

SCHEDULE 2

METHODS OF ANALYSIS

9d.

EXTRACTION OF PHOSPHORUS BY NEUTRAL AMMONIUM CITRATE

Extraction

7.1 Transfer 1(1) or 3(2) grams, as appropriate, of the fertilisers to be analysed into a 200 or 250 ml Erlenmeyer flask containing 100 ml of ammonium citrate solution previously heated to 65°C. Stopper the Erlenmeyer flask and shake in order to suspend the fertiliser without forming lumps. Remove the stopper for an instant in order to balance the pressure and close the Erlenmeyer flask again. Place the flask in the water-bath (5.2) set to maintain the contents of the flask at exactly 65°C. Shake mechanically for one hour so as to ensure complete suspension of the sample(3). The level of suspension in the flask must stay constantly below that of the water in the bath. After exactly one hour remove the Erlenmeyer flask from the water-bath. Cool immediately under running water to ambient temperature and quantitatively transfer the contents from the Erlenmeyer flask into a graduated 500 ml flask with a jet of water. Make up the volume with water. Mix thoroughly and filter through a dry fluted filter (medium speed) into a dry container, discarding the first part of the filtrate (about 50 ml).

About 100 ml of clear filtrate should be collected.

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- (1) Where the fertiliser is normal superphosphate or concentrated superphosphate in Group 2(a) of Section A, or NPK fertiliser in Group 1, NP fertiliser in Group 2, or PK fertiliser in Group 4 of Section B or NPK fertiliser suspension, NP fertiliser suspension or PK fertiliser suspension in Section C of the Table in Schedule 1 of the Fertilisers Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1990.
 - (2) Where the fertiliser is triple superphosphate in Group 2(a) of Section A, or NPK fertiliser containing soft ground rock phosphate or partially solubilised rock phosphate in Group 1, or NP fertiliser containing soft ground rock phosphate or partially solubilised rock phosphate in Group 2, or PK fertiliser containing soft ground rock phosphate or partially solubilised rock phosphate in Group 4 of Section B of the Table in Schedule 1 of the Fertiliser Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1990.
 - (3) If no mechanical shaker is available, the flask may be shaken by hand every 5 minutes.