**Aspirin**

**Acetylsalicylic Acid**

ASA

C₉H₇O₄: 180.16
2-Acetoxybenzoic acid [50-78-2]

Aspirin, when dried, contains not less than 99.5% of C₉H₇O₄.

**Description**

Aspirin occurs as white crystals, granules or powder. It is odorless, and has a slight acid taste.

It is freely soluble in ethanol (95) and in acetone, soluble in diethyl ether, and slightly soluble in water.

It dissolves in sodium hydroxide TS and in sodium carbonate TS.

In moist air, it gradually hydrolyzes to salicylic acid and acetic acid.

Melting point: about 136°C (bath fluid is heated at 130°C previously).

**Identification**

(1) Boil 0.1 g of Aspirin in 5 mL of water for 5 to 6 minutes, cool, and add 1 to 2 drops of iron (III) chloride TS: a red-purple color is produced.

(2) Boil 0.5 g of Aspirin in 10 mL of sodium carbonate TS for 5 minutes, and add 10 mL of dilute sulfuric acid: the odor of acetic acid is perceptible, and a white precipitate is produced. Filter the precipitate, add 3 mL of ethanol (95) and 3 mL of sulfuric acid to the filtrate, and heat: the odor of ethyl acetate is perceptible.

**Purity**

(1) Clarity of solution—Dissolve 0.5 g of Aspirin in 10 mL of warm sodium carbonate TS: the solution is clear.

(2) Salicylic acid—Dissolve 2.5 g of Aspirin in 25 mL of ethanol (95), and add 1.0 mL of this solution to a solution which is prepared by transferring 1 mL of freshly prepared dilute ammonium iron (III) sulfate TS to a Nessler tube and diluting with water to 50 mL. Allow to stand for 30 seconds: the solution has no more color than the following control solution.

Control solution: Dissolve 0.100 g of salicylic acid in water, and add 1 mL of acetic acid (100) and water to make 1000 mL. Add 1.0 mL of this solution to a solution which is prepared by transferring 1 mL of freshly prepared dilute ammonium iron (III) sulfate TS and 1 mL of ethanol (95) to a Nessler tube and diluting with water to 50 mL. Allow to stand for 30 seconds.

(3) Chloride—Boil 1.8 g of Aspirin in 75 mL of water for 5 minutes, cool, add water to make 75 mL, and filter. To 25 mL of the filtrate add 6 mL of dilute nitric acid and water to make 50 mL, and perform the test using this solution as the test solution. Prepare the control solution with 0.25 mL of 0.01 mol/L hydrochloric acid VS (not more than 0.015%).

(4) Sulfate—To 25 mL of the filtrate obtained in (3) add 1 mL of dilute hydrochloric acid and water to make 50 mL. Perform the test using this solution as the test solution. Prepare the control solution with 0.50 mL of 0.005 mol/L sulfuric acid VS (not more than 0.040%).

(5) Heavy metals—Dissolve 2.5 g of Aspirin in 30 mL of acetone, add 2 mL of dilute acetic acid and water to make 50 mL, and perform the test using this solution as the test solution. Prepare the control solution with 2.5 mL of Standard Lead Solution, 30 mL of acetone, 2 mL of dilute acetic acid and water to make 50 mL (not more than 10 ppm).

(6) Readily carbonizable substances—Weigh 0.5 g of Aspirin, and perform the test. The solution has no more color than Matching Fluid Q.

**Loss on drying**

Not more than 0.5% (3 g, silica gel, 5 hours).

**Residue on ignition**

Not more than 0.10% (1 g).

**Assay**

Weigh accurately about 1.5 g of Aspirin, previously dried, add exactly 50 mL of 0.5 mol/L sodium hydroxide VS, and boil gently for 10 minutes under a reflux condenser with a carbon dioxide-absorbing tube (soda lime). Cool, and titrate immediately the excess sodium hydroxide with 0.25 mol/L sulfuric acid VS (indicator: 3 drops of phenolphthalein TS). Perform a blank determination.

Each mL of 0.5 mol/L sodium hydroxide VS = 45.04 mg of C₉H₇O₄

**Containers and storage**

Containers—Well-closed containers.

**Aspirin Tablets**

**Acetylsalicylic Acid Tablets**

ASA

Aspirin Tablets contain not less than 95% and not more than 105% of the labeled amount of aspirin (C₉H₇O₄: 180.16).

**Method of preparation**

Prepare as directed under Tablets, with Aspirin.

**Identification**

(1) Weigh a quantity of powdered Aspirin Tablets, equivalent to 0.1 g of Aspirin according to the labeled amount, add 10 mL of water, and boil for 5 to 6 minutes. After cooling, filter, and add 1 to 2 drops of iron (III) chloride TS to the filtrate: a red-violet color develops.