

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

ISO 9438

First edition
1989-11-01

Metallurgical-grade fluorspar — Determination of total phosphorus content — Reduced molybdophosphate spectrometric method

*Spaths fluor utilisables dans l'industrie métallurgique — Dosage du phosphore total
— Méthode spectrométrique au molybdophosphate réduit*



Reference number
ISO 9438 : 1989 (E)

Foreword

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International Standard ISO 9438 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 175, *Fluorspar*.

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International Organization for Standardization
Case postale 56 • CH-1211 Genève 20 • Switzerland

Printed in Switzerland

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Metallurgical-grade fluorspar — Determination of total phosphorus content — Reduced molybdophosphate spectrometric method

1 Scope

This International Standard specifies a reduced molybdophosphate spectrometric method for the determination of the total phosphorus content of metallurgical-grade fluorspar.

The method is applicable to products having total phosphorus contents, expressed as PO_4^{3-} , in the range 0,01 % (m/m) to 1,0 % (m/m).

2 Normative references

The following standards contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this International Standard. At the time of publication, the editions indicated were valid. All standards are subject to revision, and parties to agreements based on this International Standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the standards indicated below. Members of IEC and ISO maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

ISO 565 : 1983, *Test sieves — Woven metal wire cloth, perforated plate and electroformed sheet — Nominal sizes of openings.*

ISO 4282 : 1977, *Acid-grade fluorspar — Determination of loss in mass at 105 °C.*

3 Principle

Alkaline fusion of a test portion with a mixture of sodium carbonate, boric acid and sodium nitrate, and subsequent dissolution of the melt in excess of nitric acid. Precipitation of iron(III) phosphate with ammonia solution and filtration, dissolution of the precipitate in nitric acid. Formation of the molybdophosphate complex and extraction with a mixture of ethyl acetate and butyl acetate, followed by selective reduction of the complex to molybdenum blue by means of tin(II) chloride added to the organic phase.

Spectrometric measurement of the absorbance of the coloured complex at the wavelength of maximum absorption (about 710 nm).

4 Reagents

During the analysis, use only reagents of recognized analytical grade and only distilled water or water of equivalent purity.

4.1 Sodium carbonate/boric acid, mixture.

Mix 100 g of sodium carbonate and 50 g of boric acid.

4.2 Sodium nitrate.

4.3 Nitric acid (ρ approximately 1,38 g/ml).

4.4 Methanol (ρ approximately 0,794 g/ml).

4.5 Ethyl acetate/butyl acetate, solvent mixture.

Mix 7 volumes of ethyl acetate and 3 volumes of butyl acetate.

4.6 Ammonia, approximately 28 % (m/m) solution.

4.7 Ammonia, approximately 0,14 % (m/m) solution.

Dilute 1 volume of ammonia solution (4.6) with 200 volumes of water and mix.

4.8 Ammonium molybdate, 30 g/l solution.

Dissolve 30 g of ammonium molybdate tetrahydrate $[(\text{NH}_4)_6\text{Mo}_7\text{O}_{24}\cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}]$ and 10 g of ammonium amidosulfate $(\text{NH}_4\text{OSO}_2\text{NH}_2)$ in about 500 ml of water, dilute to 1 000 ml and mix.

4.9 Tin(II) chloride, 20 g/l solution.

Weigh 20 g of tin(II) chloride dihydrate $(\text{SnCl}_2\cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O})$ into a 1 000 ml volumetric flask. Add 200 ml of hydrochloric acid (ρ approximately 1,18 g/ml). Swirl the contents from time to time until dissolution is complete. Dilute to the mark with water and mix.

4.10 Iron, 4 g/l solution.

Dissolve 0,4 g of pure iron having a very low phosphorus content in about 10 ml of hydrochloric acid (ρ approximately 1,18 g/ml) on a hotplate. Add 3 ml of nitric acid (4.3) and heat to boiling. Cool to ambient temperature. Transfer this solution to a 100 ml one-mark volumetric flask, dilute to the mark with water and mix.

4.11 Phosphorus, standard solution corresponding to 0,100 g of PO_4^{3-} per litre.

Dry a little potassium dihydrogen orthophosphate (KH_2PO_4) by heating in the oven (5.1), maintained at $105\text{ }^\circ\text{C} \pm 2\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, for 2 h. Allow to cool in a desiccator. Weigh, to the nearest 0,2 mg, 0,143 3 g of the dried material, and transfer it quantitatively to a 1 000 ml one-mark volumetric flask. Dissolve in water, dilute to the mark and mix.

