

Status: Currently Official on 16-Feb-2025
 Official Date: Official Prior to 2013
 Document Type: Reagents
 DocId: GUID-475007EC-3740-4B89-A340-781353B11A00_1_en-US
 DOI: https://doi.org/10.31003/USPNF_R2590_01_01
 DOI Ref: d16sr

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Paraformaldehyde,

$(\text{CH}_2\text{O})_n$ CAS RN®: 30525-89-4.—Fine, white powder.

Assay: Transfer about 1 g, accurately weighed, to a 250-mL conical flask containing 50.0 mL of 1 N sodium hydroxide VS, and mix by swirling. Immediately, and slowly, add 50 mL of hydrogen peroxide TS, previously neutralized to bromothymol blue, through a small funnel placed in the neck of the flask. After the reaction moderates, rinse the funnel and inner wall of the flask with water, allow the solution to stand for 30 minutes, add bromothymol blue TS, and titrate the excess alkali with 1 N sulfuric acid VS. Each mL of 1 N sodium hydroxide is equivalent to 30.03 mg of HCHO: not less than 95% is found.

Residue on Ignition: not more than 0.1%.

Solubility in Ammonia: Dissolve 5 g in 50 mL of ammonia TS: a practically clear, colorless solution results.

Reaction: Shake 1 g with 20 mL of water for about 1 minute, and filter: the filtrate is neutral to litmus.

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

Topic/Question	Contact	Expert Committee
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