

**CHLORAMPHENICOL FAST ELISA**

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**A microtiter plate based competitive enzyme  
immunoassay for screening and quantitative  
analysis of Chloramphenicol in  
various matrices**

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### A microtiter plate based competitive enzyme immunoassay for screening and quantitative analysis of Chloramphenicol in various matrices

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#### Egg samples

The CAP equivalents in the whole egg, white or yolk (ng/g) can be read directly from the calibration curve (factor 1).

#### Tissue samples (meat, shrimps, crab, fish), method 7.4.1

Using the extraction in ethyl acetate followed by the clean up, the CAP equivalents calculated from the calibration curve have to be divided by 2 to express the concentration (ng/g) in tissue.

#### Serum/plasma samples

Using the direct method serum/plasma samples, the CAP equivalents read from the calibration curve have to be multiplied by 10.

#### Honey samples

To calculate the CAP concentration in the sample the CAP equivalent read from the calibration curve is divided by a factor 2.

#### Feed samples

The CAP equivalents can directly be read from the calibration curve.

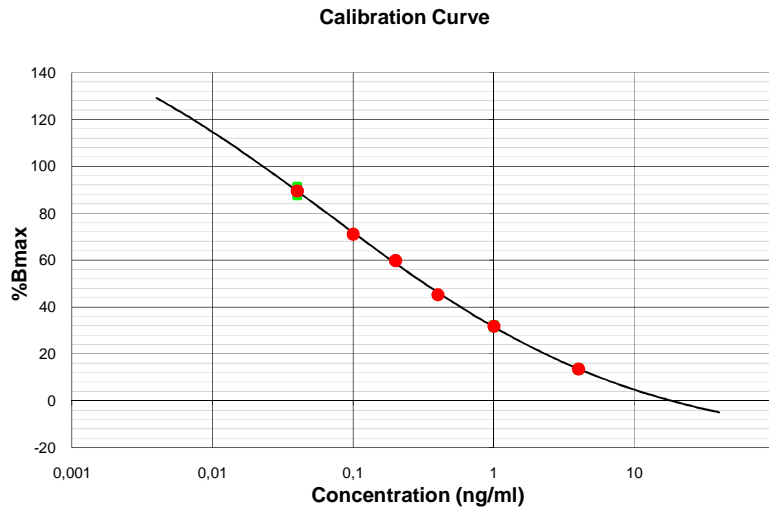
Remark: "positive" samples have to be confirmed by alternative (e.g. chromatographic) methods.

#### **11. LITERATURE**

1. Council Regulation (EEC) No. 2377/90 (26 June 1990) Off. J. Eur. Comm. L224/1.
2. Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1430/94 (22 June 1994) Off. J. Eur. Comm. L156/6.
3. Commission Decision 2003/181 (13 March 2003) Off. J. Eur. Union L71/17.
4. Cazemier, G. Haasnoot, W. and Stouten, P. Screening of chloramphenicol in urine, tissue, milk and eggs in consequence of the prohibitive regulation. Proceedings Euroresidue III 1996, Eds. N. Haagsma and A. Ruiter, pg. 315.
5. P. Maris and V. Gaudin. Report: Proficiency study for the analysis of chloramphenicol residues in milk by ELISA. AFSSA Fougères, January 2002. Available on request.

#### **12. ORDERING INFORMATION**

For ordering this Chloramphenicol FAST ELISA kit please use cat. code 5091CAPF.



**Figure 1: Example of a calibration curve**

#### Urine samples

Using the direct method; the amount of CAP in the urine samples is expressed as CAP equivalent (ng/ml). The CAP equivalents in the urine (ng/ml) corresponding to the % of maximal absorbance of each sample can be read from the calibration curve. These calculated CAP equivalents have to be multiplied by 10 to obtain the CAP equivalents (ng/ml) in the urine.

Using the extraction method; urine samples treated with glucuronidase and extracted (0,5 ml urine/200 µl buffer) are 2.5 times concentrated and the concentration read from the calibration curve has to be divided by 2.5.

#### Milk samples

Using the direct method milk; the CAP equivalents in the milk (ng/ml) read from the calibration curve have to be multiplied by 4. Using the extraction method, milk samples are ten times concentrated and the concentrations calculated from the calibration curve have to be divided by 10.

#### Milk powder samples

Using the method as described in paragraph 7.2 of this manual (10 g of powder and 60 ml of water), and using the extraction method, the CAP equivalents, as read from the standard curve, have to be multiplied by a factor 0.7 to obtain the results in ng CAP per g of milk powder.

