

## 31395 / 31404 Dextran sulfate Sodium salt from Leuconostoc ssp.

**CAS number:** 9011-18-1

### Product Description:

Structure: Dextran sulfates are supplied as the sodium salt forms, making them soluble and stable in water. Dextran sulfate contains approximately 17% sulfur which is equivalent to approximately 2.3 sulfate groups per glucosyl residue. Dextran is a polymer of anhydroglucose. It is composed of approximately 95% alpha-D-(166) linkages. The remaining (163) linkages account for the branching of dextran.<sup>1,2,3</sup> Conflicting data on the branch lengths implies that the average branch length is less than three glucose units.<sup>4,5</sup> However, other methods indicate branches of greater than 50 glucose units exist.<sup>6,7</sup> Lower molecular weight (MW) dextrans will exhibit slightly less branching<sup>4</sup> and have a more narrow range of MW distribution.<sup>8</sup> In low ionic strength solutions the dextran sulfate polymer will be fully extended due to repulsion of the negatively charged sulfate groups.<sup>9</sup> In high ionic strength solutions the polymer shrinks and more closely resembles unionized dextran.<sup>9</sup> pH changes over the titratable range of the sulfate group will cause expansion and contraction.<sup>9</sup> The MW of dextran sulfate is measured by one or more of the following methods: low angle laser light scattering<sup>10</sup>, size exclusion chromatography<sup>11</sup>, and viscosity<sup>12</sup>.

Sigma-Aldrich dextrans are derived from *Leuconostoc mesenteroides*. Various MW are produced by limited hydrolysis and fractionation. Esterification with sulfuric acid is carried out under mild conditions. Fractionation of dextran can be accomplished by size exclusion chromatography<sup>11</sup> or ethanol fractionation in which the largest MW dextrans precipitate first.<sup>17</sup>

### Stability / Storage as supplied:

If stored properly at room temperature dextran sulfate powders should be stable for a few years.

### Solubility / Solution Stability:

Sigma-Aldrich tests the solubility of dextran sulfates (Sigma-Aldrich 31403) at 50 mg/ml in water. Clear solutions are obtained. Buffered aqueous dextran sulfate solutions can be sterilized by autoclaving at 110-115°C for 30 to 45 minutes.<sup>8</sup>

Dextran can be hydrolyzed by strong acids at high temperatures. Dextran sulfate has a higher affinity for calcium ions than for sodium ions. The calcium salt of dextran sulfate is insoluble.<sup>8</sup>

The free acid (hydrogen) form of dextran sulfate is extremely acidic and autohydrolyzes rapidly in solution and as a powder.<sup>8</sup>

### Applications:

#### *Lipoprotein Separation:*

Dextran sulfate is routinely used to selectively precipitate lipoproteins. In the presence of 0.05% dextran sulfate (MW 15,000) and 0.05M MnCl<sub>2</sub>, VLDL and LDL precipitate. Increasing the final concentrations to 0.65% dextran sulfate and 0.2M MnCl<sub>2</sub> results in subsequent precipitation of HDL.<sup>14</sup> Dextran sulfate (MW 500,000) has been used similarly in the determination of HDL cholesterol.<sup>15</sup> See also Sigma Diagnostic Procedure # 352-3.

#### *Hybridization:*

The inclusion of dextran sulfate at a final concentration of 10% has been shown to accelerate the hybridization of labeled probes with membrane-immobilized DNA.<sup>16</sup> Sigma-Aldrich offers dextran sulfate MW 500,000 molecular biology grade (Sigma-Aldrich 31403) for this application.



#### *Other Nucleic Acid Related Applications:*

Dextran sulfate has been shown to release DNA from DNA-histone complexes.<sup>17</sup> Dextran sulfate inhibits the binding of RNA to ribosomes.<sup>18,19</sup> It is also a potent ribonuclease inhibitor<sup>20</sup> and has been used in the isolation of ribosomes.<sup>21</sup>

#### *Miscellaneous Applications:*

Dextran sulfate has been used with polyethylene glycol in aqueous biphasic polymer separations for bacteria, virus, proteins, and nucleic acids.<sup>22</sup> The effects on cell proliferation have been studied.<sup>23</sup> It has been shown to form insoluble complexes with fibrinogen.<sup>24</sup> Dextran sulfate has been found to bind to virus and inhibit initial adsorption to susceptible cells.<sup>25</sup>

#### References:

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