NZY5α Competent Cells

Catalogue number:

MB00401 (20 transformations)
MB00402 (40 transformations)

Description

NZY5α Competent Cells display similar properties to DH5α, which are suitable for high efficiency transformation in a wide variety of applications. The ϕ80d*lac*ZΔM15 marker provides α-complementation of the β-galactosidase gene from pUC or similar vectors and, therefore, can be used for blue/white screening of colonies on bacterial plates containing Blue-gal or X-gal. NZY5α can also serve as a host for the M13mp cloning vectors. In addition to supporting blue/white screening, *recA1* and *endA1* mutations in DH5α™ Cells increase insert stability and improve the quality of plasmid DNA prepared from minipreps.

Genotype

fhuA2Δ(argF-lacZ)U169 phoA glnV44 Φ80 Δ(lacZ)M15 gyrA96 recA1 relA1 endA1 thi-1 hsdR17.

Storage temperature

The NZY5α Chemically Competent *Escherichia coli* cells are shipped on dry ice. Upon receipt, store at -80 °C.

System Components

NZY5α Competent Cells (10 or 20 × 200 µL)

Competent Cells Control Plasmid (10 µL at 0.1 ng/µL)

Transformation Protocol

Competent cells control plasmid solution (0.1 ng/µL) is provided as a control to determine the transformation efficiency. To obtain maximum transformation efficiency, the experimental DNA must be free of phenol, ethanol, protein and detergents.

1. Thaw competent cells on ice. Gently mix cells. Do not mix cells by pipetting.
2. To determine the transformation efficiency, add 1 µL of a $^1/_{10}$ dilution of control plasmid DNA (0.01 ng) to one tube containing 100 µL competent cells. Move the pipette through the cells while dispensing. Gently tap tube to mix.
3. For DNA from ligation reactions, add 5 to 10 µL of the reaction (10 to 100 ng DNA) to the NZY5α competent cells. Gently tap tubes to mix.
4. Incubate cells on ice for 30 minutes.
5. Heat-shock cells for 40 seconds in a 42 °C water bath; do not shake.
6. Place on ice for 2 minutes.
7. Add 0.9 mL room temperature SOC Medium.
8. Shake at 225 rpm (37 °C) for 1 hour.
9. Spread 50 to 150 µL of cells transformed with competent cells control plasmid on LB agar plates containing 100 µg/mL ampicillin.
10. Spread 100 to 250 µL of the cells transformed with the ligation reaction on LB agar plates containing the required antibiotic and, if required, X-Gal. To obtain the maximum number of colonies, spin the 1000 µL cell culture for 1 min at 5000 rpm, remove 800 µL of media and spread cells after re-suspending in the remaining buffer.
11. Incubate overnight at 37 °C.

Notes

1. Competent cells are very sensitive to changes in temperature and should be thawed on ice. The transformation should be started immediately after the cells are thawed. For best results, each vial of cells should be thawed only once. Although the cells are re-freezable, subsequent freeze-thaw cycles will lower transformation frequencies by approximately two-fold.
2. Competent cells must be treated gently. Mix cells by swirling or gently tapping the reaction tube. Do not mix by pipetting or vortexing.
3. Media other than SOC can be used, but the transformation efficiency will be reduced. Using LB reduces transformation efficiency a minimum of two- to three-fold.
4. Transformation efficiencies will be approximately 10-fold lower for ligation of inserts to vectors than for an intact control plasmid.

Quality Control

NZY5α Competent Cells consistently yield > 1.0 × 10^9 colony-forming units/µg competent cells control plasmid when transformed with non-saturating amounts of DNA (0.01 ng/100 µL cells).

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NZYtech Lda. Estrada do Paço do Lumiar, Campus do Lumiar - Edifício E, R/C, 1649-038 Lisboa, Portugal Tel.: +351.213643514 Fax: +351.217151168 www.**NZYtech**.com