

Standard range: 0.05 to 1 mg/L Zn

Method
EZ2740sc

Scope and application: For industrial and municipal water.



Test preparation

Before starting

Chemical exposure hazard. Obey laboratory safety procedures and wear all of the personal protective equipment appropriate to the chemicals that are handled. Refer to the current safety data sheets (MSDS/SDS) for safety protocols.

Review the Safety Data Sheets (MSDS/SDS) for the chemicals that are used. Use the recommended personal protective equipment. Dispose of chemicals and wastes in accordance with local, regional and national regulations.

Review the Safety Data Sheets (MSDS/SDS) before the bottles are filled or the reagents are prepared.

All chemicals must be of reagent grade, ACS grade or better¹. The use of pro-analysis chemicals is recommended. Use of reagents that are not of sufficient quality can have a negative effect on the analyzer performance.

All EZ analyzers are put through long tests with standard solutions, reagents and dilution water prepared with Type I water or better water as specified in ASTM D1193-91.

To get the specifications shown on the data sheet, method and reagents sheet and acceptance test reports, the same water quality (or better) must be used to prepare the standard solutions, reagents and dilution water.

In addition, prepare the standard solutions for an EZ analyzer with water that does not contain the parameter to be measured or interferences for the method.

When operating the device, always make sure to follow the reagent recommendations given in [Reagent consumption](#) on page 3.

For longer-term storage, keep the reagents in a cold and dark place. Do not keep reagents longer than recommended. If applicable, keep the reagents in a refrigerator during measurements. Refer to [Reagent consumption](#) on page 3 for the reagent temperature.

The manufacturer recommends to replace the reagents, stock and standard solution at 28-day intervals unless specified differently in the sections that follow. Do not mix used reagents with freshly prepared reagents. If reagents, standards or DI water in the containers are replaced, discard all of the container contents in accordance with local, regional and national regulations. Rinse out all of the containers and then fill each container with freshly prepared new reagent.

Specifications

Specifications are subject to change without notice.

Specification	Details
Analysis method	Zincon colorimetric method
Measurement wavelength	630 nm
Parameter	Long description: Zinc, Total Short description (default): Zn, Total Options: None
Unit	mg/L (default); ppm, ppb, µg/L
Precision	The precision value is found on the full-scale range for standard test solutions. Refer to Table 1 .
Cleaning	Automatic or manual; frequency is freely programmable

¹ Analytical Reagent (AR), Guaranteed Reagent (GR), UNIVAR, AnalaR, Premium Reagent (PR), ReagentCertified ACS reagent, ACS Plus reagent, puriss p.a. ACS reagent, ReagentPlus[®], TraceCERT[®], Suprapur[®], Ultrapur[®], or better are also possible.

Specification	Details
Calibration	Automatic or manual; 2-point, offset or slope; frequency is freely programmable <i>Note: The manufacturer recommends that a calibration is done when the reagents are replaced.</i>
Validation	Automatic or manual; frequency is freely programmable
Interferences	Aluminium (III) (Al^{3+}) > 5 mg/L, cadmium (II) (Cd^{2+}) > 1 mg/L, chromate (VI) (CrO_4^{2-}) > 50 mg/L, chromium (III) (Cr^{3+}) > 10 mg/L, cobalt (II) (Co^{2+}) > 30 mg/L, copper (II) (Cu^{2+}) > 30 mg/L, iron (II) (Fe^{2+}) > 9 mg/L, iron (III) (Fe^{3+}) > 7 mg/L, manganese (II) (Mn^{2+}) > 5 mg/L, nickel (II) (Ni^{2+}) > 5 mg/L, organic matter and extreme sample pH. Large quantities of color and turbidity interfere. Fats, oil, proteins, surfactants and tar interfere.

