Molecular Probes[™]

invitrogen detection technologies

TC-FIAsH[™] TC-ReAsH[™] II In-Cell Tetracysteine Tag Detection Kits

Revised 07-March-2011 MP 34561

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Kit Contents and Storage

reagent.

Kit Components The TC-FlAsHTM TC-ReAsHTM II In-Cell Tetracysteine Tag Detection Kits contain the components listed below.

Kit	Component Concentration	Volume
TC-FlAsH TM II In-Cell Tetracysteine Tag Detection Kit (T34561)		
FlAsH-EDT ₂ labeling reagent	2 mM in DMSO	40 µL
BAL wash buffer	100X in ddH ₂ O (25 mM)	1.2 mL
TC-ReAsH [™] II In-Cell Tetracysteine Tag Detection Kit (T34562)		
ReAsH-EDT ₂ labeling reagent	2 mM in DMSO	40 µL
BAL wash buffer	100X in ddH ₂ O (25 mM)	1.2 mL

Molecular Weights of the Labeling Reagents

Reagent	Molecular Weight	μg Supplied
FlAsH-EDT ₂ labeling reagent	664.50 g/mol	53.2
ReAsH-EDT ₂ labeling reagent	545.38 g/mol	43.6

The table below lists the molecular weights and micrograms supplied for each labeling

Storage

Upon receipt, store the components of the TC-FlAsHTM and TC-ReAsHTM II In-Cell Tetracysteine Tag Detection Kit as detailed below.

Component	Storage
FlAsH-EDT ₂ labeling reagent	\leq -20°C, protected from light
ReAsH-EDT ₂ labeling reagent	\leq -20°C, protected from light
BAL wash buffer	2–6°C, air sensitive

Product Qualification

FIAsH-EDT ₂ and ReAsH-EDT ₂ Labeling Reagents	The FlAsH-EDT ₂ and ReAsH-EDT ₂ labeling reagents are qualified as follows:
	Purity: Determined by HPLC
	Mass: Determined by mass spectroscopy
	Functionality: To ensure performance, the FlAsH-EDT ₂ and ReAsH-EDT ₂ reagents are functionally tested using GripTite TM 293 MSR cells transfected with the pcDNA TM 6.2/nTC-Tag-p64 vector and using the protocols included in this manual.
BAL Wash Buffer	To ensure performance, BAL wash buffer is functionally tested using GripTite [™] 293 MSR cells transfected with the pcDNA [™] 6.2/nTC-Tag-p64 vector and using the protocols included in this manual.

Ordering Information

Ordering information for the TC-FlAsHTM and TC-ReAsHTM II In-Cell Tetracysteine Tag Detection Kits is provided below.

Product	Amount	Catalog no.
TC-FlAsH [™] TC-ReAsH [™] II In-Cell Tetracysteine Tag Detection Kit (with Mammalian Gateway [®] expression vectors)	1 kit	T34563
TC-FlAsH [™] II In-Cell Tetracysteine Tag Detection Kit	1 kit	T34561
TC-ReAsH [™] II In-Cell Tetracysteine Tag Detection Kit	1 kit	T34562

Introduction

Overview	
Introduction	The TC-FlAsH TM TC-ReAsH TM II In-Cell Tetracysteine Tag Detection Kits use the FlAsH ReAsH technology to facilitate site-specific fluorescent labeling of proteins in live mammalian cells. Use of the FlAsH ReAsH technology provides a sensitive method for <i>in vivo</i> detection and subcellular localization of proteins fused to the TC-Tag using fluorescence microscopy.
Advantages of the Labeling System	Using the FlAsH ReAsH technology and the TC-FlAsH TM TC-ReAsH TM II In-Cell Tetracysteine Tag Detection Kits for fluorescent labeling of recombinant proteins provides the following advantages:
	• Small size of the TC-Tag (6 amino acids, 585 Da) is less likely to interfere with the structure or biological activity of the protein of interest
	• FlAsH-EDT ₂ and ReAsH-EDT ₂ labeling reagents are membrane-permeable and readily cross the cell membrane, allowing labeling and detection of recombinant proteins in live mammalian cells
	• FlAsH-EDT ₂ and ReAsH-EDT ₂ labeling reagents bind the TC-Tag with high specificity and high affinity (nanomolar or lower dissociation constant), allowing targeted labeling of the protein of interest ⁴
	• FlAsH-EDT ₂ and ReAsH-EDT ₂ labeling reagents become strongly fluorescent (green and red, respectively) only upon binding the TC-Tag, allowing specific detection of TC-tagged proteins
	 FlAsH-EDT₂ and ReAsH-EDT₂ labeling reagents can be applied sequentially on the same sample, allowing temporal detection of protein turnover and trafficking¹ ReAsH-EDT₂ labeling reagent can be used for both fluorescence-based microscopy and electron microscopy²
	 FlAsH-EDT₂ labeling reagent provides a superior alternative to yellow-fluorescent protein (YFP) when coupled with cyan-fluorescent protein (CFP) for FRET-based cellular analysis²
	 BAL wash buffer greatly increases the signal to noise ratio compared to Disperse Blue 3, the wash buffer supplied with previous TC-FlAsHTM TC-ReAsHTM products BAL wash buffer is much more olfactorily friendly than EDT, another wash buffer used for background reduction

