BC-523 Natural Boron-loaded Liquid Scintillators

BC-523 liquid scintillator contains natural boron (19.7% ¹⁰B) and is useful for total absorption neutron spectrometry.

A fast neutron will produce a prompt recoil proton pulse with its initial scatterings in the liquid. Neutrons that are sufficiently thermalized within the scintillator are likely to undergo the ¹⁰B (n, α) capture. The capture pulse is in delayed coincidence with the prompt pulse and is used to identify neutron events.

For neutron energies below 200 keV, the capture time constant is determined solely by the ¹⁰B concentration. The average capture time is 1.4 microseconds.

The scintillator also exhibits excellent pulse shape discrimination properties for neutron-gamma separation. References dealing with the performance of boron-loaded organic scintillators are listed on page 2.

BC-523 is supplied sealed in ready-to-use glass or metal cells. The liquid is sensitive to moisture, and you must take care to avoid exposing it to air if you perform your own encapsulation.

Scintillation Properties	
Light Output, %Anthracene	65
Wavelength of Maximum Emission, nm	425
Decay Time, short component, ns	3.7
Bulk Light Attenuation, meters	>4
Atomic Composition	
No. of H Atoms per cc (x10 ²²)	4.97
No. of C Atoms per cc (x10 ²²)	2.86
No. of O Atoms per cc (x10 ²²)	0.808
No of ¹⁰ B Atoms per cc (x10 ²²)	0.053
No of ¹¹ B Atoms per cc (x10 ²²)	0.216

General Technical Data -

Density	0.916 g/cc
Refractive index	1.4
Flash Point	-8°C
¹⁰ B Content	0.96%, w/w

Emission Spectrum





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References -

- 1. L.W. Bollinger and G.E. Thomas, Rev. Sci. Instrum., 28, 489-496 (1957)
- 2. Von L. Sutterlin, Atomkernenergie, Vol. 12, NO. 7/8, 287,288 (1967)
- 3. L.R. Greenwood and N.R. Chellew, Rev. Sci. Instrum., 50 (4), 466-471 (April, 1979)
- 4. D.M. Drake, et al, Nucl. Instr. & Methods in Phy. Res., A274 576-582 (1986)



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