ProtTech™

Cutting A Gel Band for Protein Identification

Before cutting a gel, please take a photograph of a gel. A great care should be taken during cutting a protein band out of a gel! First, take all precautions to avoid direct contact of a gel with a bare hand or any potential dirty surface, such as a light box, a razor blade, or a used container. You may want to ware a clean gloves, put a gel on a clean plastic film such (such as Sara Wrap) when it is placed on a light box, and use clean a razor blade and a gel container. Please keep in mind that even a tiny piece of human skin may contain karyotins that is hundred times outweigh the protein of in that gel band. Second, the size of gel slice to be cut out would be close to the site of that protein band. Please avoid any blank gel in an excised gel band/spot, since blank gel may reduce in-gel digestion efficiency. Each gel slice excised should contain only one protein band.

After a protein band is excised, carefully transfer it to a to a clean 500 ul Eppendorf tube. Cap the tube, label it; and wrap it with parafilm to prevent the gel piece from drying. Adding 5-10 ul 1 % acetic acid in water will help to prevent the drying of gel and the growing of fungi or bacteria during shipment. Don't put this or any other solution in a larger volume. If you need to cut several bands out, do it one by one to avoid mislabeling of these gel bands. Such a mistake will be very difficult to track down.

All samples should be shipped via an express service (FedEx, Airborne, etc) to minimize protein degradation. A gel sample can be shipped inside a normal envelope (we haven't detected protein degradation of a gel sample after 2-3 days at room temperature), or if a customer prefers, the samples can be shipped inside a dry ice container. Please send us your samples with 1) a copy of your sample submission form and 2) a copy of the gel image photograph.