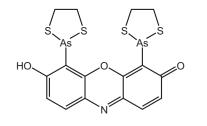
Tetracysteine Tag Detection Technology

Introduction	The TC-FlAsH TM TC-ReAsH TM II In-Cell Tetracysteine Tag Detection Kit uses biarsenical labeling reagents to bind and detect proteins containing a tetracysteine motif (i.e. TC-Tag). ³ The biarsenical labeling reagents are nonfluorescent until they bind the tetracysteine motif at which time they become highly fluorescent.	
Components of the System	 The TC-FlAsHTM TC-ReAsHTM II In-Cell Tetracysteine Tag Detection Kits consist of two major components: The tetracysteine TC-Tag (Cys-Cys-Pro-Gly-Cys-Cys) in the pcDNATM6.2/TC-Tag-DEST vector. When fused to a gene of interest, the TC-Tag allows the expressed fusion protein to be specifically recognized by a biarsenical labeling reagent. For more information on the tetracysteine motif, see below. A biarsenical labeling reagent, FlAsH-EDT₂ or ReAsH-EDT₂, which becomes fluorescent upon binding to recombinant proteins containing the TC-Tag. The FlAsH-EDT₂ or ReAsH-EDT₂ labeling reagents are supplied pre-complexed to the dithiol EDT (1,2-ethanedithiol) which stabilizes and solubilizes the biarsenic reagents. For information on how the FlAsH-EDT₂ or ReAsH-EDT₂ labeling reagents bind the TC-Tag and become fluorescent, see the next page. 	
Tetracysteine Motif	Both the FlAsH-EDT ₂ and ReAsH-EDT ₂ labeling reagents bind a tetracysteine motif consisting of Cys-Cys-Xaa-Xaa-Cys-Cys where Cys equals cysteine and Xaa equals any amino acid other than cysteine. This motif is rarely seen in naturally occurring proteins allowing specific fluorescent labeling of recombinant proteins fused to the TC-Tag. In the TC-FlAsH TM TC-ReAsH TM II In-Cell Tetracysteine Tag Detection Kits, the optimized Cys-Cys-Pro-Gly-Cys-Cys tetracysteine motif is used as this motif has been shown to have a higher affinity for and more rapid binding to biarsenic compounds as well as enhanced stability compared to other characterized motifs. ⁴	
FIAsH-EDT₂ Labeling Reagent	The FlAsH-EDT ₂ labeling reagent is based on the FlAsH reagent and is a nonfluorescent, biarsenical derivative of fluorescein. ³ FlAsH-EDT ₂ reagent is supplied pre-complexed to EDT, is membrane-permeable, and readily enters the cell. See the figure below for the structure of FlAsH-EDT ₂ labeling reagent.	
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Tetracysteine Tag Technology, continued

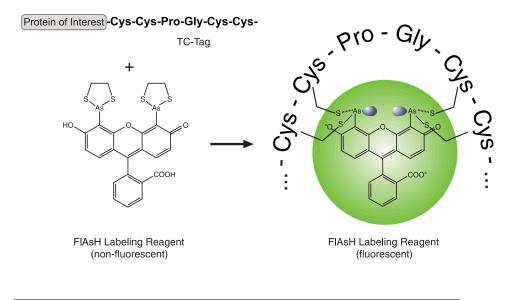
ReAsH-EDT₂ Labeling Reagent

The ReAsH-EDT₂ labeling reagent is based on the ReAsH reagent and is a nonfluorescent, biarsenical derivative of the red fluorophore resorufin.² ReAsH-EDT₂ reagent is supplied pre-complexed to EDT, is membrane-permeable, and readily enters the cell. See the figure below for the structure of ReAsH-EDT₂ reagent.



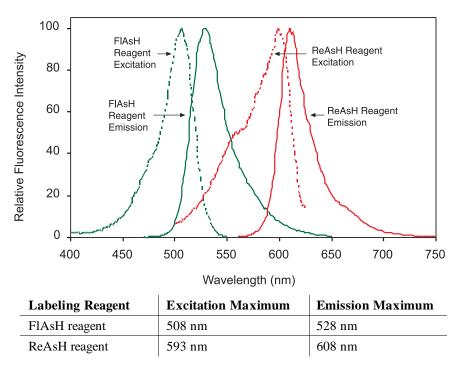
Formula: C₁₆H₁₃As₂NO₃S₄ **Molecular Weight:** 545.38

How the FIAsH-EDT₂ and ReAsH-EDT₂ Labeling Reagents Bind the TC-Tag Both the FlAsH-EDT₂ and ReAsH-EDT₂ labeling reagents bind the TC-Tag through four covalent bond formations—the two arsenic groups of the FlAsH-EDT₂ and ReAsH-EDT₂ reagents each bind two thiols in the TC-Tag tetracysteine sequence (see diagram below). Upon binding, the FlAsH-EDT₂ and ReAsH-EDT₂ reagents are converted to a highly fluorescent state that can be detected at the appropriate emissions peaks (see next page).



Tetracysteine Tag Technology, continued

Fluorescence Spectra for the FIAsH and ReAsH Reagents Once the $FlAsH-EDT_2$ and $ReAsH-EDT_2$ labeling reagents bind the TC-Tag fused to your protein, the reagent will emit a green (FlAsH) or red (ReAsH) fluorescent signal when excited at the appropriate wavelength. The fluorescent excitation and emission spectra for the FlAsH and ReAsH reagents are provided below.



Working with Arsenic Compounds

Introduction	The $FlAsH-EDT_2$ and $ReAsH-EDT_2$ labeling reagents are biarsenical compounds and should be handled with care. See below for general guidelines.	
	Caution: Exercise caution when handling the FlAsH-EDT ₂ and ReAsH-EDT ₂ labeling reagents. We recommend the following guidelines:	
	• Review the Material Safety Data Sheet before handling.	
	• Wear protective clothing, eyewear, and gloves suitable for use with dimethyl sulfoxide (e.g. nitrile gloves) when handling the FlAsH-EDT ₂ and ReAsH-EDT ₂ labeling reagents	
	• Discard all excess reagents that contain or have come in contact with arsenic according to your institution's guidelines and all applicable local, state, and federal requirements.	
Dermal Toxicity Evaluation	A dermal toxicity evaluation of the FlAsH-EDT ₂ and ReAsH-EDT ₂ labeling reagents was independently performed by MB Research Laboratories, Spinnerstown, PA, USA by applying a full vial of material to the mouse skin. In this study, no adverse reaction or toxicity was noted. Although arsenic compounds are toxic, this product contains <0.2% of an organic arsenic compound that shows no toxicity at a maximum dose level likely to be handled. The toxicology of this material, however, has not been fully investigated. Handle according to your chemical hygiene plan and prevent contact with this material.	
Accidental Spills and Accidental Contact	Treat accidental spills of the FlAsH-EDT ₂ and ReAsH-EDT ₂ labeling reagents on surfaces with 10% bleach for 10 minutes and then carefully clean up. Discard arsenic-containing waste according to your institution's guidelines. Treat accidental contact of the FlAsH-EDT ₂ and ReAsH-EDT ₂ labeling reagents with human skin by washing excess reagent off with soap and water as soon as possible. Do not treat arsenic skin exposure with EDT (1,2-ethanedithiol) since EDT may promote uptake of arsenic reagents into the body. Consult a physician following contact.	

