

PHOSPHATE-LOW RANGE

ASCORBIC ACID REDUCTION METHOD • CODE 3653-SC

QUANTITY	CONTENTS	CODE
60 mL	*Phosphate Acid Reagent	*V-6282-H
5 g	*Phosphate Reducing Reagent	*V-6283-C
1	Pipet, 1 mL, plastic	0354
1	Spoon, 0.1 g, plastic	0699

*WARNING: Reagents marked with an * are considered hazardous substances. To view or print a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for these reagents see MSDS CD or our web site. To obtain a printed copy, contact us by e-mail, phone or fax.

Phosphorus is an important nutrient for aquatic plants. The amount found in water is generally not more than 0.1 ppm unless the water has become polluted from waste water sources or excessive drainage from agricultural areas. When phosphorus is present in excess of the concentrations required for normal aquatic plant growth, a process called eutrophication takes place. This creates a favorable environment for the increase in algae and weeds. When algae cells die, oxygen is used in the decomposition and fish kills often result. Rapid decomposition of dense algae scums with associated organisms give rise to foul odors and hydrogen sulfide gas.

APPLICATION: Drinking, surface and saline waters; domestic and industrial wastes (Method based on reactions that are specific for orthophosphate).

RANGE: 0.00–3.00 ppm Orthophosphate

METHOD: Ammonium molybdate and antimony potassium tartrate react in a filtered acid medium with dilute solution of PO_4^{3-} to form an antimony-phosphomolybdate complex. This complex is reduced to an intense blue colored complex by ascorbic acid. The color is proportional to the amount of phosphate present. (Only orthophosphate forms a blue color in this test.) Polyphosphates (and some organic phosphorus compounds) may be converted to the orthophosphate form by sulfuric acid digestion. Organic phosphorus compounds may be converted to the orthophosphate form by persulfate digestion.

SAMPLE HANDLING & PRESERVATION: If benthic deposits are present in the area being sampled, great care should be taken not to include these deposits. If the analysis cannot be performed the same day of collection, the sample should be preserved by the addition of 2 mL of concentrated sulfuric acid or 40 mg mercuric chloride per liter and refrigerated at 4°C.

- INTERFERENCES:**
- a. No interference from copper, iron, or silicate at concentrations many times the concentration of sea water. However, high iron concentrations can cause precipitation and subsequent loss of phosphorus.
 - b. Salt error for samples ranging from 5% to 20% salt content was found to be less than 1%.
 - c. Mercuric chloride, HgCl_2 , when used as the preservative, interferes when the chloride levels are low (less than 50 mg/L). This interference is overcome by spiking samples with a minimum of 50 mg/L of sodium chloride.

PROCEDURE

1. Press and hold **ON** button until colorimeter turns on.
2. Press **ENTER** to start.
3. Press **ENTER** to select TESTING MENU.
4. Select ALL TESTS (or another sequence containing 78 Phosphate L) from TESTING MENU.
5. Scroll to and select 78 Phosphate L from menu.
6. Rinse a clean tube (0290) with sample water. Fill to the 10 mL line with sample.
7. Insert tube into chamber, close lid and select SCAN BLANK.
8. Remove tube from colorimeter. Use 1.0 mL pipet (0354) to add 1.0 mL of *Phosphate Acid Reagent (V-6282). Cap and mix.
9. Use the 0.1 g spoon (0699) to add one measure of *Phosphate Reducing Reagent (V-6283). Cap and shake until powder dissolves. Wait 5 minutes for full color development. Solution will turn blue if phosphates are present.
10. At end of 5 minute waiting period, mix, insert tube into chamber, close lid and select SCAN SAMPLE. Record result.
11. Press **OFF** button to turn colorimeter off or press **EXIT** button to exit to a previous menu or make another menu selection.