

A
Presentation on
Limit test of Arsenic

Presented by
Gaurav
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16TMM2363

In guidance of
Dr. IP. Singh
Department of Natural Product

Limit test for arsenic

- The limit test for arsenic is provided to demonstrate that the content of arsenic does not exceed the limit given in the individual monograph in terms of micrograms of arsenic per gram of the test substance.
- To carry out the limit test for arsenic a solution is prepared from the test substance by a procedure specified in the monograph. This procedure assures that the solution in every case contains the whole of the arsenic (if any) present in the substance.
- The standard stain against which the comparison is made contains 10 μg of As. The procedure described may also be used to determine the amount of arsenic in the substance by matching the depth of colour of the stain with a series of standard stains.
- A stain equivalent to the 1 mL standard stain produced by operating on 10 g of a substance indicates that the amount of arsenic is 1 $\mu\text{g/g}$. In the statements of arsenic limits, the permitted amount of arsenic is expressed as As

Apparatus : Use the apparatus illustrated in

Fig. 1.A

A: Generator bottle (Capacity: about 60 ml, with a marked line indicating 40 ml)

B: Glass tube with about 6.5 mm internal diameter

C and D: Tube with a ground joint of 6.5 mm in internal diameter and about 18 mm in external diameter; both circles have the same center.

E: Rubber stopper

F: Dent at the lower part of glass tube B for supporting a plug of glass fiber

G: Rubber tube

H: Clip



Fig. 1. A

Recommended procedure

- Pack the glass tube lightly with cotton-wool, previously moistened with lead acetate (80 g/l) TS and dried, so that the upper surface of the cotton-wool is not less than 25 mm below the top of the tube.
- Insert the upper end of the tube into the narrow end of one of the pair of rubber bungs, either (1) to a depth of about 10 mm in the case of the tube with the rounded-off end or (2) so that the ground end of the tube is flush with the larger end of the bung.
- Place a piece of mercuric bromide paper AsR flat on the top of the bung, and place the other bung over it.
- Secure the assembly by means of a rubber band or spring clip, in such a manner that the borings of the two bungs (or the boring of the upper bung and the glass tube) meet to form a true tube 6.5 mm in diameter interrupted by a diaphragm of mercuric bromide paper AsR.

- Place the solution, prepared as specified in the monograph, in the wide-mouthed bottle, add 1 g of potassium iodide AsR and 10 g of granulated zinc AsR, and place the prepared glass tube assembly quickly into position. Allow the reaction to proceed for 40 minutes.
- Compare any yellow stain that is produced on the mercuric bromide paper AsR, with a standard stain, produced in a similar manner with a known quantity of dilute arsenic AsTS.
- Make the comparison in daylight and immediately after simultaneous preparation of the test and standard stains; the stains fade on keeping.
- Instead of this method of attaching the mercuric bromide paper AsR, any other method may be used provided (1) that the whole of the evolved gas passes through the paper, (2) that the portion of the paper in contact with the gas is a circle 6.5 mm in diameter, and (3) that the paper is protected from sunlight during the test.

The most suitable temperature for carrying out the test is generally about 40°C but, as the rate of evolution of the gas varies somewhat with different batches of granulated zinc AsR, the temperature may be adjusted to obtain a regular, but not too violent, evolution of gas. The reaction may be accelerated by placing the apparatus on a warm surface, care being taken to ensure that the mercuric bromide paper AsR remains quite dry throughout the test. Between successive tests, the tube must be washed with hydrochloric acid (~250 g/l) AsTS, rinsed with water, and dried.

Standard stain

Prepare a solution by adding 10 mL of stannated hydrochloric acid (~250 g/l) AsTS and 1 mL of dilute arsenic AsTS, to 50 mL of water. The resulting solution, when treated as described in the general test, yields a stain on the mercuric bromide paper AsR, referred to as the standard stain.

**Reference : The International
Pharmacopoeia - Sixth Edition,
2016 2.2.5 Limit test for arsenic**

**[http://apps.who.int/phint/pdf/b/
Jb.7.2.2.5.pdf](http://apps.who.int/phint/pdf/b/Jb.7.2.2.5.pdf)**

THANK YOU