1 ml of this standard solution contains 100 μg of PO_4^{3-} .

4.12 Phosphorus, standard solution corresponding to 0,010 g of PO_4^{3-} per litre.

Transfer 100,0 ml of standard phosphorus solution (4.11) to a 1 000 ml one-mark volumetric flask, dilute to the mark with water and mix.

1 ml of this standard solution contains 10 μg of PO_4^{3-} .

5 Apparatus

Ordinary laboratory apparatus, and

5.1 Electric oven, capable of being maintained at a temperature of $105\text{ }^\circ\text{C} \pm 2\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$.

5.2 Platinum dish, of diameter approximately 45 mm and depth about 25 mm.

5.3 Separating funnel, of capacity 100 ml, with a mark at 60 ml.

5.4 Spectrometer with selector for continuous variation of wavelength

or

spectrometer with selector for discontinuous variation of wavelength, fitted with filters providing maximum transmission at a wavelength of about 710 nm.

5.5 Optical cells, of optical path length 1 cm.

6 Test sample

Use as the test sample the residue obtained in the determination of the loss in mass at $105\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ (see ISO 4282).

NOTE — ISO 4282, although specified for acid-grade fluorspar, is equally applicable to metallurgical-grade fluorspar.

7 Procedure

7.1 Test portion and preparation of the test solution

Grind several grams of the test sample (see clause 6) in an agate mortar until it all passes through a $63\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ mesh sieve (see ISO 565). Dry the sieved material for 2 h in the oven (5.1), maintained at $105\text{ }^\circ\text{C} \pm 2\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, and allow to cool in a desiccator. Weigh, to the nearest 0,2 mg, about 0,2 g of this sample into a platinum dish (5.2) containing 2 g of the sodium carbonate/boric acid mixture (4.1) and 0,2 g of the sodium nitrate (4.2) and mix well, preferably with a platinum spatula.

If the fluorspar has a total phosphorus content, expressed as PO_4^{3-} , of more than 0,1 % (*m/m*), take a test portion of 0,1 g.

Cover with a further 2 g of the sodium carbonate/boric acid mixture (4.1). Heat with a gas flame, gently at first and then to a dull red heat for 3 min. Ensure that the test portion comes into contact with the molten mixture by swirling the contents of the dish once during the fusion.

NOTE — If the fusion is carried out in an electric furnace, heat for 10 min at $900\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$.

Allow the dish to cool and put it into a 400 ml beaker made of materials free from phosphorus, e.g. quartz. Add about 20 ml of water and 10 ml of the nitric acid (4.3). Heat gently until the contents of the dish are completely dissolved. Empty the contents of the dish into the beaker. Rinse the dish with water, collecting the washings in the beaker.

Add 5 ml of the iron solution (4.10) and dilute with water to about 200 ml. Neutralize the resulting solution with ammonia solution (4.6) and then add 3 ml in excess. Boil for 1 min and then allow to cool. Filter the contents of the beaker through a rapid-filtering ash-free filter paper with a retention size of $25\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ or a filter paper of equivalent quality¹⁾. Wash the precipitate retained on the filter paper with ammonia solution (4.7).

Make a hole in the filter paper and wash the precipitate into the 400 ml beaker described above with warm water. Wash the filter paper with 2 ml of warm nitric acid (4.3) to dissolve any precipitate remaining, then wash with warm water. Wash again with 2 ml of warm nitric acid (4.3), and then 4-5 times with warm water. Heat the solution to complete the dissolution of the precipitate. Allow to cool, and then transfer the solution quantitatively to a 100 ml separating funnel (5.3), rinsing the beaker with about 10 ml of water.

7.2 Blank test

Carry out a blank test at the same time as the determination, following the same procedure and using the same quantities of all reagents as used for the determination, but omitting the test portion.

1) Whatman No. 41 is an example of a suitable filter paper available commercially. This information is given for the convenience of users of this International Standard and does not constitute an endorsement by ISO of this product.

7.3 Preparation of the calibration graph

7.3.1 Preparation of the calibration solutions

Into each of a series of eight 100 ml separating funnels (5.3), place the volumes of standard phosphorus solution (4.12) shown in table 1.

