# Comparison Table Merck 1.00602Cl<sub>2</sub> – March 2000

# **SM 4500-CI G**

# 1.0 Scope and Application

This photometric method determines the presence of total and free chlorine in natural, treated, industrial, waste waters and drinking waters.

#### **Free Chlorine**

In the absence of iodide ion, free chlorine (hypochlorous acid, and hypochlorite ions) reacts instantly with N, N-Diethyl-p- phenylenediamine (DPD) under neutral pH conditions to produce a red color. The color's intensity can be measured photometrically at 515 nm.

### **Total Chlorine**

With the addition of iodide ion to the sample, the bound chlorine along with the free reacts with the DPD under neutral pH conditions to form the red color whose intensity can also be measured photometrically, to obtain the total chlorine.

This method is capable of measuring chlorine in the range of 0.05-5 mg/L. Diluting sample when chlorine exceeds 5 mg/L could increase this range. This method is capable of distinguishing bound types of chlorine as monochloramine, dichloramine, or nitrogen trichloride by varying the amounts of Potassium Iodide (KI). Free chlorine can be calculated by subtracting bound chlorine from the total.

# **M**DL

The Method Detection Limit (MDL) for this method, under optimum conditions is 0.018 mg/L.

#### MI

The Mimimum Level (ML) for this method is 0.05 mg/L.

This method is applicable for use in the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) survey and monitoring programs under the Clean Water Act.

# 1.0 Scope and Application

This photometric method determines the presence of total chlorine in drinking, natural, treated, industrial, and wastewaters.

#### **Total Chlorine**

When in the presence of iodide ions, free and bound chlorine react with N,N-Dipropyl-p-phenylenediamine, within a pH range of 5.0±0.5, to form a red dye. The color's intensity can be measured photometrically at or near 557 nm.

The red dye, which is formed, has two maximum absorbances, 515 nm and 557 nm. At the 557-nm wavelength, the optimum absorbance is 15% higher for this compound.

N,N-Dipropyl-p-phenylenediamine, is a compound which forms a red color complex like the compound formed by DPD. The compound formed by this method offers an increased stability over time versus the stability of the DPD compound.

This method is capable of measuring chlorine in the range of 0.010-7.50 mg/L. This method is capable of determining bound types of chlorine as monochloramine, dichloramine, or nitrogen trichloride by adding potassium iodide (KI) during the test.

Diluting the sample (prior to reagent addition), when chlorine exceeds this maximum range, can also expand the range further.

#### **MDL**

The Method Detection Limit (MDL) is established at 0.010 mg/L using the long path (50-mm) cuvette.

# ML

Using a long path cuvette (50-mm) this method can achieve a ML of 0.010 mg/L. This 0.010 mg/L ML is five times more sensitive than the ML for the standard reference method (SM 4500-Cl G).

This method is applicable for use in the Environmental Protection Agency's EPA's survey and monitoring programs under the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act.

# 2.0 Summary of Method

For this photometric method a photometer is calibrated at 515 nm with standards made from chlorine or potassium permanganate solutions. The curve is prepared using at least five standards and a blank.

A sample aliquot that will adequately fill the appropriate photometric cell is measured from a fresh sample. The sample should not be exposed to light or agitation.

Buffer and DPD color reagents are added to the sample. Sample and reagents are mixed, allowed to stand, and are then read on the photometer at 515 nm immediately.

If samples exceed 5 mg/L, they can be diluted with chlorine free water.

Samples can be compared to color standards and a standard can be run to check calibration.

# 3.0 Definitions

See section 18.0 – There is no listed terminology, acronyms, or symbols which have been defined in this method.

#### 4.0 Interferences

High concentrations of monochloramine interfere with free chlorine determination but this interference can be overcome by the addition of arsenite or thioacetamide.

Oxidized forms of manganese can interfere with chlorine Using a blank can compensate for this.

Nitrogen trichloride may react partially as free chlorine, but this interference does not appear to be significant.

Sample color and turbidity may interfere and can be compensated by using a sample blank.

Organic contaminants may produce a false free chlorine reading, therefore a differentiation between free and

# 2.0 Summary of Method

An 8-ml aliquot of pH adjusted sample (pH 4-8) is pipetted into a test tube (16 x 100 mm).

Solid test reagents consisting of an N,N-Dipropyl-p-phenylenediamine-EDTA-buffer mixture and potassium iodide solution (included as pre-mixed reagents) is added to the sample, according to the protocol (depending upon the sample volume tested). Sample and reagents are mixed, and after a one-minute reaction time, the solution is read on a Merck Spectroquant®-type system photometer at or near 557 nm.

The Merck Spectroquant<sup>®</sup>-type system photometers are factory calibrated. Calibration standards and outside control standards can be run to check the instrument calibration.

