



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Institute of Standards and Technology
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899

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NIST Policy with respect to SRM/RMs currently in use without a statement of the period of validity.

To Whom It May Concern:

The certificates for NIST Standard Reference Materials (SRMs) traditionally have been in conformance with guidance criteria issued by the ISO Advisory Committee on Reference Materials. The criteria for the contents of certified reference material (CRM) certificates are contained in ISO 17034 and ISO 33401. Both ISO 17034 and ISO 33401 stipulate that a period of validity shall be stated in every RM document. The NIST policy for SRM/RMs already in use, the period of validity for a material is stated as an expiration date on the SRM/RM certificate only when potential instability might affect the material's fitness for purpose after a specific date. **If such a statement does not appear in a certificate, NIST considers the SRMs/RMs to be valid indefinitely provided that the SRM/RM is handled and stored in accordance with the instructions given in the certificate and the SRM/RM has not been declared expired. A SRM/RM without an expiration date is declared expired as noted by a watermark on the CoA, ROI, or RMIS when NIST no longer has the capability to support the constituent values for the material. If no specific instructions are given, then NIST recommends that the SRM/RM be stored at room temperature (approximately 20 °C) and protected from moisture and light.**

Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information.

Sincerely,

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