



HI97728
Nitrate
Photometer

Dear Customer,

Thank you for choosing a Hanna Instruments® product.

Please read this instruction manual carefully before using this instrument as it provides the necessary information for correct use of this instrument as well as a precise idea of its versatility.

If you need additional technical information, do not hesitate to e-mail us at tech@hannainst.com.

Visit www.hannainst.com for more information about Hanna Instruments and our products.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Preliminary Examination	3	6.6. Reagents & Accessories	13
2. Safety Measures.....	3	6.7. Contextual Help	13
3. Abbreviations	4	6.8. Battery Management	13
4. Specifications	4	7. Photometer.....	14
5. Description.....	5	7.1. Proper Use of Powder Packet.....	14
5.1. General Description & Intended Use	5	7.2. Cuvette Preparation	14
5.2. Functional Description	6	8. Method Procedure	15
5.3. Precision & Accuracy.....	7	9. Warning & Error Descriptions.....	17
5.4. Principle of Operation.....	7	10. Battery Replacement.....	18
5.5. Optical System.....	7	11. Accessories	19
6. General Operations	8	11.1. Reagent Sets.....	19
6.1. Meter Validation: CAL Check™ & Calibration.....	8	11.2. Other Accessories	19
6.2. Chemical Formula & Unit Conversion.....	10	Certification	20
6.3. GLP	10	Recommendations for Users	20
6.4. Logging Data & Log Recall	10	Warranty.....	20
6.5. General Setup.....	11		

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1. PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

Remove the instrument and accessories from the packaging and examine it carefully. For further assistance, please contact your local Hanna Instruments® office or email us at tech@hannainst.com.

Each [HI97728C](#) is delivered in a rugged carrying case and is supplied with:

- Sample cuvette (2 pcs.)
- Sample cuvette cap (2 pcs.)
- Plastic stopper (2 pcs.)
- [A ZERO](#) - CAL Check™ Cuvette A
- [HI97728B](#) - CAL Check Cuvette B for Nitrate
- Cloth for wiping cuvettes
- Scissors
- 1.5V AA Alkaline battery (3 pcs.)
- CAL Check standard certificate
- Quick reference guide with instructions for manual download and instrument quality certificate

Each [HI97728](#) is delivered in a cardboard box and is supplied with:

- Sample cuvette (2 pcs.)
- Sample cuvette cap (2 pcs.)
- Plastic stopper (2 pcs.)
- 1.5V AA Alkaline battery (3 pcs.)
- Quick reference guide with instructions for manual download and instrument quality certificate

Note: Save all packing material until you are sure that the instrument works correctly. Any damaged or defective item must be returned in its original packing material with the supplied accessories.

2. SAFETY MEASURES



- The chemicals contained in the reagent kits may be hazardous if improperly handled.
- Read the Safety Data Sheets (SDS) before performing tests.
- Safety equipment: Wear suitable eye protection and clothing when required, and follow instructions carefully.
- Reagent spills: If a reagent spill occurs, wipe up immediately and rinse with plenty of water. If reagent contacts skin, rinse the affected area thoroughly with water. Avoid breathing released vapors.
- Waste disposal: For proper disposal of reagent kits and reacted samples, contact a licensed waste disposal provider.

3. ABBREVIATIONS

mg/L	milligrams per liter (ppm)	GLP	Good Laboratory Practice
mL	milliliter	HDPE	High Density Polyethylene
°C	degree Celsius	LED	Light Emitting Diode
°F	degree Fahrenheit	NIST	National Institute of Standards and Technology

4. SPECIFICATIONS

Nitrate

Range	0.0 to 30.0 mg/L (as NO ₃ ⁻ -N)
Resolution	0.1 mg/L
Accuracy	± 0.5 mg/L ± 10% of reading at 25 °C
Method	Adaptation of Cadmium Reduction Method

Measurement System

Light source	Light Emitting Diode
Bandpass filter	525 nm
Bandpass filter bandwidth	8 nm
Bandpass filter wavelength accuracy	± 1.0 nm
Light detector	Silicon photocell
Cuvette type	Round 24.6 mm diameter (22 mm inside)

