Summary of IS 12795:2020 Linear Alkyl Benzene

Linear Alkyl Benzene (LAB) is a key raw material used in the production of surfactants for synthetic detergents. LAB is a biodegradable material; hence it is preferred over non-biodegradable alternatives due to environmental concerns associated with detergent effluents. Detergents based on LAB do not persist in water systems, which minimizes the negative impact on aquatic ecosystems. IS 12795:2020, developed by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), outlines the specifications for Linear alkyl benzene (LAB).

IS 12795:2020 defines requirements, sampling methods, and test procedures for LAB. This standard was originally published in 1989. First revision was brought out in 2020, replacing the 1989 version. In first revision some important modifications were made in the standard in view of technological advancements and feedback from major stakeholders like petrochemical industries as manufacturers and FMCG sector as users of the product. These modifications include incorporation of requirements like linear alkyl benzene content, refractive index and tetralins.

Apart from requirements introduced in first revision, various parameters like specific gravity, moisture content, flash point, bromine index, molecular weight, paraffin content, sulphonability, chain-length distribution. Since LAB is a biodegradable material, requirement for checking biodegradability is also prescribed in the standard, however being long duration test, the test for biodegradability is required to be carried out only whenever there is change in composition, source of raw material and process.

In nutshell, IS 12795 is a key standard that promotes environmental responsibility, supports the detergent industry with a high-quality raw material, and aligns product quality with safety and sustainability goals. It ensures that both manufacturers and consumers benefit from reliable and eco-friendly products.