

NITROGEN-15 LABELLED AMMONIUM SULPHATEComprising one sample; ~ 2 atom % ^{15}N **BACKGROUND**

The increasing application of stable isotopes as tracers in medical, biological and agricultural studies has focused interest on the need for reliable analytical measurements.

One of the topics of current interest in human nutrition research is the use of ^{15}N tracer to investigate the utilization of protein and amino acids during enteral or parenteral nutrition and to establish recommendations for the optimal composition of such "diets". Further, nutritional needs in pathological conditions are poorly understood in comparison with those in health. Amino acid requirements in disease states or in malnutrition are not well-established. In this connection there is a need for reliable analytical measurements of ^{15}N in a wide variety of biological materials.

An important requirement in such work is the application of appropriate analytical quality control procedures based, in part, on the use of certified reference materials. Although several laboratory control samples are now in common use by some analysts, none is yet available that can be regarded as an ideal reference material for checking the accuracy and precision of different analytical methods at the levels of enrichment needed for medical and biological tracer studies. It is hoped that the IAEA enriched stable isotope reference material described in this reference sheet will to some extent fulfil this role.

TYPE OF MATERIAL AND UNIT SIZE

Ammonium sulphate ($^{15}\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$) in solid, crystalline form in a vial containing ~ 100 mg.

RECOMMENDED VALUES

Sample	Isotope	Enrichment atom %	95% Confidence Interval
311	^{15}N	2.05	2.03 - 2.06

PREPARATION

This material was prepared from highly enriched ^{15}N -labelled ammonium sulfate by dilution with the unlabelled compound in bidistilled water. After mixing, evaporation, freeze drying, crystallization and further mixing, the material was transferred to the IAEA in small vials containing approximately 100 mg each and stored at room temperature.

PURITY

The material may be considered as equivalent to an analytical grade substance.

MOISTURE CONTENT / STORAGE

The moisture content may vary depending on pretreatment and storage conditions but this will not influence the isotope ratios. A reproducible dry weight can be obtained by drying for two hours at 70°C . This method is recommended for establishing the dry weight of the material analysed (preferably by measurements on a separate sub-sample) and for the chemical determination of the nitrogen content (optional).

The material should *not* be stored near or in an ammonia-polluted atmosphere.

ORDERING INFORMATION

Orders should be submitted on the order form at the back of the current AQCS Catalogue [1].

EVALUATION REPORT

A full report on the results of the intercomparison on which the recommended values are based is available upon request [2].

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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CONTACT ADDRESS

Any enquiries concerning the reference materials described in this reference sheet, or new results, should be addressed to:

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RELATED IAEA REFERENCE MATERIALS

IAEA-305 Ammonium sulphate (2 samples; ~ 40 and ~ 400 ‰ ^{15}N vs air)

IAEA-310 Urea (2 samples; ~ 50 and ~ 250 ‰ ^{15}N vs air)

REFERENCES

1. AQCS, Analytical Quality Control Services, IAEA, Vienna (issued annually in January).
2. Parr, R.M., Clements, S.A., Intercomparison of enriched stable isotope reference materials for medical and biological studies, NAHRES-5, IAEA, Vienna, 1991.

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Vienna, March 1991