

SILICA-LOW RANGE

HETEROPOLY BLUE METHOD • CODE 3664-SC

QUANTITY	CONTENTS	CODE
30 mL	*Silica Reagent #1	*V-4466-G
30 mL	*Silica Reagent #2	*V-4467-G
30 mL	*Silica Reagent #3	*V-4468-G
10 g	*Silica Reagent #4	*V-6284-D
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.

Silicon dioxide, SiO₂, commonly known as silica, occurs in all natural water. Silica may be present as suspended, insoluble particles in a colloidal or polymeric state. It may also be present in a reactive form as silicic acid or silicate ions. Silica is a major nutrient for diatoms. A silica cycle occurs in many bodies of water containing organisms, such as diatoms, that use silica in their skeletal structure. The silica removed from the water may be slowly returned to solution by the decomposition of the dead organisms. The major source of silica in natural water is from the decomposition of silicate minerals in the drainage basin from which the waters flow.

The presence of silica is particularly objectionable in water used for boiler feed water purposes, as it may cause the formation of a hard, dense scale which has unusually high resistance to heat transfer. Serious loss of turbine efficiency results from insoluble silica turbine blade deposits caused by vaporization of silica from boiler water.

APPLICATION: Drinking, surface and saline waters; domestic and industrial wastes.

RANGE: 0.0–4.0 ppm Silica

METHOD: Reactive silica forms a complex with ammonium molybdate in an acidic solution to produce a yellow-green color in proportion to the amount of silica present. Phosphate also reacts with molybdate but the addition of oxalic acid eliminates the molybdophosphoric acid complex. This silica molybdate complex is then reduced by ascorbic acid to produce an intense blue color.

SAMPLE HANDLING & PRESERVATION: Silica samples may be preserved by refrigeration at 4°C in plastic containers up to one week without any change in silica concentration.

INTERFERENCES: Sulfides and large amounts of iron interfere. Color and turbidity may be removed by standardizing the instrument with the original water sample. Since silica is a component of glass waste and a common contaminant, it is suggested to run a reagent blank using silica-free water. The blank value is subtracted from the sample concentrations.