Table 1 — Calibration solutions

Volume of standard phosphorus solution (4.12) ml	Corresponding mass of PO_4^{3-} μg
0*)	0
2,0	20,0
5,0	50,0
8,0	80,0
11,0	110,0
14,0	140,0
17,0	170,0
20,0	200,0

*) Compensation solution (blank test).

7.3.2 Formation of the absorbing compound

Treat each of the calibration solutions prepared in 7.3.1 as follows.

Add about 20 ml of water, 4 ml of nitric acid (4.3) and 10 ml of ammonium molybdate solution (4.8). Dilute to the 60 ml mark with water and swirl. Add 10 ml of the solvent mixture (4.5) and shake for about 60 s. Allow the layers to separate and discard the lower layer completely. Remove any water remaining inside the stem of the separating funnel with a piece of filter paper, and then transfer the solvent mixture layer into a 50 ml volumetric flask. Add 20 ml of tin(II) chloride solution (4.9) and dilute to the mark with methanol (4.4). Shake for 20 s to develop the blue colour of the reduced molybdophosphate complex.

7.3.3 Spectrometric measurements

Within 10 min after the blue colour has developed, carry out the spectrometric measurements on the organic solutions obtained in 7.3.2, using the spectrometer (5.4) set at a wavelength of about 710 nm, after having adjusted the instrument to zero absorbance against the solvent mixture (4.5).

7.3.4 Plotting the calibration graph

Subtract the absorbance of the calibration compensation solution (see table 1) from the absorbance of each of the calibration solutions to give the net absorbance.

Plot a calibration graph having, for example, the masses, in micrograms, of PO_4^{3-} contained in 60 ml of the calibration solutions as abscissae, and the corresponding values of net absorbance as ordinates.

7.4 Determination

7.4.1 Formation of the absorbing compound

Carry out, at a temperature between 20 °C and 30 °C, the following procedure to form the molybdophosphate complex and to extract it.

To the test solution in the separating funnel (see 7.1) add 10 ml of ammonium molybdate solution (4.8), dilute to the 60 ml mark with water and swirl. Add 10 ml of the solvent mixture (4.5) and carry out the extraction procedure specified in 7.3.2.

If the fluorspar has a total phosphorus content, expressed as PO_4^{3-} , of more than 0,1 % (m/m), use the following procedure.

Transfer the test solution to a 100 ml one-mark volumetric flask instead of the separating funnel (5.3), dilute to the mark with water and mix well. Transfer a 20 ml aliquot portion of this solution to the separating funnel (5.3).

Add 3,2 ml of nitric acid (4.3) and 10 ml of ammonium molybdate solution (4.8), dilute to the 60 ml mark with water and carry out the extraction procedure specified in 7.3.2.

7.4.2 Spectrometric measurements

Carry out the spectrometric measurements on the organic phases obtained from the test solution (see 7.4.1) and the blank test solution (see 7.2), following the procedure specified in 7.3.3, after having first adjusted the instrument to zero absorbance against the solvent mixture (4.5).

8 Expression of results

By reference to the calibration graph (see 7.3.4), determine the masses of PO_4^{3-} corresponding to the absorbances of the test solution and the blank test solution.

The total phosphorus content, expressed as a percentage by mass of PO_4^{3-} , is given by the formula

$$\frac{r_D(m_1 - m_2)}{10^6} \times \frac{100}{m_0} = \frac{r_D(m_1 - m_2)}{m_0 \times 10^4}$$

where

m_0 is the mass, in grams, of the test portion (see 7.1);

m_1 is the mass, in micrograms, of PO_4^{3-} corresponding to the absorbance of the test solution (see 7.1);

m_2 is the mass, in micrograms, of PO_4^{3-} corresponding to the absorbance of the blank test solution (see 7.2);

r_D is the ratio of the volume of the test solution to the volume of the aliquot portion taken for the determination (see 7.4.1).

9 Test report

The test report shall include the following particulars:

- a) an identification of the sample;
- b) the method used (a reference to this International Standard);
- c) the results and the units in which they have been expressed;
- d) any unusual features noted during the determination;
- e) details of any operation not included in this International Standard or in the International Standards to which reference is made, as well as details of any operation regarded as optional.

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