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# CERTIFICATION OF REFERENCE IRON ORE SCH-1 FOR SODIUM AND POTASSIUM

R. Sutarno, D.J. Charette, W.S. Bowman and G.H.Faye



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CERTIFICATION OF REFERENCE IRON ORE SCH-1  
FOR SODIUM AND POTASSIUM

by

R. Sutarno\*, D.J. Charette\*\*, W.S. Bowman\*\*\* and G.H. Faye\*

SYNOPSIS

Reference iron ore SCH-1, previously certified for nine constituents, has been certified for sodium and potassium. Analytical results were obtained from 53 contributors in Canada and abroad, most of whom used an atomic absorption procedure that is a candidate method of the International Organization for Standardization. A statistical treatment of the data yielded recommended values which are 0.019% and 0.026% for sodium and potassium respectively.

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\*Research Scientists, \*\*Chemist, \*\*\*Technologist, Mineral Sciences Laboratories, Canada Centre for Mineral and Energy Technology, Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, Ottawa, Canada.

## II

RAPPORT DE CANMET 78-5

HOMOLOGATION DU MINÉRAI DE FER DE RÉFÉRENCE SCH-1  
POUR LE SODIUM ET LE POTASSIUM

par

R. Sutarno\*, D.J. Charette\*\*, W.S. Bowman\*\*\*, et G.H. Faye\*

### SYNOPSIS

Le minerai de fer de référence SCH-1 ayant été homologué auparavant pour neuf composants est maintenant homologué pour le sodium et le potassium. Des résultats d'analyse ont été obtenus de 53 contributeurs au Canada et à l'étranger, dont la plupart emploie un procédé d'absorption atomique reconnu par l'Organisation internationale de normalisation. Après le traitement statistique des données, on a obtenu des valeurs recommandées de 0.019% pour le sodium et de 0.026% pour le potassium.

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\*Chercheurs scientifiques, \*\*Chimiste, \*\*\*Technologue, Laboratoires des sciences minérales, Centre canadien de la technologie des minéraux et de l'énergie, Ministère de l'Énergie, des Mines et des Ressources, Ottawa, Canada.

## INTRODUCTION

In 1975, reference iron ore SCH-1 was certified for nine constituents<sup>1</sup>. However, only provisional values for sodium and potassium were assigned because of the lack of consensus in the results obtained by atomic absorption and flame emission methods in a "free-choice" interlaboratory analytical program. The certification factors for these elements were 3.9 and 4.1 for sodium and potassium respectively, both close to 4, the maximum value for certifiability<sup>2</sup>.

Because of the importance of even low concentrations of sodium and potassium in iron ore metallurgy, it was decided to pursue the certification of SCH-1 for these metals. Between 1972 and 1976, a working group of Sub-Committee 2 (Chemical Analysis) of ISO Technical Committee 102, Iron Ores, established that a particular procedure for the determination of sodium and potassium by atomic absorption spectrophotometry was reliable when applied to iron ores. Therefore, in 1977, a Canadian interlaboratory program was arranged in which 10 independent analysts were requested to analyze SCH-1 for sodium and potassium by the a.a. method, for certification purposes. Fortunately, at the same time, Sub-Committee 2 of ISO Technical Committee 102 organized an extensive international trial involving up to 48 laboratories which applied the candidate a.a. method to a number of reference iron ores, including SCH-1. Because CCRMP (Canadian Certified Reference Materials Project) personnel were involved in the international program, it was possible to obtain the raw analytical results for SCH-1 and combine them with data from the concurrent Canadian program as well as with the original data from 1975<sup>1</sup> ultimately for the computation of recommended values for sodium and potassium.

This report presents details of the interlaboratory programs and the statistical treatment of all analytical results from 1975 through 1977. It should be noted that for continuity and clarity, laboratories (contributors) participating in the two 1977 programs have been assigned code numbers that follow consecutively those used in the original report of certification of SCH-1 in 1975<sup>1</sup>.

### Original interlaboratory program, 1975<sup>1</sup>

Contributors were requested to analyze two randomly-selected bottles of SCH-1 in quintuplicate for 13 constituents, including sodium and potassium, by methods of their choice. The names of the participating laboratories were given previously<sup>1</sup> and their sodium and potassium results appear in Tables 1a and 2a respectively.

### Canadian interlaboratory program, 1977

As in the 1975 program, contributors were requested to analyze in quintuplicate two randomly-selected bottles of SCH-1 for sodium and potassium. They were asked to follow in detail the procedure

of the ISO-evaluated a.a. method as described in the appendix. As will be seen, the results of this program shown in Tables 1b and 2b were used to confirm homogeneity of SCH-1.

