

## **IS 8401 ALKYL BENZENE SULPHONIC ACID (ACID SLURRY)- SPECIFICATION**

Alkyl Benzene Sulphonic Acid, often referred to as "Acid Slurry" is a key intermediate in the production of detergents and surfactants. It is homogeneous viscous liquid, easily pourable and does not separate into two layers. It is a complex mixture of different alkylbenzenesulfonic acids, predominantly used as an anionic surfactant in a wide range of industrial and consumer products. Acid slurry is typically produced by the sulfonation of alkylbenzenes, which are derived from petrochemical feedstocks.

BIS had first published IS 8401 in 1977 and later revised in 1994. This standard prescribes requirements and methods of sampling and test for alkyl benzene sulphonic acid (acid slurry). The standard categorises the material into two types depending on active matter content, namely:

- a) Type 1 and
- b) Type 2.

Requirement of minimum active matter in the acid slurry for Type 1 is 95 percent by mass and for Type 2, it is 85 percent by mass. Other requirements of characteristics such as active matter, free alkyl benzene, free sulphuric acid and colour are given in the standard for both types.