
INTERNATIONAL STANDARD



981

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Sodium hydroxide for industrial use — Determination of chloride content — Mercurimetric method

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FOREWORD

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards institutes (ISO Member Bodies). The work of developing International Standards is carried out through ISO Technical Committees. Every Member Body interested in a subject for which a Technical Committee has been set up has the right to be represented on that Committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work.

Draft International Standards adopted by the Technical Committees are circulated to the Member Bodies for approval before their acceptance as International Standards by the ISO Council.

International Standard ISO 981 (originally Draft No. 2458) was drawn up by Technical Committee ISO/TC 47, *Chemistry*.

It was approved in January 1972 by the Member Bodies of the following countries :

Austria	India	Portugal
Belgium	Ireland	South Africa, Rep. of
Chile	Israel	Spain
Czechoslovakia	Italy	Sweden
Egypt, Arab Rep. of	Korea, Dem. p. rep. of	Switzerland
France	Netherlands	Thailand
Germany	New Zealand	United Kingdom
Hungary	Poland	U.S.S.R.

No Member Body expressed disapproval of the document.

This International Standard cancels and replaces ISO Recommendation R 981-1969, *Sodium hydroxide for industrial use — Determination of chloride content — Volhard volumetric method*.

Sodium hydroxide for industrial use – Determination of chloride content – Mercurimetric method

1 SCOPE

This International Standard specifies a mercurimetric method for the determination of the chloride content of sodium hydroxide for industrial use.

2 FIELD OF APPLICATION

The method is applicable to products of which the sodium chloride content is greater than 0,005 % (m/m).

NOTE – If 0,02 N standard volumetric mercury(II) nitrate is used, the method is applicable to products of which the sodium chloride content is greater than 0,002 % (m/m).

3 PRINCIPLE

Titration of the Cl^- ion with mercury(II) nitrate in the presence of diphenylcarbazone as indicator.

4 REAGENTS

Distilled water or water of equivalent purity shall be used in the test.

4.1 Nitric acid, ρ 1,40 g/ml, approximately 68 % (m/m) or approximately 14 N solution, of which the chloride content, expressed as Cl, is not greater than 1 mg/kg.

4.2 Nitric acid, approximately 2 N solution.

4.3 Sodium hydroxide, 7,5 % (m/m) or approximately 2 N solution.

4.4 Sodium chloride, 0,05 N standard reference solution¹⁾.

Weigh, to the nearest 0,1 mg, 2,922 1 g of sodium chloride, previously dried for 1 h at 500 °C and cooled in a desiccator. Dissolve it in water in a 1 000 ml one-mark volumetric flask, dilute to the mark and mix.

4.5 Standard end-point matching solution

Prepare this standard solution immediately before use. Pour 200 ml of water into a 500 ml conical flask, add 3 drops of the bromophenol blue solution (4.7), and then add the nitric

acid solution (4.2), drop by drop, until the colour changes from blue to yellow. Add an excess of 3 drops of this acid, 0,5 to 1,0 ml of the diphenylcarbazone solution (4.8) and (from a burette) the volume of the standard volumetric mercury(II) nitrate solution (4.6) necessary to change the colour of the solution from yellow to mauve (2 drops).

4.6 Mercury(II) nitrate, 0,05 N standard volumetric solution.

4.6.1 Preparation of the solution

Weigh $5,43 \pm 0,01$ g of mercury(II) oxide (HgO) and dissolve it in 10 ml of the nitric acid solution (4.1) in a 1 000 ml one-mark volumetric flask, dilute to the mark and mix.

Standardize this solution following the procedure described in 4.6.2, adjusting it to the exact concentration, if necessary.

NOTE – Analysts who can detect easily the diphenylcarbazone colour change can take advantage of a 0,02 N standard volumetric solution (2,18 g of HgO in 1 000 ml, standardized against a standard reference solution of sodium chloride containing 1,168 8 g of NaCl in 1 000 ml) in order to increase the sensitivity of the method.

4.6.2 Standardization of the solution

Transfer 40,0 ml of the sodium chloride standard reference solution (4.4) to a 500 ml conical flask, followed by 160 ml of water and 3 drops of the bromophenol blue solution (4.7). Add drop by drop the nitric acid solution (4.2) until the colour of the indicator changes from blue to yellow, then add an excess of 3 drops of this acid and a volume of the diphenylcarbazone solution (4.8) identical to that added for the standard end-point matching solution (4.5). Titrate the chloride with the mercury(II) nitrate solution to be standardized (4.6.1) until the colour matches the mauve of the standard end-point matching solution (4.5) and deduct the volume of the mercury(II) nitrate solution (4.6.1) added during the preparation of this standard end-point matching solution (2 drops).

The correct amount is 40,00 ml.

4.7 Bromophenol blue, 1 g/l solution in 95 % (V/V) ethanol.

1) See note to 4.6.1.