Laboratories participating in the Canadian-organized program for 1977 were:

Broken Hill Proprietary Limited, Australia  
 Dominion Foundries and Steel Limited, Hamilton, Ontario  
 Falconbridge Nickel Mines Limited, Metallurgical Laboratories, Thornhill, Ontario  
 Geological Survey of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario  
 Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company Limited, Flin Flon, Manitoba  
 Iron Ore Company of Canada, Sept-Iles, Quebec  
 Lakefield Research of Canada Limited, Lakefield, Ontario  
 Lerch Brothers, U.S.A.  
 Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Toronto, Ontario  
 Sherritt Gordon Mines Limited, Mining and Milling Division, Lynn Lake, Manitoba

### ISO interlaboratory program, 1977

As mentioned, the international program was designed by ISO/TC 102/SC 2 to determine the precision and relative accuracy of a candidate a.a. method for the determination of sodium and potassium in iron ores. Each participating laboratory analyzed in duplicate two randomly-selected bottles of a number of reference samples including SCH-1<sup>3</sup>. The results for the latter were made available to the CCRMP by special arrangement with ISO. Although 48 laboratories accepted samples and presumably would contribute results to ISO/TC 102/SC 2, it was considered sufficient for the certification of SCH-1 to utilize results from only the first 22 laboratories reporting as given in Tables 1c and 2c. The countries and the number of laboratories that contributed were: Canada 2, France 5, India 3, Japan 6, Sweden 3 and U.K. 3.

## STATISTICAL TREATMENT OF ANALYTICAL RESULTS

As in the case of the 1975 interlaboratory program<sup>1</sup>, the analytical data were evaluated to confirm the homogeneity of SCH-1 with respect to sodium and potassium and to estimate consensus values and their confidence intervals for use as the recommended values.

### Confirmation of homogeneity

In addition to the lack of consensus among analytical results obtained for sodium and potassium in 1975, the between-bottle homogeneity of the potassium content was questionable. Table 4a, reproduced from the previous report<sup>1</sup>, shows that 4 out of 18 laboratories (excluding those with zero within-laboratory variance) rejected the null hypothesis. It was therefore considered necessary

to verify the between-bottle homogeneity. Table 4b shows there is no rejection of the null hypothesis inherent in the analytical results from the 1977 interlaboratory program. Because the ISO interlaboratory program produced analytical results only in duplicate, the same t-test would not be meaningful. Therefore, a two-way analysis of variance was performed, i.e. between-laboratories, between-bottles within-laboratories, and within-bottles. After excluding those data with zero within-laboratory variance and those with more than two duplicates per bottle<sup>3</sup>, 17 sets were available for this purpose. The results confirmed that the sample is homogeneous.

This was also the case with sodium results; Table 3a shows that three sets were rejected, while 3b shows no rejection. The two-way analysis of variance with 19 sets of results from the ISO international test confirms homogeneity of the sodium content of SCH-1.

#### Estimation of consensus values and related statistical parameters

The analytical results comprising a total of 53 sets for both sodium and potassium are given in Table 1 and illustrated in Figure 1. The improvement in precision of the 1977 results over those of 1975 is clearly evident.

As is normal practice in avoiding bias, sets of results whose means differ from the overall mean by more than twice the standard deviation of the individual results were excluded from the one-way analysis variance used to estimate the consensus values and their confidence intervals (Table 5).

It is evident that the 1977 means for sodium and potassium given in Table 5 are essentially the same as the provisional values assigned after the original interlaboratory program of 1975<sup>1</sup>. However, the confidence intervals and average within-laboratory coefficients of variation are appreciably smaller than the corresponding ones of 1975. The improved quality of results is reflected in the new certification factors which are 2.7 and 2.6 respectively for sodium and potassium. Because these factors are much lower than the critical value of 4<sup>2</sup>, the consensus means are accepted as recommended values for the alkali metals (Table 6). Success of the 1977 program was due to the exclusive use of the "standardized" ISO method (see Appendix) which is in contrast to the "free-choice" scheme of 1975.

#### Discussion of analytical method

In view of the newly assigned recommended values for sodium and potassium, it is of interest to reconsider the original 1975 values for methodological significance. Out of 21 laboratories reporting, six and four used flame emission spectroscopy for sodium and potassium respectively, and their means ranged from 0.01% to 0.06% for sodium and 0.02% to 0.04% for potassium. The emission method is evidently much less satisfactory than

the atomic absorption method for a material such as SCH-1 and this is in line with theoretical expectations<sup>4</sup>.

Although details of procedures used by the various contributors are not available, it is probable that the greater overall range and poorer within-laboratory precision of the 1975 atomic absorption results were due to incomplete decomposition, giving low results on the one hand, and on the other hand contamination from use of glassware rather than the recommended plastic-ware, giving high results.

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3. Sutarno, R., "Procedure for statistical evaluation of analytical data resulting from international tests", Mineral Sciences Laboratories Report MRP/MSL 77-393 (IR).
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#### APPENDIX

##### OUTLINE FOR ISO-PROPOSED ATOMIC ABSORPTION METHOD FOR SODIUM IN IRON ORES

Subsamples, weighing approximately 0.5 g, of ore previously dried at 105°C for two hours, are decomposed by repeated treatment with a 1:1 mixture of concentrated hydrochloric and hydrofluoric acids. The test solution, essentially free of insoluble matter, is diluted to an appropriate volume in a plastic volumetric flask with dilute hydrochloric acid. Plastic pipettes are used if aliquoting is necessary.