Methods

General Guidelines for Labeling

Introduction	The TC-FlAsH TM TC-ReAsH TM II In-Cell Tetracysteine Tag Detection Kits facilitate site- specific labeling and detection of recombinant proteins in live mammalian cells. Using the kit allows you to monitor cellular protein expression under real-time, physiological conditions. Once recombinant proteins are labeled and detected using fluorescence microscopy, cells may be cultured further for use in additional assays or other downstream applications.
Factors to Consider When Choosing a Labeling Reagent	Molecular Probes offers the TC-FlAsH TM TC-ReAsH TM II In-Cell Tetracysteine Tag Detection Kits for fluorescent labeling of proteins fused to the TC-Tag. Because we have noticed transient phenotypic effects using the ReAsH-EDT ₂ labeling reagent (see below) and because the ReAsH-EDT ₂ reagent is sensitive to photo-bleaching when exposed to continuous illumination, we generally recommend using the FlAsH-EDT ₂ labeling reagent to label your recombinant protein.
	 The TC-ReAsHTM II In-Cell Tetracysteine Tag Detection Kit offers an alternative labeling strategy that allows you to perform additional applications. We recommend using the TC-ReAsHTM II In-Cell Tetracysteine Tag Detection Kit for the following conditions: You wish to perform pulse label experiments on the same TC-Tagged protein using
	 both the FlAsH-EDT₂ and ReAsH-EDT₂ labeling reagents to monitor protein synthesis over time You are already using a green fluorescent reporter (e.g. GFP, FITC-conjugated
	 antibody) in your assays and require a second labeling reagent You wish to detect labeled proteins by electron microscopy (see page 10 for more information)
Phenotypic Effects With ReAsH-EDT ₂ Reagent	We have noticed changes in cell morphology approximately 24 hours after labeling proteins with ReAsH-EDT ₂ reagent in HEK293 and COS-7 cell lines. Cells appear to round up and the general shape and pattern of the cells appear disrupted. This phenotypic effect is transient as cells recover 48 hours after labeling and is thought to be due to the generation of singlet oxygens when the ReAsH-EDT ₂ reagent is exposed to high intensity light. ⁴ We have not observed this effect on cells labeled with the FlAsH-EDT ₂ labeling reagent. If you are using the ReAsH-EDT ₂ reagent to label your protein, you may observe similar morphological changes in your cells depending on your cell line, expressed recombinant protein, and application. Note that these phenotypic effects may transiently influence any downstream assays you wish to perform.

General Guidelines for Labeling, continued

TC-Tag Vectors	Before you use one of the TC-FlAsH TM TC-ReAsH TM II In-Cell Tetracysteine Tag Detection Kits to label and detect your protein of interest <i>in vivo</i> , you must clone your gene of interest into a Gateway [®] entry vector to create an entry clone, generate an expression clone by performing an LR recombination reaction between the entry clone and a destination vector (e.g. pcDNA TM 6.2/cTC-Tag-DEST or pcDNA TM 6.2/nTC-Tag- DEST), and then express the protein of interest by transforming the appropriate host cell culture. The TC-FlAsH TM TC-ReAsH TM II In-Cell Tetracysteine Tag Detection Kit with Mammalian Gateway [®] Expression Vectors (T35358) contains red- and green-fluorescent reagents needed for TC-Tag detection and the Gateway [®] expression vectors for N- or C- terminal tagging of the gene of interest. For more information about these vectors, see the instruction manual for T35358, visit our website (http://probes.invitrogen.com/), or contact Technical Services.
Expressing Your Gene of Interest with the TC-Tag	 Once you have generated an expression construct containing your gene fused to the TC-Tag, you may: Transfect your construct into the cell line of choice for transient or stable expression of
	the gene of interest (Mammalian Gateway [®] Expression Vectors, provided in The TC-FlAsH TM TC-ReAsH TM II In-Cell Tetracysteine Tag Detection Kit with Mammalian Gateway [®] Expression Vectors (T35358)),
	Oľ
	• Deliver and express your construct in either dividing or non-dividing mammalian cells via a replication-incompetent, HIV-1-based lentivirus (ViraPower TM II Lentiviral Lumio TM Gateway [®] Vectors)
	NOTE: The TC-FlAsH [™] TC-ReAsH [™] II In-Cell Tetracysteine Tag Detection Kit works best for labeling proteins that are expressed at high levels or are concentrated in a subcellular region. If you are expressing proteins at low levels (e.g. from a weak promoter) or if you are expressing a cytoplasmic protein, we recommend conducting initial labeling and detection studies using the TC- FlAsH [™] TC-ReAsH [™] II In-Cell Tetracysteine Tag Detection Kits in transiently transfected cells where protein expression levels are higher. Once labeling conditions are optimized, you may analyze your protein in stable cell lines.
Labeling Cells	• We recommend designing your experiment so that cells will be at optimal density at the time of labeling. Suspension cells typically label most efficiently at a density of $1-2 \times 10^6$ cells/ml. Adherent cells label most efficiently when they are 60–90% confluent at the time of labeling.
	• For cells transduced with lentivirus, it may be useful to culture the cells in Opti-MEM [®] Reduced Serum Media or another reduced-serum media overnight (~16–18 hours) before labeling, to reduce the background from serum.
Controls	 For transfection experiments, we recommend transfecting cells with a positive expression control and control vector that does not encode the TC-Tag, to control for fluorescent artifacts or alterations in cell morphology that could affect the labeling and detection of your protein. For lentivirus transduction experiments, we recommend using a positive expression control and a negative transduction control. To prepare the negative control, follow the transduction procedure in the ViraPowerTM Lentiviral Expression System manual, except omit the virus. Then use the "mock-transduced" cells in the labeling procedure to determine the level of background from the FlAsH-EDT₂ or ReAsH-EDT₂ reagent.