Samples, analyzed using other photometric devices, are compared to a standard calibration curve.

If samples exceed 7.50 mg/L, the samples can be diluted prior to analysis with chlorine free water to expand the measuring range.

#### 3.0 Definitions

See section 18.0. This method, in great detail, defines terminologies, acronyms, and symbols, which appear in the body of the method.

The method incorporates into the body of the method, a detailed quality control section. Many of the terms defined in the glossary are specific to the quality control sample requirements of the method.

#### 4.0 Interferences

Cyanide, dichromate, nitrite, and sulfide ions interfere in concentrations greater than 0.1 mg/L.

Hydrogen peroxide interferes in concentrations above 0.05 mg/L.

Ozone interferes in concentrations over 0.1 mg/L.

Chlorine dioxide interferes in concentrations greater than 0.4 mg/L.

Bromine interferes at levels above 0.5 mg/L.

Iodine interferes in concentrations above 0.7 mg/L.

combined chlorine is seldom made in wastewaters. Drinking water, which is typically free of organic contaminants, is usually analyzed for free chlorine, therefore, there are no significant interferences from organic contaminants.

Waters containing iodine-reducing agents may not be analyzed for total chlorine since the method depends on the production of iodine.

Interference from copper occurring up to approximately 10 mg/L Cu<sup>2+</sup> is overcome by the addition of EDTA.

Chromate in excess of 2 mg/L Cr<sup>6+</sup> can interfere, but is easily masked by the addition of barium chloride.

Iodide contamination in glassware can occur but can be avoided by rinsing thoroughly between samples or using dedicated glassware.

Accurate results can only be generated on samples with a neutral pH. A low pH will allow monochloramine to react as free chlorine, while a high pH allows dissolved oxygen to react. Samples must be adjusted to a pH of  $6.2 \pm 0.5$  with dilute sodium hydroxide or dilute sulfuric acid.

High temperatures increase the tendency for chloramines to react, which can result in false positive free chlorine results. High temperatures also decrease color intensity. The temperature of the sample should be between 5 and  $40\,^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

Extremely basic samples should be adjusted to pH between 4 – 8. The EDTA buffer of Spectroquant Reagent  $Cl_2$ -1 ensures that the optimal pH of  $5.0 \pm 0.5$  is maintained throughout the test procedure.

Elevated temperatures decrease color intensity. Temperature of the sample should be between 5 and  $40\ ^{\circ}\text{C}$ 

Waters containing iodine-reducing agents may not be analyzed for total chlorine since the method depends on the production of iodine.

Iodide contamination in glassware can occur but can be avoided by rinsing thoroughly between samples, or by using dedicated glassware.

An overview of other interfering ions (up to concentrations of 1000 mg/L in solutions containing 3.5 and 0 mg/L Cl<sub>2</sub> is given in Reference 16.4.

# 5.0 Safety

The reference method does not define any potential health risks associated with the use of the chemicals in this method.

#### 5.0 Safety

This method employs the use of premixed reagents, hence the handling of hazardous chemicals is significantly reduced.

As with any analytical procedure, the analyst is cautioned to become familiar with the potential health hazards described in the reference Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) records.

Each chlorine reagent test is also clearly labeled with the contents, and any potential health hazards. These help to insure the safety of the analysts involved in the procedure.

# **6.0 Equipment and Supplies**

This method employs standard laboratory glassware for sampling (1L glass or plastic bottle). Standard glassware for sample and reagent handling includes pipettes, flasks, and photometric cells.

A spectrophotometer for use at 515 nm or a filter photometer equipped with a filter accommodating wavelength range of 490-530 nm is used to measure the concentration of chlorine.

## 6.0 Equipment and Supplies

This method employs all equipment and supplies which are specified in SM 4500-Cl G. The photometric determination is accomplished using a Merck Spectroquant®-type system photometer or other photometric device. The wavelength maximum absorbance is achieved at or near 557 nm.

# **Standard Photometric Cuvettes**

This method employs standard rectangular cuvettes (10mm, 20mm, and 50mm).

# Merck Spectroquant®-Type System Photometer

Chlorine test identification – An AutoSelector device for method selection is inserted into the Merck Spectroquant<sup>®</sup> -type system photometer round cell compartment. The AutoSelector sets the wavelength and other measuring parameters; method, type of cell, and method calibration data.

The readings obtained from the samples are automatically expressed as the chlorine concentration in mg/L.

Calibration - The Merck Spectroquant® -type system photometers have been factory calibrated, and the readings obtained from the samples are automatically expressed as the chlorine concentration mg/L. The calibration curve can be verified, and the data from this verification can be stored, modified or re-entered at any time. However, the user can not change the factory program settings. When appropriate, the manufacturer supplies a new MemoChip (transponder) containing new calibration data.

