Guide to Antigen Preparation

If you are providing us with your own protein antigen for immunisation then you may find the following guide useful.

In general, most buffers and additives are suitable for antibody production apart from detergents, protein solubilising and refolding agents (such as Urea and Guanidinium Hydrochloride) and organic solvents such as Dimethylsulphoxide (DMSO). There are certain limitations in buffers and additives suitable for antibody production and the table below shows the buffer component limitations for antigens:

Chemical	Suitable for Immunisations
CHAPS	0.1-0.2M
DMSO	Not Acceptable
DTT	1M
EDTA	10mM
Other chelates	10mM
Ethanol	<5%
Glycerol	20%
Glutathione	Must dialyze against PBS before it can be used
Imidazole	1M
Mercapto-ethanol	1mM
NaCl, KCl, MgCl2	1M
Octylgluside	1%
PMSF	Not Acceptable
Primary Amines	<1M (pH 6 to 8)
Salts	1M
SDS	<0.2%
Tris	0.1M
Triton X-100	<0.5%
Tween 20	<0.1%
Urea	6M
Guanidine	Not Acceptable
Methanol	Not Acceptable

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