BGL2 encodes an endo-beta-1,3-glucanase that is abundant in the yeast cell wall; it introduces intrachain 1,6-beta linkages into 1,3-beta glucan, contributing to the rigid structure of the cell wall. Null bgl2 mutants are viable, but overproduction of Bgl2p leads to defects in the cell wall and sensitivity to osmotic stress. Homologs of BGL2 have been found in many other fungi, including Candida albicans and Aspergillus fumigatus.