

# Investigator<sup>®</sup> 24plex QS Kit

All of the components of the Investigator 24plex QS Kit should be stored at  $-15^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $-30^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Avoid repeated thawing and freezing. The primer mix, allelic ladder, and DNA Size Standard must be stored protected from the light. DNA samples and post-PCR reagents (allelic ladder and DNA size standard) should be stored separately from the PCR reagents. Under these conditions, the components are stable until the expiration date indicated on the kit.

## Further information

- *Investigator 24plex QS Handbook*: [www.qiagen.com/handbooks](http://www.qiagen.com/handbooks)
- Safety Data Sheets: [www.qiagen.com/safety](http://www.qiagen.com/safety)
- Technical assistance: toll-free 00800-22-44-6000 or [www.qiagen.com/contact](http://www.qiagen.com/contact)

## Notes before starting

- Set up all the reaction mixtures in an area separate from that used for DNA isolation and PCR product analysis (post-PCR).
- Use disposable tips with hydrophobic filters to minimize cross-contamination risks.
- Before opening the tubes, thaw PCR components, vortex, and then centrifuge briefly to collect the contents at the bottom of the tubes.
- The recommended amount of DNA under standard conditions is 0.5 ng. Internal validations demonstrated robust and balanced results with 0.2–2 ng DNA, and reliable results with  $< 0.1$  ng DNA.

## Procedure

Prepare a master mix according to Table 1. As some loss of reagents can occur during transfers, prepare the mix with additional reactions included. Also include positive and negative control reactions. The master mix contains all of the components needed for PCR except the template (sample) DNA and nuclease-free water.

Mix thoroughly and dispense appropriate volumes into PCR tubes or the wells of a PCR plate.

Add template DNA and nuclease-free water to give a final sample volume of 25  $\mu$ l.

Prepare the negative control (nuclease-free water) and positive control, which should be 5  $\mu$ l of the Control DNA 9948 (0.1 ng/ $\mu$ l).

Program the thermal cycler according to the manufacturer's instructions, using the conditions outlined in Table 2.

**Note:** If using the GeneAmp 9700 thermal cycler with an Aluminum block, use "Std Mode". With a Silver block or Gold-plated Silver block, use "Max Mode". Do not use "9600 Emulation Mode".

After the cycling protocol is completed, store samples at  $-15^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $-30^{\circ}\text{C}$  protected from light, or proceed directly with running the electrophoresis.

**Table 1. Reaction setup**

Component	Volume per reaction
Fast Reaction Mix 2.0	7.5 $\mu$ l
Primer Mix	2.5 $\mu$ l
Nuclease-free water (added in step 4)	Variable
Template DNA (added in step 4)	Variable
Total volume	25 $\mu$ l

**Table 2. Cycling conditions**

Temperature	Time	Number of cycles
98°C*	30 s	
64°C	55 s	3 cycles
72°C	5 s	
96°C	10 s	
61°C	55 s	27 cycles
72°C	5 s	–
68°C	2 min	–
60°C	2 min	–
10°C	∞	–

\* Hot-start to activate DNA polymerase.

## Sample preparation for capillary electrophoresis

Before conducting DNA fragment size analysis, it is necessary to perform a spectral calibration for each analyzer with the six fluorescent labels: 6-FAM™, BTG, BTY, BTR2, BTP, and BTO. The calibration procedure creates a matrix that is used to correct for the overlapping of the dye fluorescence-emission spectra. Detailed protocols for using the Applied Biosystems® 3500/3500XL Genetic Analyzers are provided in the *Investigator 24plex QS Handbook*, which can be found at [www.qiagen.com/handbooks](http://www.qiagen.com/handbooks).

## Protocol

1. Set up a mixture of formamide and DNA size standard according to Table 3.

**Table 3. Setup of formamide and DNA size standard mixture**

Component	Volume per sample
Hi-Di™ Formamide	12.0 µl
DNA size standard 550	0.5 µl

2. For each sample to be analyzed, aliquot 12  $\mu\text{l}$  of the mixture to a tube.
3. Add 1  $\mu\text{l}$  PCR product or allelic ladder (diluted, if necessary).
4. Denature for 3 min at 95°C.
5. Snap freeze by placing the plate on ice for 3 min.

Alternatively, a thermal cycler set to 4°C may be used to cool the plate.

6. Load the samples on the Genetic Analyzer tray and start the run.

Please check the *Investigator 24plex QS Handbook* for detailed information on the run module settings (e.g., injection time, injection voltage, and run time).

7. After the run is finished, data can be analyzed using suitable software, such as Applied Biosystems GeneMapper® ID-X Software. For more information, refer to the *Investigator 24plex QS Handbook* and corresponding software user guides.

For up-to-date licensing information and product-specific disclaimers, see the respective QIAGEN kit handbook or user manual.