

Scrape any sample from the beaker walls, stirrer shaft, and propeller blades with a spatula or rubber policeman into the dispersion. Allow the polymer dispersion to stand for 30 min. Transfer the beaker to a magnetic stirring device. Place an approximately 7.62-cm stirring bar into the solution, and adjust the mixer speed to obtain moderate mixing. Add 1 g of potassium chloride,▲(NF 1-May-2022) and titrate potentiometrically with *Titrant*. After each addition of *Titrant* allow 1 min for mixing before recording the pH.

Calculate the carboxylic acid content as a percentage of carboxylic acid groups ▲in the portion of Carbomer 941 taken:▲(NF 1-May-2022)

$$\text{Result} = [(V \times \text{▲}N_{\text{▲}} \text{▲}(\text{NF 1-May-2022}) / W) \times F] \times 100$$

- V = *Titrant* volume consumed (mL)
- $\text{▲}N_{\text{▲}} \text{▲}(\text{NF 1-May-2022})$ = actual normality of the *Titrant* (mEq/mL)
- W = *Sample* weight (mg)
- F = equivalency factor for the carboxylic acid (–COOH) group, 45.02 ▲mg/mEq▲(NF 1-May-2022)

Acceptance criteria: 56.0%–68.0% ▲▲(NF 1-May-2022)

IMPURITIES

Change to read:

• **LIMIT OF BENZENE**

- ▲**Diluent:** 166 mL/L of [dimethyl sulfoxide](#) in water
- Standard stock solution:** 1.75 mg/g of benzene in [dimethyl sulfoxide](#)
- Standard solution A:** Transfer 50 ± 1 mg of Carbomer 941 to a 20-mL headspace vial, and add 6 mL of *Diluent* to the vial. Weigh the vial. Using a syringe, add 10 µL of the *Standard stock solution* to the vial. Weigh the vial. Calculate the weight of the added *Standard stock solution*. Seal the vial with a Teflon-lined rubber septum and aluminum crimp cap. Shake the vial for 1 h.
- Standard solution B:** Transfer 50 ± 1 mg of Carbomer 941 to a 20-mL headspace vial, and add 6 mL of *Diluent* to the vial. Weigh the vial. Using a syringe, add 20 µL of the *Standard stock solution* to the vial. Weigh the vial. Calculate the weight of the added *Standard stock solution*. Seal the vial with a Teflon-lined rubber septum and aluminum crimp cap. Shake the vial for 1 h.
- Standard solution C:** Transfer 50 ± 1 mg of Carbomer 941 to a 20-mL headspace vial, and add 6 mL of *Diluent* to the vial. Weigh the vial. Using a syringe, add 50 µL of the *Standard stock solution* to the vial. Weigh the vial. Calculate the weight of the added *Standard stock solution*. Seal the vial with a Teflon-lined rubber septum and aluminum crimp cap. Shake the vial for 1 h.
- Sample solution:** Transfer 50 ± 1 mg of Carbomer 941 to a 20-mL headspace vial, and add 6 mL of *Diluent* to the vial. Seal the vial with a Teflon-lined rubber septum and aluminum crimp cap. Shake for 1 h.

Chromatographic system

- (See [Chromatography \(621\), System Suitability.](#))
- Mode:** GC, equipped with a headspace injector
- Detector:** Flame ionization
- Column:** 0.53-mm × 30-m fused silica; coated with 3.0-µm stationary phase [G43](#)
- Temperatures**
- Injection port:** 140°
- Detector:** 250°
- Column:** See [Table 1](#).