The absorbance of the test solution is measured together with a blank solution having essentially the same acid and iron concentrations as the test solution. Depending upon the concentrations of the alkali metals, a wavelength of 589.0 or 589.6 nm is used for sodium, and 766.5 or 769.9 nm is used for potassium.



TABLE 1

## Sodium results of three Interlaboratory Programs; (wt %)

## (a) Original Certification Program, 1975

|                |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| LAB-1 (A.A.)   | .0191 | .0192 | .0196 | .0188 | .0188 | .0194 | .0187 | .0183 | .0196 | .0186 |
| LAB-3 (A.A.)   | .0150 | .0160 | .0170 | .0120 | .0200 | .0150 | .0140 | .0230 | .0200 | .0150 |
| LAB-5 (FLAME)  | .0320 | .0320 | .0340 | .0340 | .0340 | .0320 | .0320 | .0310 | .0300 | .0300 |
| LAB-6 (A.A.)   | .0190 | .0190 | .0190 | .0180 | .0170 | .0160 | .0190 | .0190 | .0190 | .0160 |
| LAB-7 (FLAME)  | .0170 | .0160 |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| LAB-9 (A.A.)   | .0100 | .0100 | .0100 | .0100 | .0100 | .0100 |       |       |       |       |
| LAB-10 (A.A.)  | .0260 | .0250 | .0250 | .0260 | .0250 | .0260 |       |       |       |       |
| LAB-11 (FLAME) | .0190 | .0190 | .0190 | .0190 | .0180 | .0190 | .0250 | .0260 | .0250 | .0250 |
| LAB-12 (FLAME) | .0600 | .0600 | .0600 | .0600 | .0600 | .0600 | .0180 | .0190 | .0190 | .0190 |
| LAB-14 (A.A.)  | .0193 | .0206 | .0212 | .0198 | .0204 | .0197 | .0600 | .0600 | .0600 | .0190 |
| LAB-16 (FLAME) | .0190 | .0200 | .0200 | .0210 | .0200 | .0200 | .0210 | .0200 | .0194 | .0198 |
| LAB-18 (A.A.)  | .0140 | .0130 | .0150 | .0160 | .0170 | .0150 | .0160 | .0200 | .0200 | .0190 |
| LAB-20 (A.A.)  | .0058 | .0058 | .0048 | .0053 | .0058 | .0058 | .0058 | .0058 | .0140 | .0150 |
| LAB-21 (A.A.)  | .0260 | .0260 | .0240 | .0230 | .0230 | .0230 | .0230 | .0230 | .0058 | .0058 |
| LAB-23 (FLAME) | .0620 | .0580 | .0610 | .0570 | .0560 | .0540 | .0250 | .0230 | .0200 | .0210 |
| LAB-24 (A.A.)  | .0120 | .0130 | .0120 | .0120 | .0120 | .0120 | .0520 | .0540 | .0510 | .0210 |
| LAB-26 (A.A.)  | .0310 | .0330 | .0270 | .0330 | .0220 | .0120 | .0120 | .0110 | .0120 | .0550 |
| LAB-28 (A.A.)  | .0191 | .0194 | .0193 | .0194 | .0193 | .0190 | .0150 | .0190 | .0200 | .0130 |
| LAB-30 (A.A.)  | .0300 | .0300 | .0200 | .0300 | .0193 | .0191 | .0193 | .0196 | .0192 | .0193 |
| LAB-37         | .0203 | .0190 | .0198 | .0194 | .0196 | .0198 | .0192 | .0198 | .0194 | .0190 |
| LAB-39 (A.A.)  | .0200 | .0200 | .0200 | .0200 | .0200 | .0300 | .0200 | .0200 | .0300 | .0200 |
|                | .0170 | .0170 | .0160 | .0200 | .0170 | .0170 | .0180 | .0170 | .0170 | .0170 |

## (b) Canadian Interlaboratory Program, 1977

|               |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|---------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| LAB-41 (A.A.) | .0185 | .0179 | .0186 | .0179 | .0181 | .0180 | .0177 | .0193 | .0177 | .0181 |
| LAB-42 (A.A.) | .0180 | .0190 | .0180 | .0170 | .0180 | .0180 | .0180 | .0180 | .0180 | .0180 |
| LAB-43 (A.A.) | .0210 | .0210 | .0220 | .0220 | .0220 | .0200 | .0230 | .0200 | .0200 | .0210 |
| LAB-44 (A.A.) | .0193 | .0195 | .0191 | .0193 | .0193 | .0195 | .0190 | .0191 | .0195 | .0194 |
| LAB-45 (A.A.) | .0200 | .0210 | .0200 | .0190 | .0200 | .0200 | .0200 | .0200 | .0200 | .0210 |
| LAB-46 (A.A.) | .0196 | .0198 | .0191 | .0205 | .0199 | .0200 | .0195 | .0196 | .0195 | .0210 |
| LAB-47 (A.A.) | .0220 | .0200 | .0210 | .0200 | .0200 | .0195 | .0196 | .0195 | .0206 | .0196 |
| LAB-48 (A.A.) | .0130 | .0110 | .0110 | .0170 | .0120 |       |       |       |       |       |
| LAB-49 (A.A.) | .0120 | .0120 |       |       | .0120 | .0120 | .0120 | .0130 | .0110 | .0130 |
| LAB-50 (A.A.) | .0160 | .0180 | .0180 | .0190 |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|               | .0100 | .0110 | .0110 | .0110 | .0140 | .0100 | .0110 | .0100 | .0100 | .0110 |