#### **Other Photometric Devices**

The use of other photometric equipment, which may be substituted for use with this method, is consistent with the reference method specifications.

All photometric measurements, regardless of instrument used, are read at or near the wavelength of 557 nm. (See Appendix I). This wavelength is one of the maximum absorbance wavelengths of the color complex formed during this procedure. The 557-nm wavelength offers increased time stability over the DPD color complex, and the optimum absorbance at this wavelength is 15% greater than at 515 nm.

# 7.0 Reagents and Standard

This method incorporates the following chemicals which are prepared by the laboratory analyst:

Phosphate buffer solution

N, N-Diethyl-p-phenylenediamine (DPD indicator solution)

Standard ferrous ammonium sulfate (FAS) titrant Potassium iodide, KI, crystals

Potassium iodide solution

Sodium arsenite solution

Thioacetamide solution

Chlorine standard solutions (acetic acid, KI, Sodium Thiosulfate titrant, phosphate buffer, DPD indicator,

FAS titrant)

Potassium permanganate standard solutions

#### 7.0 Reagents and Standards

This method incorporates chemicals similar to SM 4500-Cl G. The indicator solution, N,N-Dipropyl-1,4-phenylenediamine, is used in this method versus N, N-Diethyl-p-phenylenediamine, which is used in the standard reference method.

This DPD derivative forms a more stable color complex at the higher chlorine concentration range of this method. The color complex is stable for extended periods of time. The increased color stability of the N,N-Dipropyl-1,4-phenylenediamine is illustrated in Appendix II.

The reagents, listed in the SM 4500-Cl G, are prepackaged, and added to the test sample according to the protocol (See section 11.0).

The chlorine standard solutions are prepared according to the SM 4500-Cl G.

The chlorine standards are incorporated into the quality control sample program, as initial precision and recovery (IPR), ongoing precision and recovery (OPR), and for calibration curve verification.

## 8.0 Sample Collection, Preservation, and Storage

The sampling is performed in accordance with Standard Methods. The sample is collected (preferably), in a glass bottle. Because of the small sample volumes used, the sample must be homogenized prior to delivery into the reaction cells. The samples should be stored at 4 °C until analysis.

# 8.0 Sample Collection, Preservation, and Storage

The sampling is performed in accordance with Standard Methods. There are no differences in the way the samples are collected, preserved or stored in this method.

# 9.0 Quality Control

There are no quality control guidelines incorporated into the body of this method.

# 9.0 Quality Control

This method includes guidelines for initial demonstration of laboratory capability, quality control and quality assurance measurements.

Initial demonstration of performance of the method is required. After initial performance has been established, the analyst is required to provide proof of continued performance through the analysis of ongoing precision and recovery standards. These are tested in conjunction with the entire analytical quality control batch (for up to 20 samples), which include: (1) laboratory blank, (1) laboratory control sample (OPR), and (1) sample in duplicate and a sample spiked in duplicate (MS/MSD). This method requires that a laboratory using this method must operate a formal quality assurance program.

#### 10.0 Calibration and Standardization

The spectrophotometer is calibrated using a blank and at least five (5) chlorine standards covering the concentration range of samples to be tested. The absorbance of the each standard is plotted against the concentration. Absorbance readings from samples are plotted against this curve to obtain a concentration value.

The calibration curve should be re-run if the linearity of the curve varies more than 5%, or with each new lot of reagents.

# 11.0 Procedure

A 10-ml volume of fresh sample is measured. Alternate sample volumes may be utilized, however, the reagent additions must be adjusted accordingly. The buffer reagent and DPD are added to the sample, and color is developed in the sample.

The color's intensity is measured at 515 nm to determine free chlorine. With the addition of varying amounts of KI, and recording absorbance measurements after the additions, monochloramine, dichloramine, and nitrogen trichloride concentrations may be determined separately. Total chlorine can be calculated by adding these concentrations

#### 10.0 Calibration and Standardization

# Merck Spectroquant®-Type System Photometer

The Merck Spectroquant®-type system photometers are factory calibrated. The factory calibration can be checked, as described in SM 4500-Cl G.

# **Other Photometric Devices**

The calibration is performed as described in SM 4500-Cl G.

Calibrate the analytical balance (for weighing solid reagents for standard preparation) with class S certified weights.

# 11.0 Procedure

The pH of samples is checked and, where necessary, adjusted with dilute sodium hydroxide or dilute sulfuric acid (to pH between 4-8).

An 8-ml volume of fresh sample is transferred to a 16 x 100-mm test tube (dependent upon range desired). Premixed reagents (Section 7) are added to the test sample similar to the SM 4500-Cl G.

The Spectroquant<sup>®</sup> reagent formulations are consistent with those cited in the reference method (see N,N-Dipropyl-1,4-phenylenediamine, Appendix II).

