Enzymatic Assay of CHOLINESTERASE, BUTYRYL
(EC 3.1.1.8)

PRINCIPLE:

Butyrylcholine + H_2O \text{Cholinesterase, Butyryl} \rightarrow \text{Butyrate} + \text{Choline}

CONDITIONS: \quad T = 37^\circ C, \quad \text{pH} = 8.0

METHOD: Titrimetric

REAGENTS:

A. 1600 mM Magnesium Chloride Solution 
   (Prepare 15 ml in deionized water using Magnesium
   Chloride, Hexahydrate, Prod. No. M-0250.)

B. 1000 mM Sodium Chloride Solution 
   (Prepare 50 ml in deionized water using Sodium
   Chloride, Prod. No. S-9625.)

C. 4 mM Butyrylcholine Chloride Solution (BuCholine) 
   (Prepare by dissolving 336 mg of Butyrylcholine
   Then add 10 ml Reagent A, and 40 ml Reagent B for a total
   volume of 400 ml.)

D. 20 mM Sodium Hydroxide Solution—Standardized (NaOH) 
   (Prepare 50 ml in cold deionized water using Sodium
   Hydroxide, Stock No. 505-8, Standardize according to
   the ACS Reagent Procedure.)

E. Cholinesterase, Butyryl Enzyme Solution 
   (Immediately before use, prepare a solution containing
   30 - 60 units/ml of Cholinesterase, Butyryl in cold
   deionized water.)
Enzymatic Assay of CHOLINESTERASE, BUTYRYL
(EC 3.1.1.8)

PROCEDURE:

Using a suitable pH meter in conjunction with a magnetic stirrer, pipette (in milliliters) the following reagents into a suitably thermostatted titration vessel:

\[
\text{Test} \\
\text{Reagent C (BuCholine)} \quad 50.00
\]

Equilibrate to 37°C. Adjust to pH 8.5 with Reagent D (NaOH), using a burette. Then add:

\[
\text{Reagent E (Enzyme Solution)} \quad 0.40
\]

Run the reaction for 1 - 5 minutes. Record the time when the pH reaches 8.0. Maintain the pH of the reaction mix at pH 8.0 by the addition of small volumes (0.05 ml) of Reagent D. Record the volume of Reagent D used to maintain the pH at 8.0 and the time required.

CALCULATION:

\[
\text{Units/mg enzyme} = \frac{(\text{Molarity of NaOH}) \times (\text{NaOH}) \times (1000)}{(T) \times (\text{mg enzyme/RM})}
\]

\[\text{NaOH} = \text{Volume (in milliliters) of Reagent D used in the assay}\]
\[1000 = \text{Conversion from millimoles to micromoles}\]
\[\text{T} = \text{Time of assay}\]
\[\text{RM} = \text{Reaction Mix}\]

UNIT DEFINITION:

One unit will hydrolyze 1.0 µmole of butyrylcholine to choline and butyrate per minute at pH 8.0 at 37°C.

INITIAL ASSAY CONCENTRATIONS:

In a 50.4 ml reaction mix, the initial concentrations are 40 mM magnesium chloride, 99 mM sodium chloride, 4 mM butyrylcholine chloride and 12 - 24 units cholinesterase, butyryl.

REFERENCE:

Enzymatic Assay of CHOLINESTERASE, BUTYRYL (EC 3.1.1.8)

NOTES:

1. Standardization of the NaOH solution is described in the cited reference.

2. All product and stock numbers, unless otherwise indicated, are Sigma product and stock numbers.

This procedure is for informational purposes. For a current copy of Sigma’s quality control procedure contact our Technical Service Department.