## (c) ISO International Test

|        |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |  |  |
|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--|--|
| LAB-51 | .0184 | .0180 | .0174 | .0182 | .0178 | .0178 | .0176 | .0169 |  |  |
| LAB-52 | .0171 | .0180 | .0172 | .0174 |       |       |       |       |  |  |
| LAB-53 | .0166 | .0180 | .0170 | .0183 |       |       |       |       |  |  |
| LAB-54 | .0177 | .0166 | .0172 | .0163 |       |       |       |       |  |  |
| LAB-55 | .0182 | .0193 | .0189 | .0196 |       |       |       |       |  |  |
| LAB-56 | .0189 | .0188 | .0188 | .0185 |       |       |       |       |  |  |
| LAB-57 | .0196 | .0181 | .0186 | .0174 |       |       |       |       |  |  |
| LAB-58 | .0180 | .0160 | .0150 | .0160 |       |       |       |       |  |  |
| LAB-59 | .0160 | .0160 | .0160 | .0150 |       |       |       |       |  |  |
| LAB-60 | .0200 | .0170 | .0220 | .0180 |       |       |       |       |  |  |
| LAB-61 | .0190 | .0200 | .0190 | .0200 |       |       |       |       |  |  |
| LAB-62 | .0193 | .0178 | .0181 | .0195 |       |       |       |       |  |  |
| LAB-63 | .0194 | .0182 | .0198 | .0186 |       |       |       |       |  |  |
| LAB-64 | .0186 | .0203 | .0186 | .0202 |       |       |       |       |  |  |
| LAB-65 | .0192 | .0182 | .0190 | .0180 |       |       |       |       |  |  |
| LAB-66 | .0194 | .0195 | .0202 | .0204 |       |       |       |       |  |  |
| LAB-67 | .0200 | .0184 | .0186 | .0184 |       |       |       |       |  |  |
| LAB-68 | .0207 | .0203 | .0203 | .0200 |       |       |       |       |  |  |
| LAB-69 | .0180 | .0180 | .0170 | .0170 |       |       |       |       |  |  |
| LAB-70 | .0188 | .0180 | .0192 | .0185 |       |       |       |       |  |  |
| LAB-71 | .0196 | .0195 | .0196 | .0204 |       |       |       |       |  |  |
| LAB-72 | .0181 | .0182 | .0178 | .0181 |       |       |       |       |  |  |



TABLE 2

## Potassium results of three Interlaboratory Programs; (wt %)

## (a) Original Certification Program, 1975

|                |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| LAB- 1 (A.A.)  | .0287 | .0283 | .0275 | .0286 | .0283 | .0274 | .0274 | .0264 | .0271 | .0255 |
| LAB- 3 (A.A.)  | .0300 | .0250 | .0250 | .0310 | .0270 | .0260 | .0260 | .0270 | .0270 | .0280 |
| LAB- 5 (A.A.)  | .0310 | .0290 | .0280 | .0310 | .0310 | .0340 | .0320 | .0270 | .0360 | .0220 |
| LAB- 6 (A.A.)  | .0160 | .0150 | .0160 | .0170 | .0200 | .0170 | .0160 | .0160 | .0160 | .0170 |
| LAB- 7 (FLAME) | .0180 | .0180 |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| LAB- 9 (A.A.)  | .0200 | .0200 | .0200 | .0200 | .0200 | .0200 |       |       |       |       |
| LAB-10 (A.A.)  | .0210 | .0200 | .0240 | .0210 | .0230 | .0210 |       |       |       |       |
| LAB-11 (FLAME) | .0220 | .0200 | .0210 | .0210 | .0210 | .0210 | .0220 | .0210 | .0240 | .0220 |
| LAB-14 (A.A.)  | .0200 | .0200 | .0200 | .0400 | .0200 | .0200 | .0200 | .0210 | .0200 | .0200 |
| LAB-16 (FLAME) | .0340 | .0340 | .0340 | .0350 | .0340 | .0340 | .0260 | .0200 | .0200 | .0200 |
| LAB-18 (A.A.)  | .0290 | .0290 | .0280 | .0290 | .0290 | .0340 | .0340 | .0350 | .0350 | .0200 |
| LAB-20 (A.A.)  | .0140 | .0150 | .0140 | .0140 | .0140 | .0280 | .0280 | .0280 | .0280 | .0340 |
| LAB-21 (A.A.)  | .0240 | .0250 | .0260 | .0240 | .0150 | .0150 | .0150 | .0150 | .0280 | .0290 |
| LAB-23 (FLAME) | .0440 | .0440 | .0450 | .0240 | .0240 | .0230 | .0240 | .0150 | .0150 | .0150 |
| LAB-24 (A.A.)  | .0410 | .0400 | .0400 | .0440 | .0440 | .0440 | .0450 | .0230 | .0200 | .0210 |
| LAB-26 (A.A.)  | .0360 | .0320 | .0290 | .0420 | .0390 | .0420 | .0420 | .0450 | .0450 | .0440 |
| LAB-28 (XRF)   | .0210 | .0205 | .0208 | .0290 | .0300 | .0250 | .0220 | .0400 | .0420 | .0390 |
| LAB-28 (A.A.)  | .0500 | .0500 | .0400 | .0210 | .0208 | .0213 | .0230 | .0200 | .0200 | .0200 |
| LAB-30 (A.A.)  | .0400 | .0400 | .0500 | .0500 | .0600 | .0209 | .0209 | .0210 | .0209 | .0205 |
| LAB-37         | .0301 | .0308 | .0289 | .0500 |       |       |       |       | .0600 | .0400 |
| LAB-39 (A.A.)  | .0170 | .0170 | .0170 | .0307 | .0295 | .0309 | .0306 | .0299 | .0307 | .0310 |
|                | .0250 | .0260 | .0260 | .0170 | .0180 | .0180 | .0190 | .0180 | .0180 | .0210 |
|                |       |       |       | .0270 | .0280 | .0240 | .0280 | .0240 | .0250 | .0240 |