Table 1 Measuring ranges

Range code	Description	LOD (mg/L)	Range (mg/L)	Precision (%)	Cycle time (minutes)	
					Continuous	Default
A	10% of standard range	0.01	0.1	2	29	30
B	25% of standard range	0.025	0.25	2	29	30
C	50% of standard range	0.025	0.5	2	29	30
0	Standard range	0.05	1	2	29	30
V	internal dispenser dilution (factor 5)	0.25	5	2	32	32
W	internal dispenser dilution (factor 10)	0.5	10	2	32	32
X	internal dispenser dilution (factor 25)	1.25	25	2	32	32

Summary of method

Summary

Zinc in the water sample reacts with zincon in an alkaline solution (pH 9) to form a strong blue color. The absorbance is measured at a wavelength of 630 nm. The sample is first digested with heat and acid to make sure that all forms of zinc are measured.

Other heavy metals also react with zincon to form colored complexes. Cyanide is added to complex the zinc and the heavy metals. Then, cyclohexanone is added to remove only the zinc from the cyanide complex. The zinc then reacts with the zincon to form the blue color.

Analysis steps

The analyzer mixes the sample with acid in the digester vessel and heats the solution to 110 °C (230 °F) for 10 minutes (default digestion temperature and time). The undissolved and complexed forms of zinc break apart into a reactive form. After digestion, the sample temperature is decreased until sufficiently cool.

The digested sample is then moved into the analysis vessel. The buffer reagent is added, and the initial absorbance value is measured. The color and cyclohexanone reagents are then added and a stir period starts.

After the stir period, the color is fully developed and the final absorbance value is measured. The analyzer uses the absorbance values and Beer's Law to calculate the concentration of zinc in the sample.

Calibration

The calibration procedure measures the REF1 solution (Channel 9, REF1 valve) and the REF2 solution (Channel 10, REF2 valve).

Validation

The validation procedure measures the REF2 solution (Channel 10, REF2 valve).

Reagent consumption

Table 2, Table 3 and Table 4 show the consumption rate of the reagents and calibration standards. Examine the consumption of the reagents after 28 days to adjust the quantities prepared. Refer to [Necessary reagents](#) on page 4 to collect the necessary items to prepare the reagents.

Table 2 Reagent consumption

Product information			Consumption		Recommendation		
Code	Label	Product	Each analysis	Per 28 days, rate of 1 analysis/30 minutes	Use life	Containers	Operation temperature
Red	Reagent 1	Buffer	~ 1.75 mL	~ 2.4 L	28 days	Plastic; 2.5 L	10 to 30 °C (50 to 86 °F)
Blue	Reagent 2	Color	~ 0.5 mL	~ 0.7 L	28 days	Glass; 2.5 L	10 to 30 °C (50 to 86 °F)
Green	Reagent 3	Cyclohexanone	~ 0.5 mL	~ 0.7 L	28 days	Glass; 2.5 L	10 to 30 °C (50 to 86 °F)
Yellow	Reagent 4	Acid	~ 0.5 mL	~ 0.7 L	28 days	Plastic; 2.5 L	10 to 30 °C (50 to 86 °F)

Table 3 Calibration standards

Product information		Consumption	Recommendation	
Label	Product	Per calibration	Use life	Containers
REF1	REF1 standard	~ 0.2 L	28 days	Plastic, 1 L (align with recommendation)
REF2	REF2 standard	~ 0.2 L	28 days	Plastic, 1 L (align with recommendation)

Table 4 Calibration recommendations

Calibration	Time (minutes)		Recommended frequency	Solutions
	No dilution	With dilution		
Offset	88	97	Daily	REF1
2-point (recommended)	176	194	Reagent replacement (28 days)	REF1 and REF2

DI water consumption

The volumes shown in [Table 5](#) are an estimation of the consumption for rinse and dilution water based on a standard operating procedure as given in the specifications of the EZ analyzer.

Note: Rinse water volumes can increase because of the sample matrix.

Note: The range codes A, B, C, 0 are configured as default without the use of rinse and dilution water.

