

# Phosphate Vacu-vials® Kit

**K-8503:** 0 - 80.0 ppm PO<sub>4</sub> (Prog. # 158)

## Instrument Set-up

For CHEMetrics photometers, follow the **Setup and Measurement Procedures** in the operator's manual. For spectrophotometers, set the wavelength to 420 nm. A sealed ZERO ampoule is supplied in this kit for zeroing when the sample is colorless and not turbid. For improved accuracy with colored or turbid samples, Sample Zeroing Accessory Pack, Cat. # A-0503 is recommended. Using the sample cup, snap the tip of the A-0503 ampoule in the sample (see figure 2 below). Invert the ampoule to mix. Dry the ampoule and use it in place of the supplied ZERO ampoule to zero the instrument.

## Test Procedure

1. Fill the sample cup to the 25 mL mark with the sample to be tested (fig. 1).
2. Place the Vacu-vial ampoule, tip first, into the sample cup. Snap the tip. The ampoule will fill leaving a bubble for mixing (fig. 2).
3. To mix the ampoule, invert it several times, allowing the bubble to travel from end to end.
4. Dry the ampoule. Obtain a test result **5 minutes** after snapping tip.
5. Insert the Vacu-vial ampoule into the photometer, flat end first, and obtain a reading in ppm (mg/Liter) phosphate (PO<sub>4</sub>).

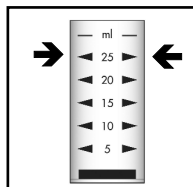


Figure 1

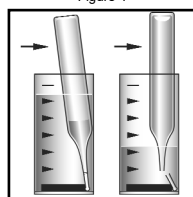


Figure 2

**NOTE:** If using a spectrophotometer that is not pre-calibrated for CHEMetrics products, then use the **equation below** or the **Concentration Calculator** found under the Support tab at [www.chemetrics.com](http://www.chemetrics.com).

$$\text{ppm} = 72.9 (\text{abs}) - 1.8$$

## Test Method

The Phosphate Vacu-vials®<sup>1</sup> test kit employs the vanadomolybdophosphoric acid chemistry.<sup>2,3</sup> In an acidic solution, ortho-phosphate reacts with ammonium molybdate and ammonium vanadate to produce a yellow colored complex in direct proportion to the phosphate concentration.

Condensed phosphates (pyro-, meta-, and other polyphosphates) and organically bound phosphates do not respond to this test. Sulfide, thiosulfate, and thiocyanate will cause low test results.

1. Vacu-vials is a registered trademark of CHEMetrics, LLC U.S. Patent No. 3,634,038.
2. APHA Standard Methods, 23rd ed., Method 4500-P C - 2005
3. ASTM D 515 - 82, Phosphorus in Water, Test Method C

## Safety Information

Read SDS (available at [www.chemetrics.com](http://www.chemetrics.com)) before performing this test procedure. Wear safety glasses and protective gloves.

Visit [www.chemetrics.com](http://www.chemetrics.com) to view product demonstration videos.  
Always follow the test procedure above to perform a test.



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