Using the direct method, the CAP equivalents, as read from the standard curve, have to be multiplied by 7 (i.e. 10 g of powder and 60 ml of water).

## **BRIEF INFORMATION**

The Chloramphenicol (CAP) FAST ELISA is a competitive enzyme immunoassay for the screening in various matrices on the presence of this broad spectrum antibiotic.

With this ELISA kit 96 analyses can be performed. Samples and standards are measured in duplicate. The kit contains all the reagents, including standards, required to perform the test.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The use of the broad-spectrum antibiotic chloramphenicol (CAP) was totally banned within the European Union by modification of Annex IV of council Regulation (EEC) 2377/90 [1] with Commission Regulation 1430/94 [2]. In 2003, a minimum required performance limit (MRPL) for CAP residues in food of animal origin was set at 0.3 µg/kg [3].

This CAP-ELISA is suitable for the detection of CAP and its glucuronide (major metabolite urine). CAP can be detected in urine directly (after a dilution in buffer), or after ethyl acetate extraction for increased sensitivity and specificity. Defatted milk samples can also be applied to the test directly with a detection limit of 0.1 ng/ml. This detection limit can be lowered ten times using an extraction in ethyl acetate. For eggs and tissue samples, including shrimps, crab and fish, the ethyl acetate extraction is followed by a clean-up step using a mixture of iso-octane/trichloromethane or n-hexane resulting in detection limits down to levels of 0.04-0.02 ng/g [4].

## **2. PRINCIPLE OF THE CAP FAST ELISA**

The microtiter based ELISA kit consists of 12 strips, each 8 wells, precoated with sheep antibodies to rabbit IgG. A specific antibody (rabbit anti-CAP), enzyme labelled CAP (enzyme conjugate) and CAP standard or sample are added to the precoated wells followed by a single incubation step. The specific antibodies are bound by the immobilised antibodies and at the same time free CAP (present in the standard solution or sample) and enzyme conjugated CAP compete for the CAP antibody binding sites (competitive enzyme immunoassay). After an incubation time of **30 minutes**, the non-bound (enzyme labelled) reagents are removed in a washing step.

The amount of CAP enzyme conjugate is visualised by the addition of a chromogen substrate (tetramethylbenzidine, TMB). Bound enzyme conjugate transforms the colourless chromogen into a coloured product.

The substrate reaction is stopped by the addition of sulfuric acid. The colour intensity is measured photometrically at 450 nm. The optical density is inversely proportional to the CAP concentration in the sample.

### 3. SPECIFICITY AND SENSITIVITY

The CAP FAST ELISA utilizes a specific antibody raised in rabbits against protein conjugated CAP. The reactivity pattern of this antibody is:

Cross- reactions:	Chloramphenicol	:	100%
	Chloramphenicol-glucuronide	:	100%
	Thiamphenicol	:	< 1%
	Florphenicol	:	< 1%

The calibration curve should be virtually linear in the range of 0.04 - 4 ng/ml. Because of the cross-reactivity of the CAP ELISA with CAP-glucuronide, no hydrolysis of samples is required for direct methods.

The limit of detection (LOD) is calculated as:  $X_n + 3SD$  ( $n \geq 20$ ). For extraction procedures the LOD is calculated reflecting the respective concentration steps. The LOD is determined under optimal conditions. Cut-off values need critical consideration.

<u>Matrix</u>	<u>Procedure</u>	<u>LOD</u>	
Urine	direct	0.5	ng/ml
Milk	direct	0.2	ng/ml
Serum	direct	0.2	ng/ml
Urine	ethyl acetate extraction	0.02	ng/ml
Milk	ethyl acetate extraction	0.02	ng/ml
Egg	ethyl acetate extraction	0.02	ng/g
Tissue	ethyl acetate extraction	0.02	ng/g
Liver	ethyl acetate extraction	0.02	ng/g
Honey	ethyl acetate extraction	0.02	ng/g
Feed	ethyl acetate extraction	0.5	ng/g

7. Discard the solution from the microtiter plate and wash 3 times with rinsing buffer.
8. Pipette 100 µl of substrate solution into each well. Incubate 15 min. at room temperature (+20°C to + 25°C).
9. Add 100 µl of stop solution into each well.
10. Read the absorbance values immediately at 450 nm.