## (b) Canadian Interlaboratory Program, 1977

|               |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|---------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| LAB-41 (A.A.) | .0261 | .0272 | .0269 | .0262 | .0263 | .0267 | .0255 | .0265 | .0259 | .0266 |
| LAB-42 (A.A.) | .0250 | .0250 | .0250 | .0250 | .0250 | .0240 | .0260 | .0240 | .0250 | .0250 |
| LAB-43 (A.A.) | .0270 | .0250 | .0280 | .0270 | .0270 | .0250 | .0270 | .0250 | .0270 | .0270 |
| LAB-44 (A.A.) | .0208 | .0208 | .0210 | .0210 | .0211 | .0207 | .0210 | .0211 | .0210 | .0211 |
| LAB-45 (A.A.) | .0250 | .0250 | .0250 | .0240 | .0250 | .0250 | .0250 | .0250 | .0250 | .0211 |
| LAB-46 (A.A.) | .0255 | .0272 | .0294 | .0268 | .0269 | .0250 | .0250 | .0250 | .0250 | .0250 |
| LAB-47 (A.A.) | .0260 | .0260 | .0250 | .0260 | .0250 | .0267 | .0270 | .0292 | .0268 | .0250 |
| LAB-48 (A.A.) | .0280 | .0290 | .0280 | .0310 | .0280 |       |       |       |       | .0267 |
| LAB-49 (A.A.) | .0280 | .0310 |       |       |       | .0280 | .0270 | .0260 | .0280 | .0310 |
| LAB-50 (A.A.) | .0310 | .0270 | .0300 | .0320 |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|               | .0310 | .0310 | .0310 | .0310 | .0310 | .0300 | .0310 | .0310 | .0320 | .0330 |

## (c) ISO International Test

|        |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |  |  |
|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--|--|
| LAB-51 | .0264 | .0268 | .0273 | .0269 |       |       |       |       |  |  |
| LAB-52 | .0248 | .0257 | .0250 | .0245 | .0249 | .0250 | .0247 | .0249 |  |  |
| LAB-53 | .0257 | .0260 | .0254 | .0260 |       |       |       |       |  |  |
| LAB-54 | .0220 | .0230 | .0223 | .0238 |       |       |       |       |  |  |
| LAB-55 | .0245 | .0245 | .0288 | .0290 |       |       |       |       |  |  |
| LAB-56 | .0254 | .0254 | .0257 | .0254 |       |       |       |       |  |  |
| LAB-57 | .0259 | .0257 | .0265 | .0267 |       |       |       |       |  |  |
| LAB-58 | .0280 | .0230 | .0290 | .0230 |       |       |       |       |  |  |
| LAB-59 | .0250 | .0250 | .0240 | .0250 |       |       |       |       |  |  |
| LAB-60 | .0280 | .0240 | .0280 | .0250 |       |       |       |       |  |  |
| LAB-61 | .0280 | .0290 | .0290 | .0280 |       |       |       |       |  |  |
| LAB-62 | .0289 | .0260 | .0245 | .0260 |       |       |       |       |  |  |
| LAB-63 | .0254 | .0270 | .0258 | .0266 |       |       |       |       |  |  |
| LAB-64 | .0260 | .0262 | .0256 | .0263 |       |       |       |       |  |  |
| LAB-65 | .0270 | .0255 | .0264 | .0266 |       |       |       |       |  |  |
| LAB-66 | .0251 | .0260 | .0261 | .0258 |       |       |       |       |  |  |
| LAB-67 | .0264 | .0264 | .0260 | .0252 |       |       |       |       |  |  |
| LAB-68 | .0257 | .0260 | .0257 | .0250 |       |       |       |       |  |  |
| LAB-69 | .0230 | .0240 | .0230 | .0230 |       |       |       |       |  |  |
| LAB-70 | .0250 | .0270 | .0292 | .0271 |       |       |       |       |  |  |
| LAB-71 | .0264 | .0267 | .0268 | .0277 |       |       |       |       |  |  |
| LAB-72 | .0257 | .0251 | .0261 | .0249 |       |       |       |       |  |  |

