasma, centrifuge the tubes with blood at 800–1600 g for 20 min within 6 h after blood sampling. Remove obtained plasma and transfer to the new tubes.

Blood plasma samples can be stored:

- at the temperature from 2 to 8 °C – for 3 days,
- at the temperature from minus 24 to minus 16 °C – for 1 year,
- at the temperature no more than minus 68 °C – for a long time.

The blood serum may also be used in some cases. The analytical sensitivity of the reagent kit is retained for this material; however, the clinical sensitivity may be significantly decreased as a result of viral particles precipitation during blood clot retraction.

Blood serum samples can be stored:

- at the temperature from 2 to 8 °C – for 3 days,
- at the temperature no more than minus 68 °C – for a long time.

Pretreatment

Pretreatment of blood plasma and blood serum samples is not required.

Interfering substances and limitations of using test material samples

The next samples are inapplicable for analysis:

- the whole blood samples, collected in the tubes with heparin as anticoagulant.

7. WORKING CONDITIONS

AmpliSens® HIV-Monitor-L PCR kit should be used at 18–25 °C.

8. PROTOCOL

8.1. RNA Extraction

It is recommended that the following nucleic acid extraction kits are used:

- **RIBO-prep**, [REF] K2-9-Et-100-CE,
 - **MAGNO-sorb**, [REF] K2-16-1000-CE.
 - **QIAsymphony Virus/Bacteria Midi/Mini Kit** (QIAGEN, Germany).
- The RNA extraction of each test sample is carried out in the presence of **Internal Control-FL (IC)**.

The RNA extraction of each test sample is carried out in the presence of **Internal Control**. Add 10 µl of rehydrated **Internal control L** to the tubes with test samples, control samples and calibrators.

In the extraction procedure it is necessary to carry out the control reactions as follows:

- C-** – Add **Negative Control (C-)** to tube labeled **C-** (Negative Control of Extraction).
- PCE1** – Add rehydrated **Positive Control 1L HIV** to tube labeled **PCE1** (Positive Control of Extraction).
- PCE2** – Add rehydrated **Positive Control 2L HIV** to tube labeled **PCE2** (Positive Control of Extraction).

Extract RNA according to the manufacturer's protocol taking into account next additions and improvements:

- NOTE:**
- The volume of rehydrated control samples and Negative Control (C-) is the same as the extraction volume specified in the *Instruction Manual* for the extraction reagent kit;
 - The elution volume should be **60-120 µl**.

NOTE: Perform calibration according to 8.1.2 *Calibration*

8.1.1 Rehydration of lyophilized control samples

1. Take the required number of the lyophilized control samples. Sediment the content of the tubes by vortex, carefully open them and avoiding spraying of the content, add **Negative Control (C-)** according to the table.

Control	Volume of Negative Control (C-), µl
Positive Control 1L HIV	1200
Positive Control 2L HIV	1200
Calibrator C1L HIV	1200
Calibrator C2L HIV	1200
Internal control L	300

2. Tightly close the tubes and leave them for 2 min at room temperature, stirring occasionally by vortex.
3. After full dissolution sediment the content of the tubes on the vortex for 3-5 s.

Rehydrated **Calibrator C1L HIV**, **Calibrator C2L HIV**, **Internal control L**, **Positive Control 1L HIV** and **Positive Control 2L HIV** are to be stored at 2-8 °C for no longer than 3 months

8.1.2 Calibration

It is necessary to analyze additional points at the first run of PCR kit for the given lot: **Calibrator C1L HIV** and **Calibrator C2L HIV** in at least three replicates each (4 replicates are recommended), beginning from the extraction stage. The extraction procedure for calibrators is similar to the extraction procedure for the test samples. After successful calibration, it can be used within 6 months.

Analyze the points for calibration:

- C1** – Add rehydrated **Calibrator C1L HIV** to 3 or 4 tubes labeled **C1**
- C2** – Add rehydrated **Calibrator C2L HIV** to 3 or 4 tubes labeled **C2**

NOTE: The volume of rehydrated calibrators is the same as the extraction volume specified in the *Instruction Manual* for the extraction reagent kit

8.2 Preparing reverse transcription and PCR

The total reaction volume is **50 µl**, the volume of DNA sample is **50 µl**.

8.2.1 Preparing tubes

Use disposable filter tips for adding reagents, DNA and control samples into tubes.

