

U.S. Department of Commerce  
Elliot L. Richardson,  
Secretary  
National Bureau of Standards  
Ernest Ambler, Acting Director

**National Bureau of Standards  
Certificate  
Standard Reference Material 4218  
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  $4\pi$ , 8-inch-diameter, NaI(Tl) well crystals.

The activity of this point source of europium-152 at 1200 EST on January 1, 1976, was

$$* \quad \pm 1.0\% \text{ s}^{-1}*$$

The uncertainty in the activity, 1.0 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 0.9 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 whose activity, as of the calibration date, was 0.4 percent 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 or europium-154.

(over)

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

$$A = T/[e_1 + f \cdot e_2],$$

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

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

J. Paul Cali, Chief  
Office of Standard Reference Materials

Washington, D.C. 20234  
March, 1976

SRM 4218-