General Guidelines for Labeling, continued

Factors Affecting Protein Labeling	 A number of factors can influence the degree of protein labeling and, consequently, the success of your detection experiment. These factors include: Composition of labeling media Concentration of FlAsH-EDT₂ or ReAsH-EDT₂ reagent used to label proteins Length of incubation with FlAsH-EDT₂ or ReAsH-EDT₂ reagent Each of these factors is discussed further in this section.
Labeling Media	Because the FlAsH-EDT ₂ and ReAsH-EDT ₂ reagents will nonspecifically bind to serum proteins, including bovine serum albumin (BSA), we recommend using labeling media that is serum-free or contains low amounts of serum (\sim 1–2% serum). Opti-MEM [®] Reduced-Serum Medium (1X) is available separately from Invitrogen. Other buffered solutions, including Hank's Balanced Salt Solution (HBSS) and HEPES Buffer Saline (HBS), are suitable. If you are culturing adherent cells, make sure the labeling media contains calcium and magnesium to promote cell attachment.
Concentration of Reagent	For transfected cells, we recommend labeling in medium containing 2.5 μ M FlAsH-EDT ₂ or ReAsH-EDT ₂ labeling reagent as a starting point. For cells transduced with lentivirus, a FlAsH-EDT ₂ or ReAsH-EDT ₂ labeling reagent concentration of 1.25 μ M may be optimal. Depending on the levels of specific and background fluorescent signal, you can optimize the FlAsH-EDT ₂ or ReAsH-EDT ₂ labeling reagent concentration to better visualize your labeled protein. We recommend trying a concentration range of 1 μ M to 10 μ M FlAsH-EDT ₂ or ReAsH-EDT ₂ labeling reagent.
Labeling Time	As a starting point, we recommend labeling cells for 30–60 minutes. Generally, fluorescent signal is detectable 15 minutes after labeling and increases steadily for about 90 minutes. We generally do not see any increase in the intensity of the fluorescent signal after 90 minutes. Depending on the stability of your protein, fluorescent signal may be visible up to 48 hours after labeling.
	If you are labeling proteins with the $FlAsH-EDT_2$ or $ReAsH-EDT_2$ labeling reagent for the first time, we recommend optimizing the labeling time for your protein and cell line. You can accomplish this by visualizing protein labeling every 15 minutes for up to 90 minutes using a fluorescence microscope (see Detecting TC-Tag Fusion Proteins , page 17). As fluorescent signal from the bound $FlAsH-EDT_2$ or $ReAsH-EDT_2$ labeling reagent increases, nonspecific background fluorescence will also increase. The BAL wash buffer provided in the kit reduces this background allowing you to determine the optimal signal-to-noise ratio.

General Guidelines for Dual Labeling

Introduction	The TC-FlAsH [™] TC-ReAsH [™] II In-Cell Tetracysteine Tag Detection Kit allows successive labeling of the protein of interest in living cells in order to distinguish between older and newly made protein molecules. Using such pulse-chase assays to temporally distinguish pools of protein aid in the study of protein assembly, protein internalization, and protein turnover. ² In addition to the guidelines provided in the previous section, refer to the following guidelines when using the FlAsH-EDT ₂ and ReAsH-EDT ₂ labeling reagents for dual labeling assays.		
	Note:	Both the FlAsH-EDT ₂ and ReAsH-EDT ₂ labeling reagents bind the same tetracysteine motif (i.e. TC-Tag) and, therefore, can only be used to label one recombinant protein at any given time. Do not use the FlAsH-EDT₂ and ReAsH-EDT₂ labeling reagents to separately label two different proteins . If you wish to detect two proteins in the same cell, you will need to use two separate reporter systems.	
		Example: To detect two different proteins in the same cell, express one protein fused to the TC-Tag and label with ReAsH-EDT ₂ labeling reagent. Express a second protein fused to GFP. Detect both proteins using fluorescence microscopy and the appropriate filter sets.	
Which Reagent to Use First	FlAsH will fol Becaus	I label your protein of interest, you will "pulse-label" your protein with the EDT_2 reagent followed by a "chase-label" with the ReAsH-EDT ₂ reagent. You llow the same labeling procedure for both labeling reagents (see pages 13-14). e the ReAsH-EDT ₂ reagent can cause transient phenotypic effects on cells (see page generally recommend using FlAsH-EDT ₂ as the first labeling reagent.	
When to Use the Second Reagent	After th followi	ne first labeling procedure with FlAsH-EDT ₂ is performed, you may do any of the ng:	
		ash the cells two times with the BAL wash buffer per instructions for FlAsH- DT ₂ labeling protocol, followed by ReAsH-EDT ₂ labeling	
		cubate cells for desired length of time (up to 48 hours depending on the stability of ur protein) before labeling with ReAsH-EDT ₂	
		sualize protein labeled with $FlAsH-EDT_2$ under a fluorescence microscope before belong with ReAsH-EDT_2	