1. Take the required number of the tubes with ready-to-use lyophilized reaction mixture **PCR-mix HIV-Lyo** for amplification from test and control samples (3 controls of extraction in 1 replicate, 2 calibrators in 3 or 4 replicates in case of calibration).
2. Add **50 µl** of **RNA samples**, obtained by extraction from test samples, controls and calibrators (in case of calibration).

NOTE: Mix the tubes thoroughly by pipetting avoiding foaming.

NOTE: It is also necessary to carry out Negative Control of Amplification (NCA) at suspicion on possible contamination.

NCA – Add **50 µl** of **TE-buffer** to the tube with lyophilized reaction mixture

NOTE: Avoid transferring of the sorbent together with the DNA sample in case of extraction using reagent kit for extraction on silica gel or magnetic separation.

8.2.2. Reverse transcription and amplification

1. Create a temperature profile on your instrument as follows:

Table 2
AmpliSens-2 RG amplification program for rotor-type instruments¹

Step	Temperature, °C	Time	Fluorescent signal detection	Cycles
Hold	50	30 min	–	1
Hold 2	95	15 min	–	1
Cycling	95	20 s	–	5
	60	30 s	–	
	72	30 s	–	
Cycling 2	95	20 s	–	40
	60	30 s	FAM, JOE	
	72	30 s	–	

Table 3
Amplification program for plate-type instruments²
(except for "DNA-technology", Russia)

Step	Temperature, °C	Time	Fluorescent signal detection	Cycles
1	50	30 min	–	1
2	95	15 min	–	1
3	95	20 s	–	5
	52	30 s	–	
	72	30 s	–	
4	95	20 s	–	42
	55	40 s	FAM, JOE	
	72	30 s	–	

Table 4
Amplification program for instruments of "DNA-technology", Russia

Step	Temperature, °C	Time	Fluorescent signal detection	Cycles
1	50	30 min	–	1
2	95	15 min	–	1
3	95	20 s	–	5
	52	30 s	–	
	72	30 s	–	
4	95	5 s	–	42
	60	30 s	–	
	55	40 s	FAM, JOE	

2. Insert tubes into the reaction module of the device.

NOTE: It is recommended to sediment drops from walls of tubes by short centrifugation (1–3 s) before placing them into the instrument.

3. Run the amplification program with fluorescence detection.
4. Analyse results after the amplification program is completed.

¹ For example, Rotor-Gene Q (QIAGEN).

² For example, CFX 96 (Bio-Rad, USA).

9. DATA ANALYSIS

Analysis of results is performed by the software of the real-time PCR instrument used by measuring fluorescence signal accumulation in two channels:

Channel for the fluorophore	FAM	JOE
Signal registration, indicating the amplification product accumulation	IC cDNA	HIV cDNA

Results are interpreted by the crossing (or not-crossing) the fluorescence curve with the threshold line set at the specific level that corresponds to the presence (or absence) of a Ct value of the RNA sample in the corresponding column of the results grid.

Based on the obtained Ct values for HIV calibrators (C1 and C2) and specified concentration values a calibration line is plotted. The efficiency of amplification should fall in the range of 0.85-1.15, and the correlation coefficient of the calibration line should be more than 0.95. If the calibration line meets the abovementioned requirements, then the equation of this calibration line can be used for calculation of HIV RNA concentration and results interpretation for 6 months.

For calculation of HIV RNA concentration the median Ct value of Internal control (IC) (Ct ICmed) is calculated for all samples (except for NCA) at the first step.

Calculated value of the median Ct value of Internal control (IC) (Ct ICmed) should be no more than Ct value for Internal control specified in the *Important Product Information Bulletin* enclosed to the PCR kit.

If Ct value of Internal control differ from the median Ct value of Internal control (IC) by more than 3, the Ct value of Internal control for this sample should be excluded from analysis and the median value should be recalculated. The calculation of HIV RNA concentration for this sample is not carried out, the sample is invalid.

If Ct value of Internal control differs from median value by more than 1 and less than 3 the following correction for Ct HIV is introduced:

$$Ct\ HIV_{corrected} = Ct\ HIV + (Ct\ IC_{med} - Ct\ IC)$$

The concentration of HIV RNA in this sample is recalculated according to the equation for calibration line ($y = kx + b$) taking into account corrected Ct value for HIV.

The correction of Ct value for HIV is not introduced for samples for which Ct value of Internal control differ from the median value by less than 1.