\* In case of using an alternative matrix see Chapter 8 "Preparation of reagents"

### 10. INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS

Subtract the mean optical density (O.D.) value of the blank wells A1 and A2 from the individual O.D. of the wells containing the standards and the samples. The O.D. values of the standards and the samples (mean values of the duplicates) are divided by the mean O.D. value of the zero standard (wells B1 and B2) and multiplied by 100. The zero standard is thus made equal to 100% (maximal absorbance) and the other O.D. values are quoted in percentages of the maximal absorbance.

$$\frac{\text{O.D. standard (or sample)}}{\text{O.D. zero standard}} \times 100 = \% \text{ of maximal absorbance}$$

#### Calibration curve:

The values (% of maximal absorbance) calculated for the standards are plotted (on the Y-axis) versus the CAP equivalent concentration (ng/ml) on a logarithmic X-axis. The calibration curve should be virtually linear in the 0.04 - 4 ng/ml range.

#### Alternative for calibration curve:

The value of absorption (logit) calculation of the standards are plotted on Y-axis versus the CAP equivalent concentration on a logarithmic X-axis

#### Standard solution (100 ng/ml)

To prepare standards in the appropriate matrix or to prepare spikes use the standard solution containing 100 ng CAP per ml. Dilute the standard solution in the appropriate matrix to make a dilution range of 4, 1, 0.4, 0.2, 0.1, 0.04 ng/ml. Also the zero standard should be of the same matrix.

### 9. ASSAY PROCEDURE

#### Rinsing protocol

In ELISA's, between each immunological incubation step, un-bound components have to be removed efficiently. This is reached by appropriate rinsing. It should be clear that each rinsing procedure must be carried out with care to guarantee good inter- and intra-assay results. Basically, manual rinsing or rinsing with automatic plate wash equipment can be done as follows:

#### **Manual rinsing**

1. Empty the contents of each well by turning plate upside down followed by a firm short vertical movement.
2. Fill all the wells to the rims (300 µl) with rinsing solution.
3. This rinsing cycle (1 and 2) should be carried out 3 times.
4. Turn the plate upside down and empty the wells by a firm short vertical movement.
5. Place the inverted plate on absorbent paper towels and tap the plate firmly to remove residual washing solution in the wells.
6. Take care that none of the wells dry out before the next reagent is dispensed.

#### *Rinsing with automatic microtiter plate wash equipment*

When using automatic plate wash equipment, check that all wells can be aspirated completely, that the rinsing solution is nicely dispensed reaching the rim of each well during each rinsing cycle. The washer should be programmed to execute three rinsing cycles.

#### **Assay Protocol**

1. Prepare samples according to Chapter 7 (Sample treatment) and prepare reagents according to Chapter 8 (Preparation of reagents).  
Microtiter plate is ready to use, do not wash.
2. Pipette 100 µl of reconstitution/zero standard buffer in duplicate (well A1, A2).  
Pipette 50 µl of reconstitution/zero standard buffer in duplicate (well B1, B2)\*.  
Pipette 50 µl of each standard dilution in duplicate (well C1,2 to H1,2 i.e. 0.04, 0.1, 0.2, 0.4, 1.0 and 4 ng/ml).  
Pipette 50 µl of each sample solution in duplicate into the remaining wells of the microtiter plate.
3. Add 25 µl of conjugate (CAP-HRPO) into all wells, except wells A1 and A2
4. Add 25 µl of antibody solution into all wells, except wells A1 and A2.
5. Seal the microtiter plate and shake the plate for 1 min.
6. Incubate for 30 min. in the dark at room temperature (+20°C to + 25°C).

### 4. HANDLING AND STORAGE

- Store the kit at + 2°C to + 8°C in a dark place.
- After the expiry date (see kit label) has passed, it is no longer possible to accept any further quality guarantee.
- Avoid condensation in the ELISA plate after the plate is transported from the refrigerator to room temperature. Before opening the sealed plate, the plate should be at ambient temperature.
- Reconstitute or dilute the kit components immediately before use, but after the components are at ambient temperature.
- After the lyophilised antibody has been reconstituted, the antibody solution is stable for 6 months when stored in a refrigerator (+2°C to +8°C). After the lyophilised conjugate has been reconstituted, the conjugate solution is stable for 2 months when stored in a refrigerator (+2°C to +8°C). Alternatively, after reconstitution of the antibody and conjugate, aliquots of these solutions can be prepared. The aliquots can be stored in a freezer (-20°C) for at least one year.
- The substrate and standard solutions can be stored in a refrigerator (+2°C to + 8°C) until the expiry date stated on the label.
- Any direct action of light on the chromogen substrate solution should be avoided.