General Guidelines for Detecting TC-Tag Fusion Proteins

Introduction	We recommend using fluorescence microscopy to detect and localize fluorescence-labeled proteins. Guidelines for performing fluorescence microscopy are provided in the section entitled Detecting TC-Tag Fusion Proteins (see page 17). You may also detect fluorescent signal using fluorescence polarization or, if your protein is labeled with ReAsH-EDT ₂ reagent, electron microscopy (see below). Although the TC-FlAsH TM TC-ReAsH TM II In-Cell Tetracysteine Tag Detection Kits are primarily designed for protein detection and localization using fluorescence microscopy, it is possible to quantitatively analyze fluorescent signal using a fluorescence plate reader or perform fluorescence-activated cell sorting (FACS) using a flow cytometer. However, depending on your protein expression levels and your application, background noise may be too high to accurately obtain and quantify fluorescent signal readings using these methods.				
	If you will be analyzing fluorescent signal using a fluorescence plate reader or a flow cytometer, consider the following:				
	• Make sure the instrument is equipped with the proper optical filters to detect the FlAsH-EDT ₂ and ReAsH-EDT ₂ fluorescent signals.				
	• Include the proper negative controls in your experiment to determine background fluorescence levels.				
Fluorescence Polarization	Fluorescence polarization assays provide information regarding molecular orientation and mobility and are used to study multiple processes including receptor-ligand interactions, protein degradation, and membrane fluidity. In contrast to conventional fluorescent dyes which attach through rotationally mobile single bonds, the FlAsH-EDT ₂ and ReAsH-EDT ₂ reagents bind the TC-Tag through four rigid covalent bond formations, making the TC-FlAsH TM TC-ReAsH TM II In-Cell Tetracysteine Tag Detection Kits ideal for fluorescence polarization assays. ⁴ For information on fluorescence polarization products available from Molecular Probes, visit our website (probes.invitrogen.com) or contact Technical Service.				
Electron Microscopy	If you label your protein with the ReAsH-EDT ₂ reagent, you may detect the labeled protein using electron microscopy. The ReAsH-EDT ₂ labeling reagent photoconverts diaminobenzidine into a highly localized precipitate that can be stained and detected under an electron microscope. ^{2,4} The FlAsH-EDT ₂ reagents does not catalyze this photoconversion process and, thus, is not compatible with electron microscopy.				

Labeling TC-Tag Fusion Proteins

Introduction	To label recombinant proteins fused to the TC-Tag, you will need to incubate your cells with the $FlAsH-EDT_2$ or $ReAsH-EDT_2$ labeling reagent. Guidelines and instructions are provided in this section to label your recombinant protein. We recommend waiting a minimum of 24 hours post-transfection or 48 hours post-transduction before labeling to ensure adequate expression of your protein.			
	Important: If you plan to culture cells further after labeling with FlAsH-EDT ₂ and ReAsH-EDT ₂ reagents, be sure to maintain sterility throughout the experiment.			
	• Perform all manipulations within a tissue-culture hood			
	Prepare solutions using sterile reagents			
	required addition of 1,2-ethanedithiol (EDT) during the labeling procedure and during subsequent washing steps to reduce nonspecific binding. ³⁻⁵ Due to the odor and toxicity of EDT, however, the labeling procedures provided in this section have been specifically developed to not require addition of EDT. The BAL wash buffer provided in the kit minimizes nonspecific binding without the odo associated with EDT.			
Thawing and Aliquoting Reagent	We recommend aliquoting the FlAsH-EDT ₂ and ReAsH-EDT ₂ reagents to minimize freeze/thaw cycles. Let the frozen FlAsH-EDT ₂ or ReAsH-EDT ₂ reagent warm to room temperature (protected from light), and aliquot $5-10 \ \mu$ l into multiple tubes.			
neagen	When using individual aliquots, warm to room temperature (protected from light) and remove the desired amount of reagent. Immediately recap the tube to reduce moisture uptake. Store aliquots at \leq -20°C, protected from light.			
	Note: Both the FlAsH-EDT ₂ and ReAsH-EDT ₂ reagents may change color during storage due changes in pH. This color change is normal and does not affect the performance of the reagent.	to		

Recommended Labeling Conditions

Use the following recommended conditions to label your protein with the $FlAsH-EDT_2$ and $ReAsH-EDT_2$ reagents. For more information, see the section entitled **General Guidelines for Labeling**, page 6.

Condition	Recommendation
Tissue culture format	 You may plate cells in any size tissue culture plate of choice (e.g. 6-well format). Make sure that your tissue culture plate is compatible with your detection instrument.
Cell density	 For optimal labeling efficiency: Plate adherent cells such that they will be 60–90% confluent at the time of labeling. Label suspension cells at a density of 1–2 × 10⁶ cells/ml.
Labeling Media	For optimal efficiency, label cells in Opti-MEM [®] Reduced-Serum Medium, HBSS, or HBS. Note: If you are culturing adherent cells, make sure the labeling media contains calcium and magnesium to promote cell attachment.
Concentration of FlAsH-EDT ₂ and ReAsH-EDT ₂ reagents	 For transfected cells, incubate in 2.5 μM FlAsH-EDT₂ or ReAsH-EDT₂ reagent. For cells transduced with lentivirus, incubate in 1.25 μM FlAsH-EDT₂ or ReAsH-EDT₂ reagent. To optimize fluorescent signal, vary the FlAsH-EDT₂ or ReAsH-EDT₂ reagent concentration from 1 μM to 10 μM.
Labeling time	For most applications, label proteins for 30–60 minutes.

Materials Needed

Be sure to have the following materials on hand before beginning:

- FlAsH-EDT₂ or ReAsH-EDT₂ labeling reagent (supplied with the TC-FlAsH[™] TC-ReAsH[™] II In-Cell Tetracysteine Tag Detection Kit; warm to room temperature, protected from light)
- Opti-MEM[®] Reduced-Serum Medium (Catalog no. 31985-062)
- HBSS, with calcium and magnesium (for lentivirus-transduced cells) (Catalog no. 10425-092)
- BAL wash buffer (supplied), warmed to room temperature
- Mammalian cell line of interest expressing TC-Tagged recombinant protein (plated in the tissue culture format of choice or in suspension, as appropriate)

Preparing the Labeling Solution

The $FlAsH-EDT_2$ and $ReAsH-EDT_2$ reagents are provided as an 800X solution. Follow the guidelines below to make a 1X labeling solution:

- For transfected cells, add the appropriate amount of FlAsH-EDT₂ or ReAsH-EDT₂ reagent to Opti-MEM[®] Medium to make a 1X labeling solution and vortex to mix (1X labeling solution is 2.5 μM FlAsH-EDT₂ or ReAsH-EDT₂ reagent). Make just enough 1X labeling solution for your immediate needs.
- For lentivirus-transduced cells, add the appropriate amount of FlAsH-EDT₂ or ReAsH-EDT₂ reagent to HBSS to make a 0.5X labeling solution and vortex to mix (0.5X labeling solution is 1.25 μM FlAsH-EDT₂ or ReAsH-EDT₂ reagent). Make just enough 0.5X labeling solution for your immediate needs.
- Make the labeling solution just before use and keep at room temperature until required.
- Refer to the table below for recommended amounts of labeling solution to use for various tissue culture formats.

