

POTASSIUM Test Paper

for the rapid determination of potassium

Color reaction:

In the presence of potassium, the test paper shows an orange-red spot against the pale-yellow background.

Presentation:

Plastic boxes of 200 strips, each 20 × 70 mm

Method of application:

Apply a drop of the neutral test solution to the orange-red test paper; then, dip the test paper into dilute nitric acid (6 %). (Dilute conc. nitric acid 1:10). The paper turns lemon-yellow whereas the spots where the solution containing potassium has been applied, remain orange-red.

Limit of sensitivity: 250 mg/L K⁺.

Interferences:

Rubidium, cesium and thallium also cause an orange-red color reaction.

Excess quantities of sodium and heavy metal ions reduce the sensitivity.

Substantial amounts of ammonium ions cause interfering discolorations.

In the presence of any of the above ions, the following procedure is suggested. The test solution is reacted with finely powdered magnesium oxide, heated for 5 min. and the heavy metal hydroxides so precipitated are filtered. To precipitate the sodium ions, ziny-uranyl acetate is added to the neutral or acetic solution. Evaporate the filtrate to dryness and drive off the ammonium salts. The residue is dissolved in distilled water and tested according to the above method of application.

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