Table 4

Results interpretation for the test samples	
Result	Interpretation
HIV RNA is not detected	The Ct value for Internal Control does not differ from median by more than 2 and the Ct value for HIV RNA is absent. The result is interpreted HIV RNA is not detected
less than 25 copies/ml	HIV RNA is detected in concentration less than the lower limit of the measurement range in case of extraction from 1 ml of the sample. The result is interpreted as less than 25 copies/ml of HIV RNA/ml
less than 125 copies/ml	HIV RNA is detected in concentration less than the lower limit of the measurement range in case of extraction from 200 µl of the sample. The result is interpreted as less than 125 copies/ml of HIV RNA/ml
less than 250 copies/ml	HIV RNA is detected in concentration less than the lower limit of the measurement range in case of extraction from 100 µl of the sample. The result is interpreted as less than 250 copies/ml of HIV RNA/ml
Xx10 ^y copies/ml	Calculated concentration value (copies/ml) falls in the measurement range. The result is interpreted as HIV RNA was detected in concentration X.Xx*10^y copies/ml
greater than 1*10 ⁹ copies/ml	Concentration of detected HIV RNA is greater than upper limit of measurement range. The result is interpreted as greater than 1.00*10⁸ copies of HIV RNA/ml . If more precise quantitative result is required, dilute the HIV sample with Negative Control (C-) (e.g. 100 times) and repeat the analysis. The result obtained by repeated analysis must be multiplied by the coefficient of the sample dilution
Invalid	The Ct value of Internal control differs from median value by more than 2 and the Ct value for HIV is absent. The PCR analysis (beginning with the RNA extraction stage) should be repeated
	The Ct value for HIV RNA is determined and the Ct value for Internal Control differs from median by more than 3. The PCR analysis (beginning with the RNA extraction stage) should be repeated

The result of the analysis is considered reliable only if the results obtained for Positive and Negative Controls of amplification, Positive and Negative Controls of extraction as well as for calibrators are correct.

Table 5

Results for controls			
Control	Stage for control	Results in the channel for fluorophore	
		FAM	JOE
C-	RNA extraction, RT-PCR	Ct value is determined in the ±3 range of the median Ct value of Internal control	Ct value is absent
PCE1	RNA extraction, RT-PCR		Concentration value falls in the ±0.5 Lg range of the value specified in the <i>Important Product Information Bulletin</i>
PCE2	RNA extraction, RT-PCR		Concentration value falls in the ±0.5 Lg range of the value specified in the <i>Important Product Information Bulletin</i>
C1	RNA extraction, RT-PCR		The Ct value and calculated concentration are determined. The efficiency of PCR falls into the 0.85-1.15 range. The coefficient R ² is no less than 0.95
C2	RNA extraction, RT-PCR		
NCA	RT-PCR	Ct value is absent	Ct value is absent

NOTE: Concentration values are calculated taking into account the correction of Ct value for HCV by Ct value of Internal control using the equation for calibration line.

10. TROUBLESHOOTING

Results of analysis are not taken into account in the following cases:

- The Ct value is absent for calibrators (C1 and C2) in the channels for FAM, JOE fluorophores. Check the correctness of set values of calibrators in accordance with the *Important Product Information Bulletin*. If the improper result has been obtained again the amplification and detection for all the samples including calibrators should be repeated.
- The correlation coefficient R² is less than 0.95 when plotting the calibration curve. Check the correctness of set concentrations of calibrators in accordance with the *Important Product Information Bulletin*. If the improper result has been obtained again the amplification and detection for all the samples including calibrators should be repeated.
- The efficiency E is less than 0.85 or greater than 1.15 when plotting the calibration line. Check the correctness of set concentrations of calibrators in accordance with the *Important Product Information Bulletin* and the correctness of selected level of the threshold line. If set concentrations of calibrators and the threshold line level are correct but the efficiency does not fit in the required range, then the amplification and detection for all the samples including calibrators should be repeated.
- The Ct value is absent for the Positive Control of Extraction (PCE1, PCE2) in the channels for the FAM and JOE fluorophores. The PCR analysis (beginning with the RNA extraction stage) should be repeated for all samples in which HIV RNA was not detected.
- The calculated concentrations of PCE1 and PCE2 do not fall in the ±0.5 Lg range of the value specified in the *Important Product Information Bulletin*. The PCR analysis (beginning with the RNA extraction stage) should be repeated for all samples.
- If the Ct value is determined for the Negative Control of Extraction (C-) in the channel for JOE fluorophore. The contamination of laboratory with amplification fragments or contamination of reagents, test samples is probable at any stage of PCR analysis. Measures for detecting and elimination of contamination source must be taken. The PCR analysis (beginning with the RNA extraction stage) should be repeated for all samples in which specific RNA was detected.
- The Ct value determined for the Negative Control of Extraction (C-) in the channel for FAM fluorophore is more than 3 of the median Ct value for internal control. The PCR analysis (beginning with the RNA extraction stage) should be repeated for all samples.
- The Ct value is determined for the Negative Control of Amplification (NCA) in the channel for JOE fluorophore. The contamination of laboratory with amplification fragments or contamination of reagents, test samples is probable at any stage of PCR analysis. Measures for detecting and elimination of contamination source must be taken. The PCR analysis (beginning with the amplification stage) should be repeated for all samples in which specific RNA was detected.
- The Ct value is determined for the test sample, whereas the area of typical exponential growth of fluorescence is absent (the graphic looks like approximate straight line). It is necessary to check the correctness of selected threshold line level or parameters of base line calculation. If the result has been obtained with the correct level of threshold line (base line), the amplification and detection should be repeated for this sample.