Culture Vessel	Labeling Solution per Well
6-well	1 ml
12-well	500 µ1
24-well	250 μ1
48-well	100 µ1
96-well	50 μl

Protocol for Transfected Adherent Cells

Follow this protocol to label transfected adherent cells with $FlAsH-EDT_2$ or ReAsH-EDT_2 labeling solution. You may plate your cells in any tissue culture format of choice. We recommend that your cells are 60–90% confluent at the time of labeling for optimal results. We also recommend including a positive expression control and a non-TC-Tag vector control in your experiment to determine foreground and background fluorescence (see page 7).

- 1. Remove the growth medium from the cells and wash cells once with Opti-MEM[®] I Reduced-Serum Medium.
- 2. Add the appropriate amount of 1X FlAsH-EDT₂ or ReAsH-EDT₂ labeling solution prepared with Opti-MEM[®] Medium to each well (see **Preparing the Labeling Solution**, above).

Important: Appropriately discard any unused FlAsH-EDT₂ or ReAsH-EDT₂ labeling solution according to your institution's guidelines. Do not reuse the 1X FlAsH-EDT₂ or ReAsH-EDT₂ labeling solution.

- 3. Cover the plate to prevent the solution from evaporating.
- 4. Incubate the cells at room temperature for 30 minutes, protected from light.

Note: Extending the incubation time may increase the fluorescent signal, but may also increase the background.

5. If you are ready to detect your labeled protein using fluorescence microscopy, proceed to **Using BAL Wash Buffer**, page 16. If you are performing dual labeling and wish to label your protein with the second labeling reagent **before** visualizing cells, proceed to **Performing Dual Labeling**.

Protocol for Transfected Cells in Suspension	Follow this protocol to label transfected cells in suspension with FlAsH-EDT ₂ or ReAsH-EDT ₂ labeling solution. We recommend including a positive expression control and a non-TC-Tag vector control in your experiment to determine foreground and background fluorescence (see page 7).		
	1.	For each sample, pellet cells by centrifugation and wash the cell pellet once with Opti-MEM [®] I Reduced-Serum Medium.	
	2.	Resuspend the pellet with 1X FlAsH-EDT ₂ or ReAsH-EDT ₂ labeling solution prepared with Opti-MEM [®] Medium (see Preparing the Labeling Solution , previous page) to a final density of 1×10^6 cells/ml. Transfer the cells to your tissue culture format of choice.	
		Important: Appropriately discard any unused FlAsH-EDT ₂ or ReAsH-EDT ₂ labeling solution according to your institution's guidelines. Do not reuse the 1X FlAsH-EDT ₂ or ReAsH-EDT ₂ labeling solution.	
	3.	Cover the plate to prevent the solution from evaporating.	
	4.	Incubate the cells at room temperature for 30 minutes, protected from light.	
		Note: Extending the incubation time may increase the fluorescent signal, but may also increase the background.	
	5.	If you are ready to detect your labeled protein using fluorescence microscopy, proceed to Using BAL Wash Buffer . If you are performing dual labeling and wish to label your protein with the second labeling reagent before visualizing cells, proceed to Performing Dual Labeling , below.	
Protocol for Cells Transduced with Lentivirus	soluthat reco (i.e	low this protocol to label cells transduced with lentivirus with $FlAsH-EDT_2$ labeling ation. You may plate your cells in any tissue culture format of choice. We recommend to your cells are 60–90% confluent at the time of labeling for optimal results. We also commend including a positive expression control and a negative transduction control ., cells not treated with virus) in your experiment to determine foreground and kground fluorescence (see page 7).	
	1.	Remove the growth medium from the cells and wash cells 2–3 times with HBSS.	
	2.	Add the appropriate amount of 0.5X FlAsH-EDT ₂ labeling solution prepared with HBSS to each well (see Preparing the Labeling Solution , previous page).	
		Important: Appropriately discard any unused FlAsH-EDT ₂ or ReAsH-EDT ₂ labeling solution according to your institution's guidelines. Do not reuse the 0.5X FlAsH-EDT ₂ or ReAsH-EDT ₂ labeling solution.	
	3.	Cover the plate to prevent the solution from evaporating.	
	4.	Incubate the cells at room temperature for 15 minutes, protected from light.	
		Note: Extending the incubation time may increase the fluorescent signal, but may also increase the background.	
	5.	To detect your labeled protein using fluorescence microscopy, proceed to Using BAL Wash Buffer, page 16. If you are performing dual labeling and wish to label your protein with the second labeling reagent before visualizing cells, proceed to Performing Dual Labeling , next page.	

Performing Dual Labeling	If you wish to label your protein with the second labeling reagent before visualizing cells under a microscope, we recommend you do the following:		
-	• Prepare the second labeling solution immediately before use (see Preparing the Labeling Solution , page 13).		
	• If you will be immediately labeling your protein with the second reagent, remove the first labeling solution and discard appropriately. Wash cells twice with BAL wash buffer and repeat the labeling procedure with the second labeling solution.		
	• If you will be incubating your cells between labeling procedures, remove the first labeling solution and discard appropriately. Wash cells once with Opti-MEM [®] Medium, add complete growth medium to the cells, and incubate at 37°C for the desired amount of time. Repeat the labeling procedure with the second labeling solution.		

