

DEHA - PDTs Method

Version 8 / April 2026

Applications and Industries

Boiler feedwater and condensate

References

G. Frederick Smith Chemical Co., "The Iron Reagents", 3rd., p. 47 (1980)

Chemistry

Sample is treated with an excess of ferric iron. DEHA (N,N-diethylhydroxylamine) reacts quantitatively with ferric iron by reducing it to the ferrous state. The resulting ferrous iron reacts with PDTs [3-(2-pyridyl)-5,6-bis(4-phenylsulfonic acid)-1,2,4,-triazine disodium salt] to form a pink-purple colored complex in direct proportion to the DEHA concentration. Test results are expressed as ppb (µg/L) or ppm (mg/L) DEHA.

Available Analysis Systems

Instrumental colorimetric: Vacu-Vials®

Visual colorimetric: CHEMetrics®

Storage Requirements

Products should be stored in the dark and at room temperature.

Sampling Information

This test method is temperature dependent. High sample temperatures may cause false positive test results. For best accuracy, sample temperatures should be 20 ± 3 °C.

Safety Information

Safety Data Sheets (SDS) are available upon request and at www.sdsfetch.com. Read SDS before using these products. Breaking the tip of an ampoule in air rather than water may cause the glass ampoule to shatter. Wear safety glasses and protective gloves.

Interference Information

- Ferrous iron interferes positively if present at any level. Other metals, in particular cobalt and copper, may develop color with the reagent. To adjust for interferences from ferrous iron and other metals, analysis can be performed with and without addition of A-3900 Activator Solution, and the DEHA concentration can then be determined by the difference.
- Reducing agents that reduce ferric iron to ferrous will interfere positively.
- Chelating agents (e.g. EDTA) may cause false low-test results.
- Sample pHs up to 11 can be tolerated with this chemistry, while pHs of 13 or higher cause low test results.
- Phosphate at concentrations above 8 ppm will cause false low results.
- Hydrazine Interferes positively. Other oxygen scavengers may interfere positively or cause off color test results.
- Organic phosphonates, lignosulfonates, manganese, and molybdenum may interfere.
- High sulfate, hardness, borate, and oxalate levels may interfere.
- Cyanide may interfere.
- Nitrites will cause negative interference if not pretreated with sulfamic acid (A-9600). Contact tech@aquaphoenixsci.com for more information.
- Sample color or turbidity may make a color match difficult during visual colorimetric testing and may cause a false positive result with instrumental colorimetric tests. CHEMetrics' Sample Zeroing Accessory Pack can be used to correct for potential errors during instrumental analysis.

Accuracy Statement

Statements of accuracy are based on laboratory tests performed under ideal testing conditions using standards of known concentration prepared in deionized water.

Vacu-vials® kit:

- ≤0.08 ppm at 0 ppm
- ±0.05 ppm at 0.15 ppm
- ±0.15 ppm at 0.50 ppm
- ±0.45 ppm at 1.50 ppm

CHEMetrics® kit: + 1 color standard increment