11. TRANSPORTATION

AmpliSens[®] HIV-Monitor-L PCR kit should be transported at 2-8 °C for no longer than 5 days.

12. STABILITY AND STORAGE

All components of the PCR kit variant FRT-L are to be stored at 2-8 °C when not in use. All components of the AmpliSens[®] HIV-Monitor-L PCR kit are stable until the expiration date stated on the label. The shelf life of the reagents before and after the first use is the same, unless otherwise stated.

NOTE: PCR-mix HIV-Lyo, Internal Control L HIV, Positive Control 1L HIV, Positive Control 2L HIV, Calibrator C1L HIV and Calibrator C2L HIV are to be kept (before solution) in packages with a desiccant

NOTE: Rehydrated Calibrator C1L HIV, Calibrator C2L HIV, Internal control L HIV, Positive Control 1L HIV and Positive Control 2L HIV are to be stored at 2-8 °C for no longer than 3 months

NOTE: PCR-mix HIV-Lyo is to be kept away from light

13. SPECIFICATIONS

13.1. Detection limit and linear measurement range

PCR kit	RNA extraction kit	Volume of sample for extraction, µl	Detection limit, copies/ml	Linear measurement range, copies/ml
PCR kit variant FRT-L	Recommended by the manufacturer (see 8.1. RNA extraction)	100	250	250 – 100 000 000
		200	125	125 – 100 000 000
		1000	25	25 – 100 000 000

The claimed features are achieved while respecting the rules specified in the section "Sampling and Handling".

Note – If it is necessary to obtain results expressed in International Units (IU/ml), the results measured in copies/ml should be multiplied by 1.72 (i.e. 1 copy = 1.72 IU, 1 IU = 0.58 copies). However, it should be remembered that unlike the International Units (IU/ml), the values expressed in copies/ml may differ significantly depending on the manufacturer of reagent kits.

13.2. Analytical specificity

The analytical specificity of AmpliSens[®] HIV-Monitor-L PCR kit is ensured by the selection of specific primers and probes as well as reaction conditions. The primers and probes were checked for possible homologies to all sequences published in the gene banks by sequence comparison analysis.

The analytical specificity is also ensured by the addition of the genomic DNA/RNA of the following organisms and viruses to the reaction: hepatitis A virus (HAV); hepatitis B virus (HBV); hepatitis D virus (HDV); human immunodeficiency virus (HIV); cytomegalovirus (CMV); Epstein-Barr virus (EBV); herpes simplex virus types 1 and 2 (HSV 1, II); varicella-zoster virus (VZV); human herpes virus types 6 and 8; parvovirus B19; tick-borne encephalitis virus (TBEV); West Nile encephalitis virus (WNV); adenovirus types 2, 3, and 7; *Escherichia coli*; *Staphylococcus aureus*; *Streptococcus pyogenes*; *Streptococcus agalactiae*; and *Homo sapiens*.

No cross-reactions were observed for the abovementioned organisms and viruses.

14. REFERENCES

- Handbook "Sampling, Transportation, and Storage of Clinical Material for PCR Diagnostics", developed by Federal State Institute of Science "Central Research Institute of Epidemiology" of Federal Service for Surveillance on Consumers' Rights Protection and Human Well-Being.

15. QUALITY CONTROL

In compliance with Federal Budget Institute of Science "Central Research Institute for Epidemiology" ISO 13485-Certified Quality Management System, each lot of the **AmpliSens® HIV-Monitor-L** PCR kit has been tested against predetermined specifications to ensure consistent product quality.