Using BAL Wash Buffer

Introduction	BAL wash buffer is a nonfluorescent, hydrophobic reagent that is supplied with the TC- FlAsH TM TC-ReAsH TM II In-Cell Tetracysteine Tag Detection Kits to reduce the background fluorescent signal. ⁴ BAL wash buffer is much more olfactorily friendly than EDT, another wash buffer that has been used for reducing background. Follow the guidelines below to prepare and add BAL wash buffer to your cells.
Materials Needed	Be sure to have the following materials on hand before beginning:
	 BAL wash buffer (supplied with the TC-FlAsHTM TC-ReAsHTM II In-Cell Tetracysteine Tag Detection Kits; warm to room temperature)
	• Opti-MEM [®] Reduced-Serum Medium (Catalog no. 31985-062)
	• HBSS, with calcium and magnesium (for lentivirus-transduced cells) (Catalog no. 10425-092)
	• Mammalian cell line of interest (incubating with FlAsH-EDT ₂ or ReAsH-EDT ₂ labeling solution)
Aliquoting BAL Wash Buffer	Store BAL wash buffer at 2–6°C. BAL wash buffer may cause eye and skin irritation. Wear protecting clothing, eyewear, and gloves when handling. Refer to the Material Safety Data Sheet before handling.
Preparing and Adding the BAL wash buffer	BAL wash buffer is supplied as a 100X solution. Make the 1X stock solution just before use and keep at room temperature until needed. Follow the instructions below to prepare a 1X stock solution of BAL wash buffer and to add it to your cells.
wash buner	 To make a 1X stock solution, add the appropriate amount of 100X BAL wash buffer to Opti-MEM[®] Medium (for transfected cells) or HBSS (for transduced cells). Vortex to mix (1X solution is 250 μM BAL wash buffer). You will add twice the volume of BAL wash buffer to each well as you did the FlAsH-EDT₂ or ReAsH-EDT₂ labeling solution (see table on page 13). Keep at room temperature until needed.
	Example: If you added 1 ml of $FlAsH-EDT_2$ or $ReAsH-EDT_2$ labeling solution to each well in a 6-well plate, you will need 12 ml of 1X BAL wash buffer (2 ml per well). To make the 1X stock solution, add 120 µl of BAL wash buffer to 12 ml of Opti-MEM [®] Medium.
	2. After the incubation with the FlAsH-EDT ₂ or ReAsH-EDT ₂ labeling solution, carefully remove the labeling solution and discard appropriately.
	3. Wash cells once with 1X BAL wash buffer, and discard appropriately.
	 Repeat step 3. Add appropriate volume of Opti-MEM[®] Medium and proceed to Detecting TC-Tag Fusion Proteins, page 17.

Detecting TC-Tag Fusion Proteins

Introduction	live cells by visually of ReAsH-EDT ₂ reagent. (microscope and filter se	oserving the fluoresc General guidelines a ts to optimally visu tt signal from FIAsF	reprovided below to alize your labeled pro H-EDT ₂ or ReAsH-EE	select the type of
Recommended Filter Sets	FlAsH-EDT ₂ labeling r proteins labeled with th maximum excitation an	eagent. A standard ' e ReAsH-EDT ₂ lab d emission values f	Texas Red [®] filter set i eling reagent. Refer to or each reagent. For a	proteins labeled with the is suitable for visualizing the table below for the diagram of the DT_2 reagents, see page 4.
	Labeling Reagent	Excitation Maximum	Emission Maximum	Recommended Filter Set
	FlAsH-EDT ₂ reagent	508 nm	528 nm	FITC
	ReAsH-EDT ₂ reagent		608 nm	Texas Red [®]
Color Camera	with specifications that FlAsH-EDT ₂ and ReAs If desired, you may use photograph the cells. W	a color camera that // recommend using	ound, you may need to the excitation and en is compatible with the g a digital camera or h	to use optimized filter sets nission maxima of the ne microscope to nigh sensitivity film,
	such as 400 ASA or greater. For optimal pictures, we recommend photographing cells using a short exposure time (0.5 seconds or less) although this time may vary depending on your protein and application.			
	Note: If you are dual laber reagents, you will need t or graphics software.			d ReAsH-EDT ₂ labeling pose them using imaging
	reagent is particularly se	ensitive to continuo	us illumination throu	d cells. The ReAsH-EDT ₂ igh a high magnification, gth of light that can excite
	To reduce photo-bleach fluorescent signal for a f objective or decrease the	ew seconds at a tim	e. Alternatively, use a	a lower magnification

Detecting TC-Tag Fusion Proteins, continued

What You Should See	Recombinant proteins fused to the TC-Tag will appear brightly labeled and will emit a green (FlAsH-EDT ₂) or a red (ReAsH-EDT ₂) fluorescent signal that should be easy to detect above the background fluorescence. Note that cells will appear lightly and uniformly green or red depending on the labeling reagent used. This is normal background fluorescence caused by autofluorescence of the cells, autofluorescence of unbound reagent, and nonspecific binding of the FlAsH-EDT ₂ and ReAsH-EDT ₂ labeling reagents. For lentivirus-transduced cells, use the negative control ("mock-transduced") cells to determine the level of background labeling reagent fluorescence.
	If you have trouble detecting your labeled protein above the background fluorescence, see the recommendations below.
	If you are experiencing a high level of background fluorescence or if your foreground fluorescent signal is low, try the following:
	• Decrease the lamp intensity of the microscope.
	• Adjust the concentration of the $FlAsH-EDT_2$ or $ReAsH-EDT_2$ labeling reagent in the labeling solution and repeat the labeling procedure. Use a range of 1 to 10 μ M labeling reagent.
	• If you used Opti-MEM [®] to dilute the FlAsH-EDT ₂ or ReAsH-EDT ₂ labeling reagent and wash your cells, use HBSS in place of Opti-MEM [®] (as described in Protocol for Cells Transduced with Lentivirus on page 14)
	 If you are using a cell type that tolerates overnight growth in reduced serum media, culture the cells in Opti-MEM[®] or another reduced serum media overnight (~16–18 hours) and then repeat the labeling procedure.
	• Adjust the incubation time of the cells with the FlAsH-EDT ₂ or ReAsH-EDT ₂ labeling solution. Visualize cells every 15 minutes up to 90 minutes to optimize the labeling time.
Detecting p64	If you transfected cells with the pcDNA [™] 6.2/nTC-Tag-p64 control plasmid supplied with the TC-FlAsH TM TC-ReAsH TM II In-Cell Tetracysteine Tag Detection Kit with Mammalian Gateway [®] Expression Vectors, you will detect p64 expression in the nucleoli. p64 will appear as discreet, brightly-labeled, punctate spots localized within the nuclei of cells.
Culturing Cells Further	If you plan to culture cells further after detecting your labeled recombinant protein, carefully remove the labeling solution from your cells and discard appropriately. Wash cells once with Opti-MEM [®] Medium, add complete growth medium, and continue to culture cells at 37°C.
	Reminder: If you labeled your cells with ReAsH-EDT ₂ Labeling Reagent, you may notice transient phenotypic effects approximately 24 hours after performing the labeling procedure (see page 6).