TABLE 3

Results of t-test on between-bottle means of analytical results for sodium in SCH-1

(a) Original Certification Program, 1975

|                | BOTTLE 1 |       |         | BOTTLE 2 |       |         | NULL HYPOTH. | OVERALL |       |         |          |
|----------------|----------|-------|---------|----------|-------|---------|--------------|---------|-------|---------|----------|
|                | N        | MEAN  | ST.DEV. | N        | MEAN  | ST.DEV. |              | N       | MEAN  | ST.DEV. | C.V. (%) |
| LAB- 1 (A.A.)  | 5        | .0283 | .0005   | 5        | .0268 | .0008   | REJECT       | 10      | .0275 | .0010   | 3.70     |
| LAB- 3 (A.A.)  | 5        | .0276 | .0028   | 5        | .0268 | .0008   | A            | 10      | .0272 | .0020   | 7.31     |
| LAB- 5 (A.A.)  | 5        | .0300 | .0014   | 5        | .0302 | .0057   | A            | 10      | .0301 | .0039   | 12.96    |
| LAB- 6 (A.A.)  | 6        | .0168 | .0017   | 6        | .0168 | .0010   | A            | 12      | .0168 | .0013   | 7.94     |
| LAB- 7 (FLAME) | 3        | .0200 | 0.0000  | 3        | .0200 | 0.0000  | ***R**       | 6       | .0200 | 0.0000  | 0.00     |
| LAB- 9 (A.A.)  | 5        | .0218 | .0016   | 5        | .0220 | .0012   | A            | 10      | .0219 | .0014   | 6.26     |
| LAB-10 (A.A.)  | 5        | .0210 | .0007   | 5        | .0204 | .0005   | A            | 10      | .0207 | .0007   | 3.26     |
| LAB-11 (FLAME) | 5        | .0240 | .0089   | 5        | .0200 | 0.0000  | A            | 10      | .0220 | .0063   | 28.75    |
| LAB-14 (A.A.)  | 5        | .0342 | .0004   | 5        | .0344 | .0005   | A            | 10      | .0220 | .0063   | 28.75    |
| LAB-16 (FLAME) | 5        | .0288 | .0004   | 5        | .0282 | .0004   | A            | 10      | .0343 | .0005   | 1.41     |
| LAB-18 (A.A.)  | 5        | .0142 | .0004   | 5        | .0150 | .0000   | A            | 10      | .0285 | .0005   | 1.85     |
| LAB-20 (A.A.)  | 5        | .0246 | .0009   | 5        | .0222 | .0016   | ***R**       | 10      | .0146 | .0005   | 3.54     |
| LAB-21 (A.A.)  | 5        | .0442 | .0004   | 5        | .0446 | .0005   | REJECT       | 10      | .0234 | .0018   | 7.59     |
| LAB-23 (FLAME) | 5        | .0404 | .0011   | 5        | .0410 | .0014   | A            | 10      | .0444 | .0005   | 1.16     |
| LAB-24 (A.A.)  | 4        | .0315 | .0033   | 5        | .0240 | .0038   | A            | 10      | .0407 | .0013   | 3.08     |
| LAB-26 (A.A.)  | 5        | .0208 | .0002   | 5        | .0209 | .0003   | REJECT       | 9       | .0273 | .0052   | 19.01    |
| LAB-28 (XRF)   | 5        | .0500 | .0071   | 5        | .0420 | .0110   | A            | 10      | .0209 | .0002   | 1.15     |
| LAB-29 (A.A.)  | 2        | .0400 | 0.0000  | 5        | .0500 | 0.0000  | A            | 10      | .0460 | .0097   | 21.00    |
| LAB-30 (A.A.)  | 5        | .0300 | .0008   | 5        | .0306 | .0004   | ***R**       | 4       | .0450 | .0058   | 12.83    |
| LAB-37         | 5        | .0172 | .0004   | 5        | .0188 | .0013   | A            | 10      | .0303 | .0007   | 2.28     |
| LAB-39 (A.A.)  | 5        | .0264 | .0011   | 5        | .0250 | .0017   | REJECT       | 10      | .0180 | .0012   | 6.93     |
|                |          |       |         |          |       |         | A            | 10      | .0257 | .0016   | 6.10     |
|                |          |       |         |          |       |         | TOTAL        | 201     | .0274 | .0094   | 34.30    |