Additional Specifications

Auto logging	50 readings
Display	128 × 64 pixel B/W LCD with backlight
Auto-off	After 15 minutes of inactivity (30 minutes before a READ measurement)
Battery type	1.5 V AA Alkaline (3 pcs.)
Battery life	>800 measurements (without backlight)
Environment	0 to 50 °C (32 to 122 °F); 0 to 100% RH, non-serviceable
Dimensions	142.5 × 102.5 × 50.5 mm (5.6 × 4.0 × 2.0")
Weight (with batteries)	380 g (13.4 oz.)
Case ingress protection rating	IP67, floating case

5. DESCRIPTION

5.1. GENERAL DESCRIPTION & INTENDED USE

The [HI97728](#) is an auto-diagnostic portable photometer that benefits from Hanna's[®] years of experience as a manufacturer of analytical instruments. It has an advanced optical system that uses a Light Emitting Diode (LED) and a narrow band interference filter that allows for accurate and repeatable readings.

The optical system is sealed from outside dust, dirt and water. The meter uses an exclusive positive-locking system to ensure that the cuvettes are placed into the holder in the same position every time.

With the CAL Check[™] functionality, users are able to validate the performance of the instrument at any time and apply a user calibration (if necessary). Hanna Instruments[®] CAL Check cuvettes are made with NIST traceable standards.

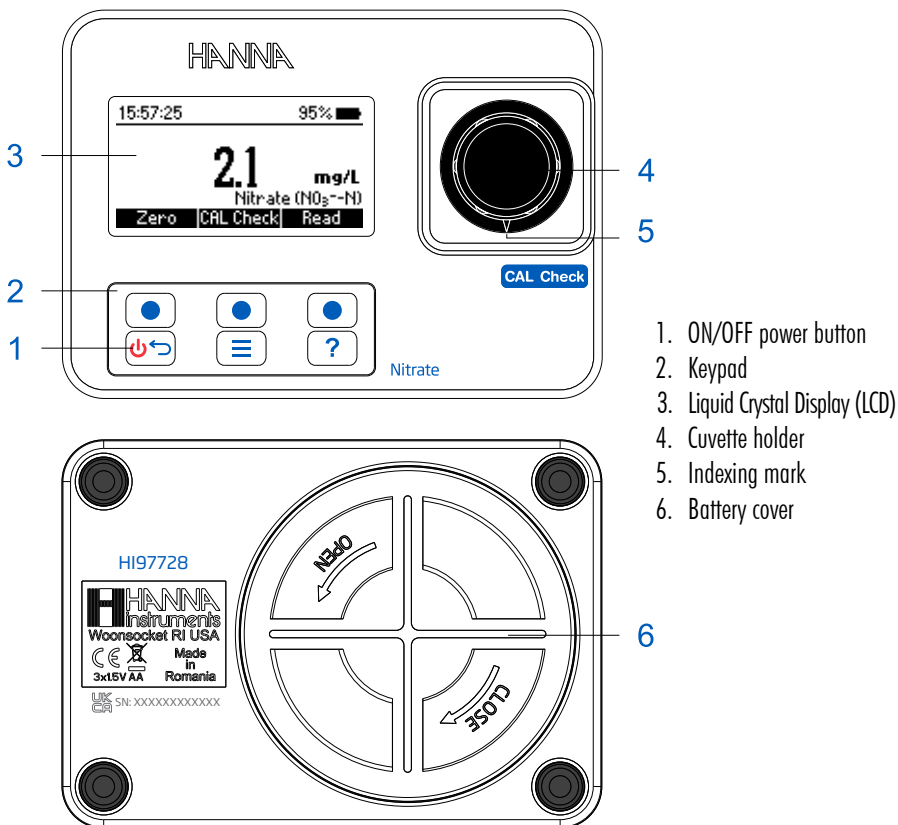
The built-in tutorial mode guides users step-by-step through the measurement process. It includes all steps required for sample preparation, the required reagents and quantities.

The [HI97728](#) meter measures the nitrate content in water samples in the 0.0 to 30.0 mg/L (ppm) range. The method is an adaptation of the Cadmium Reduction Method.

