

General Guidelines for Cleaved PepSets

Congratulations on your purchase of a Cleaved PepSet from Mimotopes. We hope you gain the best possible value from these peptides; we have done our best to assist you in making the selection of the physical format, the experimental strategy, and the peptide sequences.

To guide you in your subsequent use of the peptides, we have included in the package a copy of a Peptide Technical Note containing advice on redissolving the peptides. If you ordered biotinylated peptides, we also include details of ELISA methods appropriate to biotinylated peptides. In addition, the following notes should clarify further details of the peptides you have received.

Important Notes

The peptides in Cleaved PepSets have been synthesized using the same optimized, efficient methods as used for single peptide orders. However, due to the practical constraints imposed by parallel handling of sets of 96 peptides, the cleavage and post-cleavage handling methods are unique to Cleaved PepSets.

a. Yield and Quality Checks.

Cleaved PepSets comprise racks containing up to 94 peptides. Within each rack, 96 peptides are actually synthesized, but two of these are controls which have been made solely for Quality Control analysis, one being our "Standard" sequence for that particular peptide length, and the other being chosen from the set ordered. Only the controls are checked for purity (by reverse phase HPLC), identity (by electrospray mass spectrometry) and quantity (by Amino Acid Analysis). The peptides supplied are not

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individually tested owing to the constraints of low price and small quantity which apply to Cleaved PepSets. The yield of the supplied peptides is estimated by averaging the measured yield of the controls. For our smaller scale PepSets, we aim to supply 1 micromole of each peptide, by synthesizing at a higher loading to allow for less than 100% recovery of peptide. Sequence dependent factors can however lead to the targeted amount not being achieved for certain "difficult" peptides. This is especially so for peptides assessed as hydrophobic, as advised when your peptides were originally ordered. In general, the more hydrophobic the peptide, the lower will be the yield.

b. Appearance.

We freeze-dry the peptide solutions in a centrifugal vacuum concentrator to prevent "bumping" of the solutions during drying, and the possible consequent cross-contamination that could occur with conventional driers. On occasion, this method will result in some peptides ending up as a coating on the inside of the tube rather than drying to a fluffy powder. Also, some peptides are inherently difficult to obtain as a powder, and these may have an oily or a crystalline appearance. The unique properties of each peptide have a major influence on its final physical appearance. When dealing with these small quantities, if the peptide is glassy, the tube may look empty, but it does not mean there is no peptide. It is there!

c. Uniformity.

Even if powder is visible in the tube, we do NOT recommend weighing the powder into another tube to make up a peptide solution of a "known" concentration. Weighing of these small amounts can be very inaccurate and you may lose a large proportion of the peptide on the spatula or it may remain in the original tube. If you do not dissolve ALL the contents of the original tube you may leave behind much of the peptide! An estimate of peptide concentration can be made from the data for the control peptides, but the actual concentration will be dependent on the true yield and purity values for each peptide, which are not individually measured.

d. Identification.

Included with your PepSet is an insert explaining the layout of the peptides. Individual tubes in the 8x12 tube racks are identified by the alphanumeric label stamped on the bottoms of the tubes, and racks are labelled. Please ensure that the identity of each peptide is preserved by clearly labelling any containers into which the peptides are transferred. A suitable minimum label is the peptide number, and for simplicity and reliability we recommend retaining the 8x12 grid orientation of the tubes (from tube A1 to tube F12 for each rack of 94 tubes) and additionally labelling with the rack number from which they were taken (when a multi-rack set has been ordered).

e. Handling.

Please be careful when removing the caps from the tubes. Accidental spillage of the peptide could leave you with an incomplete set, weakening the enormous power of the systematic approach to the use of peptides in your project.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our Customer Service staff via the website, by telephone, or email directly to:

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