If the following phenomena are observed, this may indicate a degradation of the reagents:

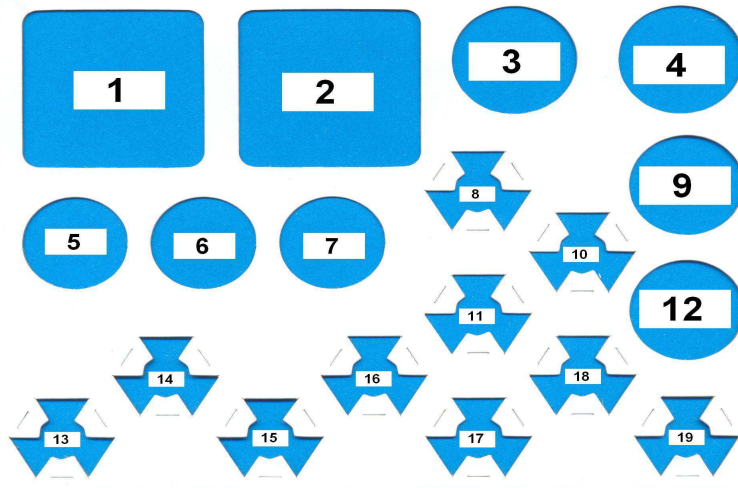
- A blue colouring of the chromogen substrate solution before putting it into the wells,
- A weak or absent colour reaction of the zero standard (Bmax) E450nm < 0.8.

## 5. KIT CONTENTS

### Manual

1 sealed microtiter plate (12 strips, 8 wells each), coated with antibodies to rabbit IgG. Ready to use, do not wash.

Position of the reagents in the kit. For preparation of the reagents see Chapter 8.



1. Sample dilution buffer (20 ml, 4x concentrated)
2. Rinsing buffer (30 ml, 20x concentrated)
3. Substrate solution (12 ml, Ready to use)
4. Stop solution (15 ml, Ready to use)
5. Conjugate (lyophilised, blue cap)
6. Antibody (lyophilised, yellow cap)
7. Not in use
8. Standard solution 100 ng/ml (1 ml, Ready to use)
9. Reconstitution/zero standard buffer (10 ml, Ready to use). To be used for reconstitution of the lyophilised conjugate and antibody as well as for the zero standard.
10. Not in use.

## 8. PREPARATION OF REAGENTS

The reagents included in the test-kit are sufficient to carry out at least 96 analyses (including standard analyses). Each standard and sample is analysed in duplicate.

Ready to use standards are prepared in dilution buffer. When an alternative sample matrix is used standards or spikes have to be prepared in the sample matrix from the enclosed 100 ng/ml standard solution.

Before starting the test, the reagents should be brought up to ambient temperature.

Any reagents not used should be put back into storage immediately at +2°C to +8°C. For longer storage see Chapter 4 (Handling and storage)

Keep standard solutions in the dark and store at +2°C to +8°C.

### Microtiter plate

Return unused strips into zip lock bag with desiccant and store at +2°C to +8°C for use in subsequent assays. Retain also the strip holder.

### Rinsing buffer

The rinsing buffer is delivered 20 times concentrated. Prepare dilutions freshly before use. Per strip 40 ml of diluted rinsing buffer is used (2 ml concentrated rinsing buffer + 38 ml distilled water).

### Substrate solution

The substrate solution (ready to use) precipitates at 4°C. Take care that this vial is at room temperature (keep in the dark) and mix the content before pipetting into the wells.

### Conjugate solution

Reconstitute the vial of lyophilised conjugate (CAP-HRPO) with 4 ml of reconstitution/zero standard buffer, mix thoroughly and keep in the dark until use.

### Antibody solution

Reconstitute the vial of lyophilised antibodies with 4 ml of reconstitution/ zero standard buffer, mix thoroughly and keep in the dark until use.

### Sample dilution buffer (4x concentrated)

The sample dilution buffer is 4 times concentrated. Before dilution (20 ml buffer + 60 ml distilled water) the concentrated buffer should be at room temperature and thoroughly mixed. Concentrated buffer can show precipitates of the contents. Mix well before dilution with distilled water. The 4 times diluted buffer can be stored in a refrigerator (+2°C to +8°C) until the expiry date stated on the kit label.