The photometric measurements are conducted at or near 557-nm using a Merck Spectroquant®-type system photometer, or other photometric device.

The 557-nm wavelength is a maximum absorbance range for N,N-Dipropyl-1,4-phenylenediamine (Reference 16.3). The use of N,N-Dipropyl-1,4-phenylenediamine offers a higher sensitivity and stability of the red dye complex, as compared to N,N-Diethyl-p-phenylenediamine (read at 515 nm) described in SM 4500-Cl G (See Appendix I and Appendix II).

If samples exceed the listed measuring range, dilution of the sample, with chlorine free reagent water (before reagent addition), increases the working range.

This method is capable of measuring chlorine in the range of 0.010-7.50 mg/L using a Merck Spectroquant<sup>®</sup> -type system photometer.

The range of concentration measured by this method is broader than the range covered by the reference method.

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	The pre-mixed reagents incorporated in this method
	improve laboratory certainty in the performance of this
	method. Each reagent test is clearly labeled with the
	product number, so the analyst will not accidentally use
	the wrong reagent test, or label the cells incorrectly.
12.0 Data Analysis and Calculations	12.0 Data Analysis and Calculations
The reference method defines calculations for the	Merck Spectroquant®-Type System Photometer
determination of the different types of chlorine (as stated	Results with a Merck Spectroquant® -type system
above).	photometer are displayed as chlorine concentration in
400.0).	mg/L.
The method indicates an MDL of 0.018 mg/L under	
optimum operating conditions. The ML is implied by the	Other Photometers
concentration range stated $(0.05 - 5.0 \text{ mg/L})$ . The	Measurement of samples with equivalent photometric
method does not address significant digits.	equipment is accomplished by plotting absorbance against
	concentration of the calibration curve.
	This method defines the calculation for dilution factor
	correction in event that samples read outside the
	calibration range of the test.
	canoration range of the test.
	The Minimum Level (ML) for this method is 0.010 mg/L.
	If a result is obtained, which is lower than this ML, report
	the result as less than the ML (<0.010 mg/L). Report
	results to three significant digits.
13.0 Method Performance	13.0 Method Performance
The method's performance data is referenced from	As in the SM 4500-Cl G reference method, this method
another determinative technique for chlorine. There is a	incorporates similar chemical components, in the same
published study that contains performance data for all	proportions, and is determined similarly via photometric
methods listed under SM 4500-Cl G.	measurement. The precision and bias stated in the
	reference method are achievable by this method.
14.0 Pollution Prevention	14.0 Pollution Prevention
The reference method does not discuss pollution	The reagent tests, which are labeled as to the contents,
prevention.	and any potential dangers and health risks, have little
prevention.	chance of being disposed of incorrectly.
	chance of being disposed of incorrectly.
	The laboratory is reminded to properly manage these
	reagents in the laboratory to reduce any threat to the
	environment.
	Conoral practices such as ordering of supplies
	General practices, such as ordering of supplies, can
	seriously impact the amount of materials, which require
	disposal in the laboratory. It is suggested that the
	laboratory only order supplies as demand dictates, to
	minimize expired materials requiring disposal.

15 0 Wasta Managament	15.0 Waste Management
15.0 Waste Management	13.0 Waste Management
The reference method does not discuss waste management.	Referenced in this section are two waste management documents for further information on this subject.
	The method does not specify restrictions for the chemicals used in this method. Instead, the laboratory is called upon to comply with all federal, state, and local regulations governing waste management.
16.0 References	16.0 References
There are numerous journal articles listed throughout the reference method (general description and individual determinative techniques). This particular method lists eight journal or other publications in its bibliography section.  17.0 Tables	This proposed method includes in the reference section, existing method documents for chlorine, supplemental and related documents for safety and general laboratory practices. Also included is the reference material, which outlines the instrument calibration procedures.  17.0 Tables
The reference method includes a table in the calculation section. The table is used for guidance in calculating all types of chlorine from each of the determinations.	Table 1 This table summarizes the Spectroquant® Chlorine Test comprised in this method. Included are concentration ranges, sample volumes required, cuvette size, and reagent multiplier.
	Table 2 This table outlines the procedure for preparing calibration curves solutions for the various concentration ranges covered by the Spectroquant® Chlorine Tests.
	Table 3 This table outlines the standardized performance acceptance criteria, for methods cited from 40 CFR Part 136, Table IB. This data must be achieved when the analyst initiates the method, attempts to prove initial demonstration of performance, and also ongoing performance of the method.
18.0 Glossary	18.0 Glossary
The reference method does not have a glossary.	See Section 3.0
	The glossary defines terminology used in the body of method. Much of the terms defined are specific to the quality control section of the method. These terms are not used, or defined, in the reference method. This section clearly defines the nomenclature of the products being proposed for use.