Table 1

Initial Temperature (°)	Temperature Ramp (°/min)	Final Temperature (°)	Hold Time at Final Temperature (min)
40	—	40	10
40	30	240	5

- Carrier gas:** Helium
- Flow rate:** 5 mL/min (at a linear velocity of 35 cm/s programmed in constant pressure mode)
- Injection volume:** 1 mL (gaseous phase)
- Injection type:** Split, split ratio, 10:1
- [NOTE—The following headspace conditions may be used: a vial pressure of 10 psi, a loop fill pressure (if equipped) of 7 psi, and a transfer line temperature of 105°.]
- Vial temperature:** The vials are maintained at a temperature of 80° for 45 min before headspace injection.
- System suitability**
- Sample:** *Standard solution B*
- Suitability requirements**

Relative standard deviation: NMT 15% from 3 injections

Analysis

Samples: *Standard solution A, Standard solution B, Standard solution C, and Sample solution*

The detector response factor (RF) of each *Standard solution* is determined by:

$$RF = (W_{ss} \times C_{ss}) / (r_s - r_u)$$

W_{ss} = weight of the *Standard stock solution* in each *Standard solution*

C_{ss} = concentration of benzene in *Standard stock solution* (mg/g)

r_s = peak area of benzene in each *Standard solution*

r_u = peak area of benzene in the *Sample solution*

Average three RF to obtain RF_{avg} . Calculate the percentage of benzene in the portion of Carbomer 941 taken:

$$\text{Result} = [(RF_{avg} \times W_u) / W_u] \times 100$$

RF_{avg} = average of three RF

r_u = benzene peak area of the *Sample solution*

W_u = weight of Carbomer 941 in the *Sample solution* (mg)

▲ (NF 1-May-2022)

Acceptance criteria: NMT 0.5%

Add the following:

▲ **Limit of Acrylic Acid**

Solution A: [Methanol](#)

Solution B: Dissolve 6.80 g of [monobasic potassium phosphate](#) in 300 mL of water, and dilute with water to 500 mL. Dilute 100 mL of this solution to 1 L, and adjust with [phosphoric acid](#) to a pH of 3.0 ± 0.1 . Filter and degas.

Mobile phase: See [Table 2](#).

Table 2

Time (min)	Solution A (%)	Solution B (%)	Flow Rate (mL/min)
0	5	95	1.0
8	5	95	1.0
9	10	90	1.5
19	10	90	1.5
20	5	95	1.0
25	5	95	1.0

Standard solution A: 2 µg/g of acrylic acid (w/w)

Standard solution B: 50 µg/g of acrylic acid (w/w)

Standard solution C: 100 µg/g of acrylic acid (w/w)

Sample solution: Transfer 100 mg of Carbomer 941 to a tared serum vial. Add water to obtain a total weight of 10 g of solution. Cap the vial and shake by mechanical means for 2 h. Add 2 drops of sodium hydroxide solution (50% w/v), and shake by hand for 15 s. Add 1.0 mL of calcium chloride solution (100 mg/mL), and shake until the gel collapses. Record the weight of all additions of water, sodium hydroxide, and calcium chloride. Centrifuge for 15 min, and use the clear supernatant.

Chromatographic system

(See [Chromatography \(621\), System Suitability](#).)

Mode: LC

Detector: UV 200 nm

Column: 4.6-mm x 15-cm; 5-µm packing [L1](#)

Flow rate: See [Table 2](#).

Injection volume: 10 µL

System suitability

Sample: Standard solution B

Suitability requirements

Relative standard deviation: NMT 5% from 3 injections

Analysis

Samples: Standard solution A, Standard solution B, Standard solution C, and Sample solution

Analyze each *Standard solution*, and plot the peak area versus concentration. Plot should be linear with an r^2 equal or greater than 0.9990.

The slope of the calibration curve (area/ppm acrylic acid) is the response factor. Calculate the percentage of free acrylic acid in the portion of polymer taken:

$$\text{Result (wt\%)} = (r_U / RF) / C_U \times F \times 100$$

r_U = peak response of acrylic acid from the *Sample solution*

RF = response factor [peak area/($\mu\text{g/g}$)]

C_U = concentration of Carbomer 941 in the *Sample solution* (mg/g)

F = unit conversion factor, 10^{-3} (mg/ μg)

Acceptance criteria: NMT 0.25% ▲ (NF 1-May-2022)

SPECIFIC TESTS

• [Loss on Drying \(731\)](#)

Analysis: Dry a sample under vacuum at 80° for 1 h.