N.B. Instead of iso-octane/trichloromethane, n-hexane can be used. When iso-octane/trichloromethane is used, pipette 50 µl of the upper layer, when n-hexane is used, take 50 µl of the layer underneath. A better recovery is obtained when iso-octane/ trichloromethane is used instead of n-hexane.

#### 7.5 Direct method Serum/plasma samples

Diluted the sample 10 times with sample dilution buffer. Add of 50 µl sample dilution buffer to 450 µl serum/plasma. Use 50 µl portions for the test.

#### 7.6 Honey samples

Weigh in 3 g of honey and transfer into a glass tube. Add 3 ml of distilled water and mix. Add 6 ml of ethyl acetate and mix (head over head) for 10 min. After centrifugation (10 min., 2000xg), pipette 4 ml of ethyl acetate in a glass tube. Evaporate at 50°C under a mild stream of nitrogen. The residue is dissolved in 1 ml of sample dilution buffer. Use 50 µl portions in the ELISA.

N.B. Non purified honey tends to be fatty. When after evaporation a fatty residue is obtained, dissolve the residue in 1 ml of iso-octane/trichloromethane (2:3; v/v) (or in 1.0 ml of n-hexane, see N.B. paragraph 7.4.1), add 1.0 ml of sample dilution buffer and centrifuge (10 min. 2000xg). An aliquot of 50 µl of the dilution buffer (upper layer in case of iso-octane/trichloromethane and the layer underneath in case of n-hexane) is used in the ELISA.

#### 7.7 Feed samples

- Grind 10 to 100 g of feed samples.
- Homogenise 5 g of the grinded feed in 20 ml of distilled water.
- Pipette 5 ml of this mixture into a glass tube.
- Add 10 ml of ethyl acetate and mix (head over head) during 30 minutes.
- Centrifuge for 10 min at 2000xg.
- Pipette 5 ml of ethyl acetate (upper layer) into a glass tube and evaporate at 50°C under a mild stream of nitrogen. The fatty residue is dissolved in 0.5 ml of iso-octane/trichloromethane (2:3; v/v) and 0.5 ml of sample dilution buffer is added.
- The whole is mixed (Vortex) for 1 min. and centrifuged (10 min. at 2000 g).
- An aliquot of 50 µl of the upper layer is used in the ELISA test.

Remark: In case of an emulsion in the upper layer, the test tube is shortly (about 5 min.) put into a water bath (80°C) and centrifuged again. 50 µl portions of the upper layer are pipetted into the test.

#### 7.8 Other matrices

Sample treatment for other matrices (e.g. Royal Jelly) are described in separate Application notes. These Application Notes are available upon request.

- 11. Not in use
- 12. Not in use.
- 13. Not in use.
- 14. **Standard solution 1** (1ml, Ready-to-use) **0.04 ng/ml**
- 15. **Standard solution 2** (1ml, Ready-to-use) **0.1 ng/ml**
- 16. **Standard solution 3** (1ml, Ready-to-use) **0.2 ng/ml**
- 17. **Standard solution 4** (1ml, Ready-to-use) **0.4 ng/ml**
- 18. **Standard solution 5** (1ml, Ready-to-use) **1 ng/ml**
- 19. **Standard solution 6** (1ml, Ready-to-use) **4 ng/ml**

#### 6. PRECAUTIONS

- The stop solution contains 0.5 M sulfuric acid. Do not allow the reagent to get into contact with the skin and/or eyes.
- Avoid contact of all biological materials with skin and mucous membranes.
- Do not pipette by mouth.
- Do not eat, drink, smoke, store or prepare foods, or apply cosmetics within the designated work area.
- TMB is toxic by inhalation, in contact with skin and if swallowed; observe care when handling the substrate.
- Do not use components past expiration date and do not intermix components from different serial lots.
- Each well is ultimately used as an optical cuvette. Therefore, do not touch the outside or inside bottom of the wells, prevent damage and dirt.
- All components should be completely dissolved before use. Take special attention to the substrate, which crystallises at 4°C.
- Optimal results will be obtained by strict adherence to this protocol.
- Careful pipetting and washing throughout this procedure are necessary to maintain precision and accuracy.

## 7. SAMPLE TREATMENT

### 7.1 Urine samples

Urine samples can be analysed after a 10 times dilution step in buffer. A lower detection limit can be obtained using the extraction method. Especially for "dark/dirty" urine's this extraction method is advised.

#### 7.1.1 Direct method

Add 900 µl of sample dilution buffer to 100 µl of the urine sample and mix. Use 50 µl portions of the supernatant for the test.

