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Watesmo

Indicator Paper for the determination of water

Colour reaction:

Watesmo changes its colour from light blue to deep blue upon contact with water. Do not touch test paper, except with absolutely dry fingers or forceps. In its dry state, the paper does not react with atmospheric moisture.

Method of application:

1. Tear off the required length.
2. Immerse the strip in the liquid to be tested, or drop the liquid on.
3. If water is present, the paper will turn blue – in some cases only after evaporation of the solvent.

Watesmo guarantees the absence of water, even after evaporation of the solvent, if the dipped-in strip remains uncoloured.

Exceptions and Sources of Error:

Watesmo cannot be used where methanol, dimethylformamide, dimethyl sulfoxide or mixtures containing these solvents are present. The test strip turns blue immediately upon contact with such solvents, i.e. even prior to its evaporation. Allowing the test paper to dry in a moist atmosphere may also produce a blue colour. Drying in an exsiccator may therefore be indicated.

Applications:

Determination of water in the **liquid** phase, e.g. in aliphatic and aromatic hydrocarbons (gasoline, oil); in isopropanol, higher alcohols, waxes for the detection of bound water in salts; in solid fats as well as aqueous emulsions of ointment bases etc.

Determination of water in the **vapour** phase. Such a determination is possible, when the test strip is dipped into absolutely anhydrous isopropanol and, while still moist, is placed into the medium to be tested, such as a current of air. The isopropanol acts as a solvent aid between the water vapour and the test paper. After the alcohol has been evaporated in the driest possible atmosphere, a blue colour will appear. Its intensity depends on the amount of water vapour present.

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