

INTERNATIONAL PROCESS FOR Methylene Blue Test (MBT Test)

Testing chemical levels

The processed silver halide microfilm must be tested to make sure that the chemicals used in developing and fixing the images have been removed from the film by proper washing. If these chemicals remain on the film, they will cause the images to fade and discolour in the longer term.

Testing process

- This test measures the levels of residual thiosulphate in the processed film. The maximum permissible concentration of thiosulphate is 1.4 micrograms per square centimeter - this is often written as 1.4 $\mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2$ (where μg = micrograms)
- The test is done on a portion of the processed film taken from the trailer.
- The test must be completed within 14 days of the camera master film being processed.
- The operator must handle the test film carefully at all times with clean white cotton gloves to prevent contamination.
- The operator must individually identify test samples (e.g. title/date). This will assist in following up any processing problems.
- Any failure will require all film processed with that batch to be rewashed.
- Certification of testing - the testing organization must give a written report confirming the test results.