



## Stability of Kit Reagents

When customers obtain unexpected or failed results it is common to speculate that it is either a manufacturing or stability problem. We have many years of experience in manufacture and quality control of these kits and we have invested much effort to enhance stability of ELISA reagents. The claims we make for shelf life in the form of expiration dates and the recommended customer storage conditions at 2-8°C are very conservative given that we have real time and elevated temperature data supporting even longer shelf life. Furthermore, the formulations of our reagents allow for prolonged storage at elevated temperatures and thus assure that problems such as summertime temperatures or delays in shipping or refrigeration problems at the customer location will not cause significant deterioration in the kits. For these reasons, when you are experiencing questionable results we suggest that you examine other potential causes first and not consume your limited kit reagents in trying to prove that instability is causing the problem. Assisting a customer with troubleshooting their kit at our facility to substantiate their problem, almost invariably gives the same excellent performance as when the kit was first released by our QC department. Thus the problem is typically at the customers' facility.

We have found that a good way to pin point the source of laboratory problems is to have another technician experienced in ELISA from your facility or an associate laboratory run the assay using different equipment. This will identify the problem in most cases.