# OIV-MA-AS313-05A Tartaric acid

**Type IV method**

## 1. Principle

Tartaric acid is precipitated in the form of calcium ( ± )tartrate and determined gravimetrically. This determination may be completed using a volumetric procedure for comparison. The conditions for precipitation (pH, total volume used, concentrations of precipitating ions) are such that precipitation of ± calcium ()tartrate is complete whereas the calcium D(−) tartrate remains in solution.

When *meta*-tartaric acid has been added to the wine, which causes the precipitation of the calcium ( ± )tartrate to be incomplete, it must first be hydrolyzed.

## 2. Method

2.1. *Gravimetric method*

2.1.1. Reagents

Calcium acetate solution containing 10 g of calcium per liter:

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|---|---|
| Calcium carbonate, $CaCO_3$ | 25 g |
| Acetic acid, glacial, $CH_3COOH$ ($\rho_{20}$ = 1.05 g/mL) | 40 mL |
| Water to | 1000 mL |

Calcium ( ± )tartrate, crystallized: $CaC_4O_6H_4 \cdot H_2O$.

Place 20 mL of L(+) tartaric acid solution, 5 g/L, into a 400 mL beaker.

Add 20 mL of ammonium D(−) tartrate solution, 6.126 g/L, and 6 mL of calcium acetate solution containing 10 g of calcium per liter.

Allow to stand for two hours to precipitate. Collect the precipitate in a sintered glass crucible of porosity No 4, and wash it three times with about 30 mL of distilled water. Dry to constant weight in the oven at 70°C. Using the quantities of reagent indicated above, about 340 mg of crystallized calcium ( ± ) tartrate is obtained. Store in a stoppered bottle.

- Precipitation solution (pH 4.75):

| | |
|---|---|
| D(−) ammonium tartrate | 150 mg |

| | |
|---|---|
| Calcium acetate solution, 10 g calcium/L | 8.8 mL |
| Water to | 1000 mL |

Dissolve the D(□) ammonium tartrate in 900 mL water; add 8.8 mL calcium acetate solution and make up to 1000 mL. Since calcium ( ± )tartrate is slightly soluble in this solution, add 5 mg of calcium (±)tartrate per liter, stir for 12 hours and filter.

*Note*: The precipitation solution may also be prepared from D(-) tartaric acid.

| | |
|---|---|
| D(−) tartaric acid | 122 mg |
| Ammonium hydroxide solution ($\rho_{20}$= 0.97 g/mL), 25 % (*v/v*) | 0.3 mL |

Dissolve the D(−) tartaric acid, add the ammonium hydroxide solution and make up to about 900 mL; add 8.8 mL of calcium acetate solution, make up to a liter and adjust the pH to 4.75 with acetic acid. Since calcium ( ± ) tartrate is slightly soluble in this solution, add 5 mg of calcium ( ± )tartrate per liter, stir for 12 hours and filter.

2.1.2. Procedure

Wines with no added *meta*-tartaric acid

Place 500 mL of precipitation solution and 10 mL of wine into a 600 mL beaker. Mix and initiate precipitation by rubbing the sides of the vessel with the tip of a glass rod. Leave to precipitate for 12 hours (overnight).

Filter the liquid and precipitate through a weighed sintered glass crucible of porosity No. 4 fitted on a clean vacuum flask. Rinse the vessel in which precipitation took place with the filtrate to ensure that all precipitate is transferred.

Dry to constant weight in an oven at 70°C. Weigh. Let □ be the weight of crystallized calcium ( ± )tartrate, $CaC_4O_6H_4\ 4H_2O$, obtained.

Wines to which *meta*-tartaric acid has been added.

When analyzing wines to which *meta*-tartaric acid has been or is suspected of having been added, proceed by first hydrolyzing this acid as follows:

Place 10 mL of wine and 0.4 mL of glacial acetic acid, $CH_3COOH$, ($\rho_{20}$= 1.05 g/mL) into a 50 mL conical flask. Place a reflux condenser on top of the flask and boil for 30 min. Allow to cool and then transfer the solution in the conical flask to a 600 mL beaker. Rinse the flask twice using 5 mL of water each time and then continue as described above.

*Meta*-Tartaric acid is calculated and included as tartaric acid in the final result.

2.1.3. Expression of results

One molecule of calcium ( ± )tartrate corresponds to half a molecule of L(+) tartaric acid in the wine.

The quantity of tartaric acid per liter of wine, expressed in milliequivalents, is equal to: 384.5 *p*.

It is quoted to one decimal place.

The quantity of tartaric acid per liter of wine, expressed in grams of tartaric acid, is equal to 28.84 *p*.

It is quoted to one decimal place.

The quantity of tartaric acid per liter of wine, expressed in grams of potassium tartrate, is equal to: 36.15 *p*.

It is quoted to one decimal place.

2.2. Comparative volumetric analysis

2.2.1. Reagents

Hydrochloric acid (□20 = 1.18 to 1.19 g/mL) diluted 1:5 with distilled water

EDTA solution, 0.05 M:

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|---|---|
| EDTA (ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid disodium salt) | 18.61 g |
| Water to | 1000 mL |

Sodium hydroxide solution, 40% (*m*/*v*):

| | |
|---|---|
| Sodium hydroxide, NaOH | 40 g |
| Water to | 100 mL |

Complexometric indicator: 1% (*m*/*m*) 2□hydroxy□1□(2□hydroxy□4□sulpho□1□naphthylazo)

| | |
|---|---|
| 3□naphthoic acid | 1 g |

2.2.2. Procedure

After weighing, replace the sintered glass crucible containing the precipitate of

calcium ( ± )tartrate on the vacuum flask and dissolve the precipitate with 10 mL of dilute hydrochloric acid. Wash the sintered glass crucible with 50 mL of distilled water.

Add 5 mL 40% sodium hydroxide solution and about 30 mg of indicator. Titrate with EDTA solution, 0.05 M. Let the number of mL used be *n*.

2.2.3. Expression of results

The quantity of tartaric acid per liter of wine, expressed in milliequivalents, is equal to: 5 *n*.

It is quoted to one decimal place.

The quantity of tartaric acid per liter of wine, expressed in grams of tartaric acid, is equal to: 0.375 *n*.

It is quoted to one decimal place.

The quantity of tartaric acid per liter of wine, expressed in grams of potassium acid tartrate, is equal to: 0.470 *n*.

It is quoted to one decimal place.

**Bibliography**


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