(b) Canadian Interlaboratory Program, 1977

|               |   |                        |       |   |       |       |       |    |       |       |       |
|---------------|---|------------------------|-------|---|-------|-------|-------|----|-------|-------|-------|
| LAB-41 (A.A.) | 5 | .0265                  | .0005 | 5 | .0262 | .0005 | A     | 10 | .0264 | .0005 | 1.89  |
| LAB-42 (A.A.) | 5 | .0250                  | .0000 | 5 | .0248 | .0008 | A     | 10 | .0249 | .0006 | 2.28  |
| LAB-43 (A.A.) | 5 | .0268                  | .0011 | 5 | .0262 | .0011 | A     | 10 | .0265 | .0011 | 4.08  |
| LAB-44 (A.A.) | 5 | .0209                  | .0001 | 5 | .0210 | .0002 | A     | 10 | .0210 | .0001 | .68   |
| LAB-45 (A.A.) | 5 | .0248                  | .0004 | 5 | .0250 | .0000 | A     | 10 | .0249 | .0003 | 1.27  |
| LAB-46 (A.A.) | 5 | .0272                  | .0014 | 5 | .0273 | .0011 | A     | 10 | .0272 | .0012 | 4.36  |
| LAB-47 (A.A.) | 6 | THERE IS ONLY 1 BOTTLE |       | 6 | .0285 | .0021 | A     | 5  | .0256 | .0005 | 2.14  |
| LAB-48 (A.A.) | 6 | .0287                  | .0012 | 6 | .0285 | .0021 | A     | 12 | .0286 | .0016 | 5.67  |
| LAB-49 (A.A.) | 5 | THERE IS ONLY 1 BOTTLE |       | 5 | .0314 | .0011 | A     | 4  | .0300 | .0022 | 7.20  |
| LAB-50 (A.A.) | 5 | .0310                  | .0000 | 5 | .0314 | .0011 | A     | 10 | .0312 | .0008 | 2.53  |
|               |   |                        |       |   |       |       | TOTAL | 91 | .0265 | .0029 | 11.03 |

TABLE 4

## Results of t-test on between-bottle means of analytical results for potassium in SCH-1

(a) Original Certification Program, 1975

|                | BOTTLE 1 |       |         | BOTTLE 2 |       |         | NULL HYPOTH. | OVERALL |       |         |          |
|----------------|----------|-------|---------|----------|-------|---------|--------------|---------|-------|---------|----------|
|                | N        | MEAN  | ST.DEV. | N        | MEAN  | ST.DEV. |              | N       | MEAN  | ST.DEV. | C.V. (%) |
| LAB- 1 (A.A.)  | 5        | .0191 | .0003   | 5        | .0189 | .0006   | A            | 10      | .0190 | .0004   | 2.32     |
| LAB- 3 (A.A.)  | 5        | .0160 | .0029   | 5        | .0174 | .0039   | A            | 10      | .0167 | .0033   | 19.97    |
| LAB- 5 (FLAME) | 5        | .0332 | .0011   | 5        | .0310 | .0010   | REJECT       | 10      | .0321 | .0015   | 4.75     |
| LAB- 6 (A.A.)  | 6        | .0180 | .0013   | 6        | .0177 | .0015   | A            | 12      | .0178 | .0013   | 7.50     |
| LAB- 7 (FLAME) | 3        | .0100 | 0.0000  | 3        | .0100 | 0.0000  | ***R**       | 6       | .0100 | 0.0000  | 0.00     |
| LAB- 9 (A.A.)  | 5        | .0254 | .0005   | 5        | .0254 | .0005   | A            | 10      | .0254 | .0005   | 2.03     |
| LAB-10 (A.A.)  | 5        | .0188 | .0004   | 5        | .0188 | .0004   | A            | 10      | .0188 | .0004   | 2.24     |
| LAB-11 (FLAME) | 5        | .0600 | .0000   | 5        | .0600 | .0000   | A            | 10      | .0600 | .0000   | .00      |
| LAB-12 (FLAME) | 5        | .0203 | .0007   | 5        | .0200 | .0006   | A            | 10      | .0201 | .0006   | 3.13     |
| LAB-14 (A.A.)  | 5        | .0200 | .0007   | 5        | .0200 | .0007   | A            | 10      | .0200 | .0007   | 3.33     |
| LAB-16 (FLAME) | 5        | .0150 | .0016   | 5        | .0152 | .0008   | A            | 10      | .0151 | .0012   | 7.93     |
| LAB-18 (A.A.)  | 5        | .0055 | .0004   | 5        | .0058 | .0000   | A            | 10      | .0056 | .0003   | 5.97     |
| LAB-20 (A.A.)  | 5        | .0244 | .0015   | 5        | .0224 | .0019   | A            | 10      | .0234 | .0020   | 8.35     |
| LAB-21 (A.A.)  | 5        | .0588 | .0026   | 5        | .0532 | .0016   | REJECT       | 10      | .0560 | .0036   | 6.41     |
| LAB-23 (FLAME) | 5        | .0122 | .0004   | 5        | .0120 | .0007   | A            | 10      | .0121 | .0006   | 4.69     |
| LAB-24 (A.A.)  | 4        | .0310 | .0028   | 5        | .0190 | .0025   | REJECT       | 9       | .0243 | .0068   | 27.95    |
| LAB-26 (A.A.)  | 5        | .0193 | .0001   | 5        | .0193 | .0002   | A            | 10      | .0193 | .0001   | .77      |
| LAB-28 (A.A.)  | 2        | .0300 | 0.0000  | 5        | .0250 | .0071   | A            | 4       | .0275 | .0050   | 18.18    |
| LAB-30 (A.A.)  | 5        | .0196 | .0005   | 5        | .0194 | .0004   | A            | 10      | .0195 | .0004   | 2.10     |
| LAB-37         | 5        | .0200 | 0.0000  | 5        | .0240 | .0055   | A            | 10      | .0220 | .0042   | 19.17    |
| LAB-39 (A.A.)  | 5        | .0174 | .0015   | 5        | .0172 | .0004   | A            | 10      | .0173 | .0011   | 6.12     |
|                |          |       |         |          |       |         | TOTAL        | 201     | .0230 | .0131   | 56.75    |

