CDK1-cyclin B is a serine/threonine protein kinase composed of the catalytic subunit CDK1 and its positive regulatory subunit cyclin B (B1 isoform). Binding of CDK1 to cyclin B is essential for activation of the kinase. Phosphorylation of T161 is required for activation of the CDK1-cyclin B complex and is mediated by the CDK activating kinase (CAK). During G2 phase, CDK1-cyclin B complex is held in an inactive state by phosphorylation of CDK1 at the two negative regulatory sites, T14 and Y15 by CDK1 inhibitory protein kinases, Myt1 and Wee1 respectively. Dephosphorylation of T14 and Y15 by cell division cycle 25 (CDC25) protein phosphatase in late G2 phase activates the CDK1-cyclin B complex and triggers the initiation of mitosis. During expression in insect cells, the recombinant CDK1-cyclin B is activated in vivo by endogenous kinase (1–4).

Recognition Determinants: The substrate specificity of CDK1-cyclin B shows an absolute requirement for Pro in the +1 position, a secondary requirement for Arg or Lys at +3, and a preference for basic residues at +2 or +3 positions. The recognition motif for phosphorylation by CDK1-cyclin B is S/TPX/K, frequently with additional basic residues on either side (K/RSPR/PR/KH) (5).

Source: Isolated from Spodoptera frugiperda (S9) cells infected with recombinant baculovirus carrying human CDK1 and human cyclin B (1,2) (kindly provided by Dr. H. Piwnica-Worms).

Supplied in: 100 mM NaCl, 50 mM HEPES (pH 7.5 @ 25°C), 0.1 mM EDTA, 1 mM DTT, 0.01% Brij 35 and 50% glycerol.

Reagents Supplied with Enzyme: 1X NEBuffer for Protein Kinases (PK).

Reaction Conditions: 1X NEBuffer for PK (NEB #B6022), supplemented with 200 µM ATP (NEB #P0756) and gamma-labeled ATP to a final specific activity of 100–500 µCi/µmol. Incubate at 30°C.

1X NEBuffer for PK:
- 50 mM Tris-HCl
- 10 mM MgCl₂
- 0.1 mM EDTA
- 2 mM DTT
- 0.01% Brij 35
- pH 7.5 @ 25°C

Note that optimal incubation times and enzyme concentrations must be determined empirically for each particular substrate.

Unit Definition: One unit is defined as the amount of CDK1-cyclin B required to catalyze the transfer of 1 pmol of phosphate to CDK Peptide Substrate PTKP/KAKKL-NH₂ (50 µM) in 1 minute at 30°C in a total reaction volume of 30 µl.

Specific Activity: ~1,000,000 units/mg

Molecular Weight: CDK1 (34 kDa), cyclin B (48 kDa). The apparent molecular weight of cyclin B on SDS-PAGE is about 60 kDa.

Quality Control Assays

Protease Activity: After incubation of 100 units of CDK1-cyclin B with 50 mM p-Nitrophenylphosphate for 2 hours at 30°C, no phosphatase activity could be detected by spectrophotometric analysis.

Dephosphatase Activity: After incubation of 100 units of CDK1-cyclin B with 50 mM 200 µM ATP (NEB #P0756) and gamma-labeled ATP to a final specific activity of 100–500 µCi/µmol. Incubate at 30°C.

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Quality Control Assays

Protease Activity: After incubation of 100 units of CDK1-cyclin B with a standard mixture of proteins for 2 hours at 30°C, no proteolytic activity could be detected by SDS-PAGE analysis.

Dephosphatase Activity: After incubation of 100 units of CDK1-cyclin B with 50 mM p-Nitrophenylphosphate for 2 hours at 30°C, no phosphatase activity could be detected by spectrophotometric analysis.

Heat Inactivation: 65°C for 20 minutes.

Source: Isolated from Spodoptera frugiperda (S9) cells infected with recombinant baculovirus carrying human CDK1 and human cyclin B (1,2) (kindly provided by Dr. H. Piwnica-Worms).

Supplied in: 100 mM NaCl, 50 mM HEPES (pH 7.5 @ 25°C), 0.1 mM EDTA, 1 mM DTT, 0.01% Brij 35 and 50% glycerol.

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Dephosphatase Activity: After incubation of 100 units of CDK1-cyclin B with 50 mM p-Nitrophenylphosphate for 2 hours at 30°C, no phosphatase activity could be detected by spectrophotometric analysis.

Heat Inactivation: 65°C for 20 minutes.
**Quality Assurance:** CDK1-cyclin B contains no detectable protease or phosphatase activities.

**Notes on Use:** Avoid freeze/thaw cycles. Can be stored for 1 week or less at –20°C.

**References:**