The [HI97728](#) photometer is a compact and versatile meter suitable for field or bench measurements, featuring a:





- Sophisticated optical system
- Meter validation using certified CAL Check cuvettes
- Tutorial mode guides the user step-by-step
- Auto logging
- Waterproof IP67, floating case
- GLP features

5.2. FUNCTIONAL DESCRIPTION



Keypad Description

The keypad contains 3 direct keys and 3 functional keys with the following functions:

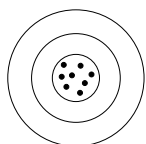
-  Press the functional key to perform the function displayed above it on the LCD.
-  Press and hold to power off/on. Press briefly to return to the previous screen.
-  Press to access the menu screen.
-  Press to display the context-sensitive help menu.

5.3. PRECISION & ACCURACY

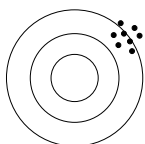
Precision is how closely repeated measurements are to one another. Precision is usually expressed as standard deviation (SD).

Accuracy is defined as the closeness of a test result to the true value.

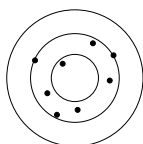
Although good precision suggests good accuracy, precise results can be inaccurate. The figure explains these definitions.



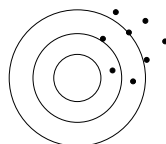
Precise, accurate



Precise, not accurate



Not precise, accurate



Not precise, not accurate

5.4. PRINCIPLE OF OPERATION

Absorption of light is a typical phenomenon of interaction between electromagnetic radiation and matter. When a light beam crosses a substance, some of the radiation may be absorbed by atoms, molecules or crystal lattices. Photometric chemical analysis is based on specific chemical reactions between a sample and reagent to produce a light-absorbing compound.

If pure absorption occurs, the fraction of light absorbed depends both on the optical path length through the matter and on the physical-chemical characteristics of the substance according to the Lambert-Beer Law. If all other factors are constant, the concentration "c" can be calculated from the absorbance of the substance.

Lambert-Beer Law:

$-\log I/I_0 = \epsilon_\lambda c d$	I_0	=	intensity of incident light beam
or	I	=	intensity of light beam after absorption
$A = \epsilon_\lambda c d$	ϵ_λ	=	molar extinction coefficient at wavelength λ
	c	=	molar concentration of the substance
	d	=	optical path through the substance

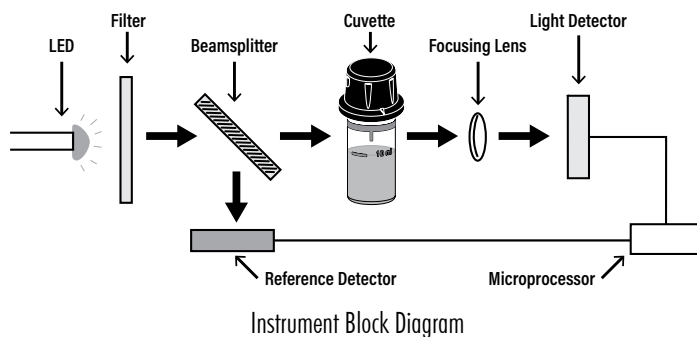
5.5. OPTICAL SYSTEM

The internal reference system (reference detector) of the [HI97728](#) photometer compensates for any drifts due to power fluctuations or ambient temperature changes, providing a stable source of light for your blank (zero) measurement and sample measurement.

LED light sources offer superior performance compared to tungsten lamps. LEDs have a much higher luminous efficiency, providing more light while using less power. They also produce little heat, which could otherwise affect electronic stability. LEDs are available in a wide array of wavelengths, whereas tungsten lamps have poor blue/violet light output.

Improved optical filters ensure greater wavelength accuracy and allow a brighter, stronger signal to be received. The end result is higher measurement stability and less wavelength error.

A focusing lens collects all of the light that exits the cuvette, eliminating errors from cuvette imperfections and scratches, eliminating the need to index the cuvette.



6. GENERAL OPERATIONS

6.1. METER VALIDATION: CAL CHECK™ & CALIBRATION

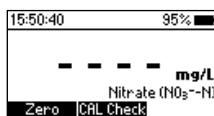
Validation of the [HI97728](#) involves verifying the concentration of the certified CAL Check standards. The CAL Check screen guides the user step-by-step through the validation process and user calibration (if necessary).

