6-carboxyfluorescein (6-FAM) is the most commonly used fluorescent dye for labeling oligonucleotides. 6-FAM is reactive, water-soluble, and has an absorbance maximum of 492 nm and an emission maximum of 517 nm. 6-FAM plays a particularly important role in real-time PCR applications, being used as a reporter moiety in TaqMan probes (1), Scorpion primers (2) and Molecular Beacons (3). For such probes, 6-FAM is most commonly paired with the dark quencher BHQ-1, as the two have excellent spectral overlap. 6-FAM-labeled primers have also been used for bacterial SNP genotyping by allele-specific real-time PCR (4).

6-FAM can be used to label DNA oligos for use as hybridization probes in a variety of in vivo and in vitro research or diagnostic applications, as well as for structure-function studies of DNA, RNA, and protein-oligonucleotide complexes. Oligos labeled with 6-FAM at the 5'-end can be used as PCR and DNA sequencing primers to generate fluorescently-labeled PCR, sequencing or genetic analysis (AFLP or microsatellite) products. References