

National Bureau of Standards Certificate

Standard Reference Material 4218-B

Europium-152

Point-Source Activity Standard

This Standard Reference Material consists of europium-152 deposited, as the chloride, on polyester tape approximately 0.006-cm thick and covered by another layer of the same tape. The tape is mounted on an aluminum annulus 3.8-cm inside diameter and 5.4-cm outside diameter.

This standard is a dried deposit from an accurately weighed aliquot of a solution whose activity was measured by photon counting of other accurately weighed and dried aliquots in the National Bureau of Standards calibrated 4 π , 8-inch-diameter, NaI(Tl) well crystals.

The activity of this point source of europium-152 at 1200 EST on May 1, 1977, was

$$* \quad \pm 1.1\% \text{ s}^{-1}*$$

The uncertainty in the activity, 1.1 percent, is the linear sum of 0.11 percent, which is the limit of the random error of the sodium iodide measurements at the 99-percent confidence level ($4.604 S_m$, where S_m is the standard error computed from five measurements), and 1.0 percent, which is the sum of the estimated upper limits of conceivable systematic errors.

The photon spectrum was examined with Ge(Li) and pure Ge spectrometers and the material was found to contain europium-154 and gadolinium-153 whose activities, as of the calibration date, were 0.4 percent and 0.4 percent, respectively, of the europium-152 activity. No other photon-emitting impurities were observed. The limit of the photon-emission rate at any given energy due to other impurities is estimated to be less than 0.1 percent of the emission rate of the 1408-keV gamma ray of europium-152, provided that the impurity photons are separated in energy by 5 keV or more from photons of equal or greater intensity emitted by europium-152, europium-154, or gadolinium-153.

The europium-152 activity, A, was obtained using the formula

$$A = T / [e_1 + f_2 \cdot e_2 + f_3 \cdot e_3],$$

where T is the total count rate, derived from an extrapolation to zero energy, f_2 (= 0.004) and f_3 (= 0.004) are the ratios of the activities of europium-154 and gadolinium-153, respectively, to that of europium-152, and e_1 (= 0.959), e_2 (= 0.885) and e_3 (= 0.874) are the total detection efficiencies for europium-152, europium-154 and gadolinium-153, respectively, calculated using the known decay schemes and the experimentally determined total efficiency curve for the 8-inch well crystals.

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This Standard Reference Material was prepared in the Center for Radiation Research, Radioactivity Section, W. B. Mann, Chief.

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