Table 5 DI water consumption

Range code	Rinse water Type I (mL/analysis)	Dilution water Type I (mL/analysis)	Total (mL/analysis)	Per 28 days, rate of 1 analysis each 30 minutes
A - B - C - 0 (no dilution)	—	—	—	—
V - W - X (with dilution)	63 mL	16 mL	79 mL	107 L

Rinse water

If the analyzer does a dilution, a deionized water rinse must be used. If no dilution is done, use the sample to rinse. If there is a filter panel in front of the analyzer, make sure that the rinse water also flows through the filter.

Necessary reagents

The full list of reagents is shown in [Table 6](#). The product name, formula, molecular weight, CAS number and the necessary quantity to prepare 1 L of the reagents are given.

Table 6 Reagent list

Solutions	Products	Formula	MW (g/mol)	CAS number	For each 1 L solution
Reagent 1: Buffer Code: Red	Sodium hydroxide	NaOH	40.00	1310-73-2	20 g
	Boric acid	H ₃ BO ₃	61.83	10043-35-3	31.0 g
	Potassium cyanide	KCN	65.12	151-50-8	1 g
Reagent 2: Color Code: Blue	Zincon monosodium salt	C ₂₀ H ₁₅ N ₄ NaO ₆ S	462.41	62625-22-3	1 g
	Methanol	CH ₃ OH	32.04	67-56-1	1 L
Reagent 3: Cyclohexanone Code: Green	Cyclohexanone	C ₆ H ₁₀ O	98.14	108-94-1	Do not dilute
Reagent 4: Acid Code: Yellow	Hydrochloric acid (37%)	HCl	36.46	7647-01-0	83 mL
Stock solution	Zinc sulfate heptahydrate	ZnSO ₄ * 7H ₂ O	287.56	7446-20-0	4.424 g
	Nitric acid (65%)	HNO ₃	63.01	7697-37-2	2 mL
REF1 calibration standard	Deionized water (Type I or better)	—	—	—	—
REF2 calibration standard	1000 mg/L Zn stock solution	—	—	—	Refer to Table 7 on page 5.
	Nitric acid (1 M)	HNO ₃	63.01	7697-37-2	Refer to Table 7 on page 5.
Validation standard (optional)	REF2 calibration standard	—	—	—	Refer to Validation standard on page 6.
Cleaning solution (optional)	Sodium hydroxide	NaOH	40.00	1310-73-2	20 g

Reagent preparation

Prepare the reagents as follows. Refer to [Table 6](#) on page 4 to collect the applicable items. To calculate the correct reagent quantity, refer to [Reagent consumption](#) on page 3. Make sure to discard the remaining solution from the analyzer bottles before new reagents are added.

Reagent 1: Buffer

1. Add 500 mL of deionized water to a beaker.
2. Add 20 g of sodium hydroxide (NaOH).
3. Mix until fully dissolved.
4. Add 31.0 g of boric acid (H₃BO₃).
5. Mix until fully dissolved.
6. Measure the pH to make sure the pH is 9.
7. Slowly add 1 g of potassium cyanide (KCN).
8. Mix until fully dissolved.
9. Pour the solution into a 1000-mL volumetric flask.
10. Add deionized water to the mark.
11. Fully mix the solution.

Reagent 2: Color

1. Add 1 L of methanol to a beaker.
2. Add 1 g of zincon monosodium salt ($C_{20}H_{15}N_4NaO_6S$).
3. Mix for 8 hours until fully dissolved. Zincon dissolves slowly.
4. Pour the solution into a 1000-mL volumetric flask.

Reagent 3: Cyclohexanone

Use pure cyclohexanone. Refer to [Necessary reagents](#) on page 4.

Reagent 4: Acid

1. Add 500 mL of deionized water to a beaker.
2. Slowly mix in 83 mL hydrochloric acid (HCl, 37%).
3. Pour the solution into a 1000-mL volumetric flask.
4. Add deionized water to the mark.
5. Fully mix the solution.

Calibration standards

Calibrations are completed with two standards: a REF1 calibration standard and a REF2 calibration standard. The REF2 calibration standard is a dilution of a stock solution.

Stock solution

Prepare a 1000 mg/L Zn stock solution as follows. Refer to [Necessary reagents](#) on page 4 to collect the applicable items.