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(b) Canadian Interlaboratory Program, 1977

|               |                        |       |       |   |       |       |       |    |       |       |       |
|---------------|------------------------|-------|-------|---|-------|-------|-------|----|-------|-------|-------|
| LAB-41 (A.A.) | 5                      | .0182 | .0003 | 5 | .0182 | .0007 | A     | 10 | .0182 | .0005 | 2.72  |
| LAB-42 (A.A.) | 5                      | .0180 | .0007 | 5 | .0180 | .0000 | A     | 10 | .0180 | .0005 | 2.62  |
| LAB-43 (A.A.) | 5                      | .0216 | .0005 | 5 | .0208 | .0013 | A     | 10 | .0212 | .0010 | 4.87  |
| LAB-44 (A.A.) | 5                      | .0193 | .0001 | 5 | .0193 | .0002 | A     | 10 | .0193 | .0002 | .95   |
| LAB-45 (A.A.) | 5                      | .0200 | .0007 | 5 | .0202 | .0004 | A     | 10 | .0201 | .0006 | 2.82  |
| LAB-46 (A.A.) | 5                      | .0198 | .0005 | 5 | .0198 | .0005 | A     | 10 | .0198 | .0005 | 2.34  |
| LAB-47 (A.A.) | THERE IS ONLY 1 BOTTLE |       |       | 5 | .0198 | .0005 | A     | 10 | .0198 | .0005 | 2.34  |
| LAB-48 (A.A.) | 6                      | .0127 | .0023 | 6 | .0122 | .0008 | A     | 5  | .0206 | .0009 | 4.34  |
| LAB-49 (A.A.) | THERE IS ONLY 1 BOTTLE |       |       | 6 | .0122 | .0008 | A     | 12 | .0124 | .0016 | 13.06 |
| LAB-50 (A.A.) | 5                      | .0114 | .0015 | 5 | .0104 | .0005 | A     | 4  | .0178 | .0013 | 7.09  |
|               |                        |       |       |   |       |       | TOTAL | 91 | .0176 | .0036 | 20.43 |

TABLE 5

Estimation of statistical parameters for sodium and potassium in SCH-1 from the results of 1975 and 1977 interlaboratory programs.

| Statistical parameters                | Na     |        | K      |        |
|---------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
|                                       | 1975   | 1977   | 1975   | 1977   |
| Results, no. of sets                  |        |        |        |        |
| Total                                 | 21     | 53     | 21     | 53     |
| Used for ANOVA                        | 19     | 51     | 21     | 50     |
| No. of results                        |        |        |        |        |
| Total                                 | 201    | 384    | 201    | 384    |
| used for ANOVA                        | 181    | 364    | 201    | 360    |
| Median, %                             | 0.0192 | 0.0190 | 0.0260 | 0.0258 |
| Mean, %                               | 0.0192 | 0.0186 | 0.0274 | 0.0256 |
| 95% Confidence limits of the means, % |        |        |        |        |
| Low                                   | 0.0163 | 0.0172 | 0.0232 | 0.0241 |
| High                                  | 0.0221 | 0.0200 | 0.0316 | 0.0271 |
| Average within-laboratory cv,%        | 7.71   | 5.48   | 7.53   | 4.52   |
| Certification factor                  | 3.9    | 2.7    | 4.1    | 2.6    |

TABLE 6

Recommended values for sodium and potassium in SCH-1.

| Constituent | Recommended value | 95% confidence limits |
|-------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Sodium      | 0.019             | 0.017 - 0.020         |
| Potassium   | 0.026             | 0.024 - 0.027         |