WARNING: Do not use any solutions or standards other than the Hanna Instruments® CAL Check Standards. For accurate validation and calibration results, please perform these at room temperature, 18 to 25 °C (64.5 to 77.0 °F).

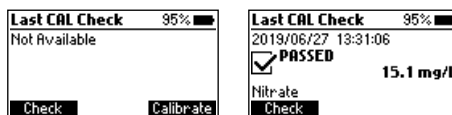
Note: CAL Check Standards will not read the specified value in measurement mode. Protect the CAL Check cuvettes from direct sunlight by keeping them in the original packing. Store between 5 and 30 °C (41 to 86 °F), do not freeze.

To perform a CAL Check:

1. Press **CAL Check** from measurement mode.



The "Not Available" message or the date, time and status of the last CAL Check will be displayed on the screen.



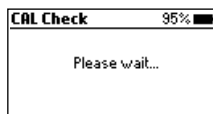
2. Press **Check** to start a new CAL Check. Press the  key at any time to abort the validation process.

- Use the functional keys to enter the certificate value of the calibration standard found on the CAL Check™ Standard Certificate. Press **Next** to continue.

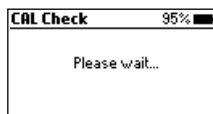


Note: This value will be saved in the instrument for future validation. If a new set of calibration standards is obtained, please update the certificate value.

- Insert the **A ZERO** CAL Check Cuvette A then press **Next** to continue. The "Please wait..." message will be displayed during the measurement.

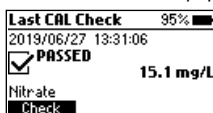


- Insert the **HI97728B** CAL Check Cuvette B then press **Next** to continue. The "Please wait..." message will be displayed during the measurement.

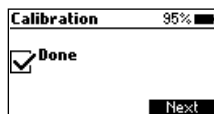
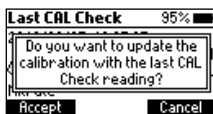
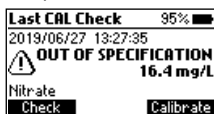


- When the CAL Check is complete, the display will show one of the following messages and the value obtained during the measurement:

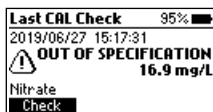
- "PASSED"**: The measured value is within the accuracy specification, no user calibration is required.




- "OUT OF SPECIFICATION"** and **Calibrate** is available: The measured value is near the expected value. To update the user calibration press **Calibrate**. Press **Accept** to confirm or **Cancel** to return to the previous screen.

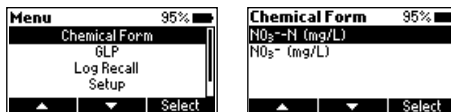


- "OUT OF SPECIFICATION"**: A user calibration is not allowed, the measured value is outside of the tolerance window. Check the certified value, expiration date and clean the outside of the cuvette. Repeat the CAL Check procedure. If this error continues, contact your nearest Hanna Instruments® Customer Service Center.




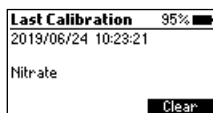
6.2. CHEMICAL FORMULA & UNIT CONVERSION

Chemical formula and unit conversion factors are pre-programmed into the instrument. In order to view the displayed result in the desired chemical formula enter menu by pressing  and use the functional keys to select *Chemical Form*. Press **Select** to change the displayed chemical formula. Use the functional keys to highlight the desired chemical formula and press **Select**. The selected formula will be saved when the instrument is powered off.



6.3. GLP

Press the  key to enter the menu. Use the functional keys to select *GLP* and press **Select**. Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) shows the date and time of the last user calibration (if available) or factory calibration. To erase the last user calibration and to clear the CAL Check™, press **Clear** and follow the prompts. Press **Yes** to erase and return to the factory calibration data or **No** to exit the clear procedure.

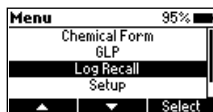


6.4. LOGGING DATA & LOG RECALL

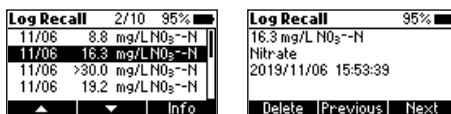
The instrument features a data autolog function to help users keep track of all measurements. Every time a measurement is made the data is automatically saved. The data log can hold 50 individual measurements. When the data log is full (50 data points), the meter will rewrite the oldest data point.