Detecting TC-Tag Fusion Proteins, continued

Performing Dual Labeling	If you are performing dual labeling and are ready to label your protein with the second labeling reagent, we recommend you do the following:
-	• Prepare the second labeling solution right before use (see Preparing the Labeling Solution , page 13).
	• If you will be immediately labeling your protein with the second reagent, wash cells and repeat the labeling/washing procedure with the second labeling solution.
	• If you will be incubating your cells between labeling procedures, wash cells once with Opti-MEM [®] Medium, add complete growth medium to the cells, and incubate at 37°C for the desired amount of time. Repeat the labeling procedure with the second labeling solution.
In-Gel Tetracysteine Tag Detection	For sensitive and specific in-gel detection of TC-Tagged fusion proteins, we recommend the Lumio [™] Green Detection Kit available from Invitrogen (LC6090). The Lumio [™] Green Detection Kit enables immediate visualization of TC-Tagged proteins in polyacrylamide gels using a UV transilluminator or a visible light laser-based scanner and without the need for staining or western blotting. In addition, the BenchMark [™] Fluorescent Protein Standard (LC5928) allows you to easily visualize molecular weight ranges of proteins labeled with Lumio [™] Green Detection Reagent.

Appendix

Troubleshooting

Introduction

This section lists potential problems and possible solutions that may help you troubleshoot your FlAsH-EDT₂/ReAsH-EDT₂ labeling experiments.

Problem	Reason	Solution
Weak or no fluorescent signal	Low expression of TC-Tagged protein	 Increase protein labeling time. Increase concentration of labeling reagent in the labeling solution (up to 10 μM). Culture cells for a longer period of time before labeling to ensure adequate protein expression. Re-assess transfection conditions. For lentivirus-transduced cells, transduce cells at a higher MOI (e.g., 10–100).
	Poor transfection efficiency	 Re-assess transfection conditions. Use Lipofectamine[™] 2000 for transfection.
	Poor transduction efficiency	See the troubleshooting section of the ViraPower TM Lentiviral Expression System manual.
	Labeling reagents have lost activity	 Store labeling reagents ≤-20°C, protected from light. Aliquot labeling reagents to avoid multiple freeze/thaw cycles. Use freshly prepared labeling solution to label proteins.
	Concentration of labeling reagent in labeling solution is too low	Increase the concentration of labeling reagent in the labeling solution (up to $10 \ \mu$ M).
	Labeling time too short	Increase the length of time cells are exposed to the labeling reagent.
	Incorrect filter set used	 Use a standard FITC filter set to detect proteins labeled with FlAsH-EDT₂ reagent. Use a standard Texas Red[®] filter set to detect proteins labeled with ReAsH-EDT₂ reagent. Enhance visualization of proteins that are difficult to detect by using optimized filter sets (see page 17).
	ReAsH-EDT ₂ reagent is photobleaching	 Analyze fluorescent signal for only a few seconds at a time. Use a lower magnification objective. Decrease the lamp intensity.

Troubleshooting, continued

Problem	Reason	Solution
High background fluorescence levels	Too much serum in labeling media	 If you are using a cell type that tolerates overnight growth in reduced serum media, culture the cells in Opti-MEM[®] or another reduced serum media overnight (~16–18 hours) and then repeat the labeling procedure. Dilute the labeling reagent in HBSS and perform the wash steps in the labeling procedure with HBSS (as described in the procedures for lentivirus-transduced cells)
	Concentration of labeling reagent in labeling solution is too high	Decrease the concentration of labeling reagent in the labeling solution (to as low as 1 μ M).
	Labeling time too long	Decrease the length of time cells are exposed to the labeling solution.
	Nonspecific binding of the labeling reagent	Use BAL wash buffer after labeling.
	Lamp intensity of microscope too high	Decrease lamp intensity.
Cells exhibit a green or red hazy background	Labeling reagent not removed prior to visualizing cells under the microscope	Remove labeling reagent and wash once with Opti- MEM [®] Medium.
Cells detach from the surface of the well	Cells are disturbed when reagents are added and removed	 Gently add and remove reagents during transfection, labeling, and wash steps. Plate cells on poly-D-lysine or other type of coated plate for better attachment
	Labeling media does not contain calcium or magnesium	Use labeling media that contains calcium and magnesium to promote cell attachment (e.g. Opti-MEM [®] I Reduced-Serum Medium).
Altered cell morphology (e.g. cells appear rounded up)	Cells exposed to ReAsH-EDT ₂ reagent showing transient phenotypic effects	Phenotypic effects are transient and should disappear after approximately 48 hours (see page 6).
Photographs of cells show high background fluorescence	Exposure time too long	Take photographs using a short exposure time (0.5 seconds or less).

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Introduction

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