1. Add 500 mL of deionized water to a beaker.
2. Add 4.424 g zinc sulphate heptahydrate ($O_4SZn.7H_2O$).
3. Mix until fully dissolved.
4. Slowly add 2 mL of concentrated nitric acid (HNO_3 , 65%).
5. Fully mix the solution.
6. Pour the solution into a 1000-mL volumetric flask.
7. Add deionized water to the mark.
8. Fully mix the solution.

REF1 calibration standard

Use deionized water for the REF1 calibration standard.

REF2 calibration standard

Dilute the stock solution to prepare the REF2 calibration standard.

1. Use a pipet to add the applicable quantity (mL) of the stock solution into a 1000-mL volumetric flask. Refer to [Table 7](#).
2. Use a pipet to add the applicable quantity (mL) of 1 M nitric acid to the volumetric flask. Refer to [Table 7](#).
3. Add deionized water to the mark.
4. Fully mix the solution.

Table 7 Calibration standard preparation

Range code	REF2 concentration (mg/L Zn)	Quantity (mL) of stock solution	Quantity (mL) of 1 M HNO_3
A	0.1	0.1	1.5
B	0.25	0.25	1.5
C	0.5	0.5	1.5
0	1	1	1.5

Table 7 Calibration standard preparation (continued)

Range code	REF2 concentration (mg/L Zn)	Quantity (mL) of stock solution	Quantity (mL) of 1 M HNO ₃
V	5	5	1.5
W	10	10	1.5
X	25	25	1.5

Validation standard

By default, the automatic validation procedure is not enabled. When enabled, the default validation standard is the REF2 calibration standard. For best results, do not use the same solution that was used for calibration. Use a different standard solution from a different source for the validation standard. The concentration of the validation standard must be within the measuring range of the analyzer.

Before validation, connect the REF2 sample line to the validation standard. After validation, connect the REF2 sample line to the REF2 calibration standard again. For multi-channel setups, a different channel can be used.

Cleaning solution

DANGER

Chemical exposure hazard. Do not use an acidic solution for cleaning to prevent the possible formation of toxic hydrogen cyanide gas.

By default, the automatic cleaning procedure is not enabled. When enabled, the default volume of cleaning solution that is used during each cleaning cycle is 30 mL.

The cleaning procedure must prevent the collection of chemicals in the analyzer. For an accurate cleaning procedure, examine the cleaning solution and the cleaning interval for each application. Make sure that the cleaning procedure is sufficient. Change the cleaning procedure if necessary.

The manufacturer recommends to use a 0.5 M NaOH solution. Refer to [Necessary reagents](#) on page 4.

Prepare the solution as given in the steps that follow or use a commercially available solution.

1. Add 500 mL of deionized water to a beaker.
2. Add 20 g of sodium hydroxide (NaOH).
3. Mix until fully dissolved.
4. Pour the solution into a 1000-mL volumetric flask.
5. Add deionized water to the mark.
6. Fully mix the solution.

Warning letter

Subject:

With reference to: Hach [EZ1040sc/EZ2740sc Zinc analyzer](#)

Dear Valued Customer,

Please forward this notice to your plant and laboratory operators who work with and near the above-referenced instrument and its chemical reagents.

WHAT

This notification is to make the customer aware on a possible health challenge with the EZ1040sc/EZ2740sc (Zinc Analyzer) if not following the standard procedures for operation and maintenance.

WHY

The buffer reagent of the color measurement contains KCN which becomes a problem when pH level drops to acid levels in the reaction vessel in the analyzer. The reason is that it forms HCN, which is a toxic gas harming human health.

HOW

For this reason, we want to avoid customers to apply any kind of acid (as a cleaning reagent) to the analyzer to prevent HCN formation and thus ensuring safe operation.

Hach has experienced no reports of HCN formation in an EZ1040sc/EZ2740sc analyzer yet, but we want to emphasize once more the possible risk for human health, if not following the standard procedure for operation and maintenance.

Best regards, Hach



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