

16.9.06

AOAC Official Method 972.38 Light Filth in Fish (Canned) and Fish Products

Flotation Method

First Action 1972

Final Action 1988

For 8 oz (225 g) test samples, transfer entire contents of can (or 8 oz (225 g) portion of larger product) to 1.5 L beaker and break up lumps with spatula. Wash can thoroughly with small amount of isopropanol and add washings to beaker. Add 50 mL HCl and H₂O to make 800 mL. With magnetic stirring, heat to bp and boil 20 min. (If product foams, add H₂O occasionally.) Add 50 mL mineral oil, **945.75C(p)** (see 16.1.01), and stir magnetically, **970.66B(c)** (see 16.1.02), 5 min while continuing to boil.

Transfer to 2 L percolator, **945.75B(h)(2)** (see 16.1.01), containing ca 250 mL H₂O. Retain the 1.5 L beaker to fill percolator with H₂O during refill cycles. Fill percolator with hot tap water (55°–70°C) to within 3 cm of top. Let stand 3 min and drain contents to ca 3 cm of bottom of oil layer. (If large amount of suspended solids is present, let stand longer to permit separation of oil.) Repeat drain and refill steps at 3 min intervals until aqueous phase appears clear. Finally, slowly drain percolator to minimum volume of aqueous phase without loss of oil phase. Drain oil layer into 600 mL beaker. Wash percolator with warm water, 5% detergent solution, **945.75C(i)** (see 16.1.01), H₂O, and isopropanol in sequence, using ca 50 mL per wash, and collect washings in 600 mL beaker. Filter onto ruled paper and examine microscopically.

Reference: *JAOAC* **55**, 69(1972).