Acceptance criteria: NMT 2.0%

Change to read:

• [Viscosity—Rotational Methods \(912\)](#)

Sample: 2.50 g ▲ of Carbomer 941, ▲ (NF 1-May-2022) dried under vacuum at 80° for 1 h

Titrimetric system

(See [Titrimetry \(541\)](#).)

Mode: Direct titration

Electrode: Calomel–glass ▲ or silver/silver chloride ▲ (NF 1-May-2022)

Titrant: 180 mg/mL of sodium hydroxide

Endpoint detection: pH

Analysis: Carefully add the *Sample* to 500 mL of water in ▲ an 800-mL ▲ (NF 1-May-2022) beaker, ▲ ¹ ▲ (NF 1-May-2022) while stirring continuously at 1000 ± 10 rpm, with the stirrer shaft set to the side of the beaker at an angle of 60° and with the propeller positioned near the bottom of the beaker. Allow 45–90 s for addition of the *Sample* at a uniform rate, being sure that loose aggregates of powder are broken up, and continue stirring at 1000 ± 10 rpm for 15 min. ▲ [NOTE—Proper dispersion of the carbomer resin is imperative for accurate viscosity readings.] ▲ (NF 1-May-2022) Remove the stirrer, and place the beaker containing the dispersion in a $25 \pm 0.1^\circ$ water bath for 30 min. Insert the stirrer to a depth necessary to ensure that air is not drawn into the dispersion, and while stirring at $300 \pm \text{▲}25 \text{▲}$ (NF 1-May-2022) rpm, titrate with *Titrant* to a pH of 7.3–7.8. ▲ ▲ (NF 1-May-2022) Stir for 2–3 min until neutralization is complete. ▲ [NOTE—After neutralization, care must be taken to avoid excessively high shearing, because aggressive mixing will break the polymer chains and reduce the viscosity reading.] ▲ (NF 1-May-2022) Then determine the final pH. ▲ ² ▲ (NF 1-May-2022) If the pH is ▲ below ▲ (NF 1-May-2022) 7.3, raise it with additional ▲ *Titrant*. ▲ (NF 1-May-2022) If it is more than 7.8, discard the mucilage, and prepare another, using a smaller amount of ▲ *Titrant* ▲ (NF 1-May-2022) for titration.

Return the ▲ beaker containing the ▲ (NF 1-May-2022) neutralized mucilage to the $25 \pm 0.1^\circ$ ▲ (NF 1-May-2022) water bath for 1 h. ▲ ▲ (NF 1-May-2022) Perform the viscosity determination without delay to avoid slight viscosity changes that occur 75 min after neutralization.

Equip a suitable rotational viscometer with a spindle having a disk about 2.1 cm in diameter and 0.2 cm high, attached to a shaft 0.3 cm in diameter, the distance from the top of the disk to the lower tip of the shaft being 2.7 cm. ³ The spindle rotates at 20 rpm at an immersion depth of 4.9 cm. Follow the instrument manufacturer's directions to measure the apparent viscosity.

Acceptance criteria: 4,000–11,000 mPa · s

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Change to read:

• **PACKAGING AND STORAGE:** ▲ Product is hygroscopic. Preserve in tight containers away from direct sources of moisture. ▲ (NF 1-May-2022)

• **LABELING:** Label it to indicate that it is not intended for internal use. A carbomer homopolymer manufactured using benzene and complying with the unique requirements of this monograph will be officially titled Carbomer 941 and will not be referred to as Carbomer Homopolymer.

Add the following:

▲ [USP REFERENCE STANDARDS \(11\)](#)
[USP Carbomer Homopolymer RS](#) ▲ (NF 1-May-2022)

- ¹ A beaker size of 600–1000 mL is ideal for this method. However, the minimum inside diameter of the beaker should be 83 mm.
- ² If formation of a very viscous gel is observed at a pH of 7.3–7.8, the tested material conforms to *Identification C*.
- ³ Available as an RV5 spindle from Brookfield, or the equivalent.

Auxiliary Information - Please [check for your question in the FAQs](#) before contacting USP.

Topic/Question	Contact	Expert Committee
CARBOMER 941	Documentary Standards Support	CE2020 Complex Excipients

Chromatographic Database Information: [Chromatographic Database](#)

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