#### 7.1.2 Extraction method

Add to 1 ml urine a few drops of 1 M acetic acid to adjust pH to 4.8. Mix and add 25 µl *Helix pomatia* juice (Merck art. no. 4114) and incubate overnight at 37°C or alternatively for 2 hours at 55°C. Cool to room temperature and adjust pH to  $7 \pm 0.5$ . Add 2 ml of ethyl acetate, mix for 1 minute. Wait for 5-10 min. to allow phase separation and evaporate 1 ml of the upper layer (ethyl acetate) at 50°C under a stream of nitrogen. Dissolve the residue in 200 µl of sample dilution buffer (0.5 ml of urine/200 µl buffer). Use 50 µl portions for the test.

### 7.2 Milk samples

Milk samples can be analysed directly after a 4 times dilution in sample dilution buffer. To skimmed milk powder water has to be added to obtain 'milk'. E.g. to 10 g of skimmed milk powder an amount of 60 ml of distilled water is added. A ten times lower detection limit can be obtained using an extraction method (paragraph 7.2.2. and literature reference 5).

#### 7.2.1 Direct method

For undiluted defatted milk samples the matrix effect is a critical factor. To avoid fat residues in the sample, the manual should be strictly followed. The pH of the sample is another potential pitfall. Sour milk disturbs the ELISA, neutralisation of the pH is essential.

Procedure: Centrifuge cold milk samples for 15 min. at 2000xg and at 4°C. Remove the upper fat layer using a spatula. Dilute the sample 4 times with sample dilution buffer. Add 300 µl sample dilution buffer to 100 µl milk. Use 50 µl portions for the test.

### 7.2.2 Extraction method

Defat 5 ml of milk as described at 7.2.1. Pipette 2.5 ml of defatted milk in a glass tube, add 5 ml of ethyl acetate and mix carefully head over head for 1 min. (when shaking is too rigorous, the extract becomes jelly). Wait for 5-10 min. to allow phase separation, transfer 4 ml of the upper ethyl acetate layer into a clean tube. Evaporate the 4 ml ethyl acetate at 50°C under a mild stream of nitrogen. Dissolve the residue in 200 µl of sample dilution buffer (2 ml of milk/200µl buffer). Use 50 µl portions for the test.

### 7.3 Egg samples

Transfer 1 g of the homogenised whole egg, the white or yolk in a test tube, add 6 ml of ethyl acetate and mix carefully (Vortex) for 1 min. When shaking too rigorous, the liquid becomes jelly. After centrifugation (10 min. at 2000xg), 3 ml of the ethyl acetate layer is pipetted into a glass tube and the ethyl acetate is evaporated at 50°C under a mild stream of nitrogen. The fatty residue is dissolved in 1 ml of iso-octane/trichloromethane (2:3; v/v) and 0.5 ml of sample dilution buffer is added. The whole is mixed (Vortex) for 1 min. and centrifuged (10 min. at 2000 g). Remark: In case of an emulsion in the upper layer, the test tube is shortly (about 5 min.) put into a water bath (80°C) and centrifuged again. 50 µl of the upper layer (1g of whole egg, white or yolk/per ml of sample dilution buffer) are pipetted into the test.

N.B. Instead of iso-octane/trichloromethane, n-hexane can be used. When iso-octane/trichloromethane is used, pipette 50 µl of the upperlayer, when n-hexane is used, take 50 µl of the layer underneath.

### 7.4 Tissue samples (meat, liver, shrimp, crab, fish)

#### 7.4.1 Extraction in ethyl acetate and clean up

Homogenise approximately 10 g of tissue. Weight 3 g of the homogenised tissue sample and transfer into a glass tube. Add 6 ml of ethyl acetate and mix (head over head) for 10 min. After centrifugation (10 min., 2000 g), 4 ml of the ethyl acetate is pipetted into a glass tube and the ethyl acetate is evaporated at 50°C under a mild stream of nitrogen.

The fatty residue is dissolved in 1 ml of iso-octane/trichloromethane (2:3; v/v) and 1.0 ml of sample dilution buffer is added.

The whole is mixed (Vortex) for 1 min. and centrifuged (10 min. at 2000 g).

Remark: In case of an emulsion in the upper layer, the test tube is shortly (about 5 min.) put into a water bath (80°C) and centrifuged again. 50 µl portions of the upper layer (2 g of tissue/ml) are pipetted into the test.