Viewing and deleting the data is possible using the **Log Recall** menu.

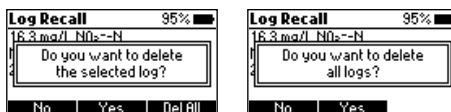
Press the  key to enter the menu. Use the functional keys to select *Log Recall* and press **Select**.




Use the functional keys to highlight a log and press **Info** to view additional information about the log. From this screen **Next** and **Previous** can be used to view other logs.




Press **Delete** to erase logged data. After pressing **Delete** a prompt on display is asking for confirmation.




Press **No** or the  key to return to the previous screen.

Press **Yes** to delete selected log.


Press **Del All** to erase all the logged data. If **Del All** is pressed, follow the prompt to confirm. Press **Yes** to delete all logged data, **No** or the  key to return to the log recall.

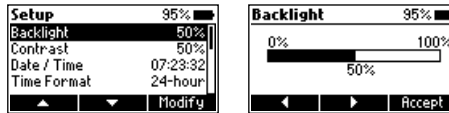
6.5. GENERAL SETUP

Press the  key to enter the menu. Use the functional keys to select **Setup** and press **Select**. Use the functional keys to highlight desired option.

Backlight


Option: 0 to 100 %

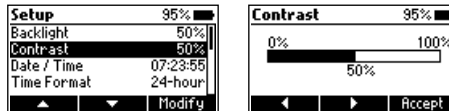
Press **Modify** to access the backlight intensity. Use the functional keys to increase or decrease the value. Press **Accept** to confirm or the  key to return to the **Setup** menu without saving the new value.



Contrast

Option: 0 to 100 %

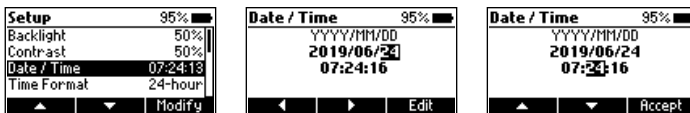
Press **Modify** to change the display's contrast. Use the functional keys to increase or decrease the value. Press **Accept** to confirm the value or the  key to return to the **Setup** menu without saving the new value.



Date & Time

Press **Modify** to change the date and time. Press the functional keys to highlight the value to be modified (year, month, day, hour, minute or second). Press **Edit** to modify the highlighted value. Use the functional keys to change the value.

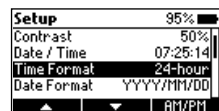
Press **Accept** to confirm or the  key to return to the previous screen.




Time Format

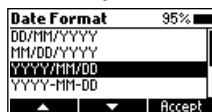
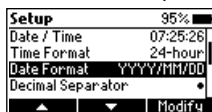
Option: AM/PM or 24-hour

Press the functional key to select the desired time format.



Date Format

Press **Modify** to change the date format. Use the functional keys to select the desired format. Press **Accept** to confirm or the  key to return to the *Setup* menu without saving the new format.

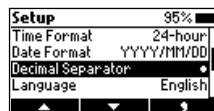


Decimal Separator

Option: Comma (,) or Period (.)

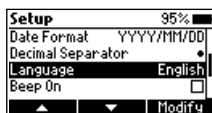
Press the functional key to select the desired decimal separator.

The decimal separator is used on the measurement screen.



Language

Press **Modify** to change the language. Use the functional keys to select the desired language. Press **Accept** to choose one of the languages installed.



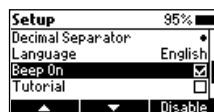
Beeper

Option: Enable or Disable

When enabled, a short beep is heard every time a key is pressed.

A long beep alert sounds when the pressed key is not active or an error is detected.

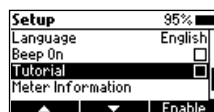
Press the functional key to enable or disable the beeper.




Tutorial

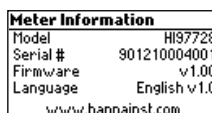
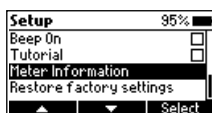
Option: Enable or Disable

When enabled, the user will be guided step-by-step through the measurement procedure.



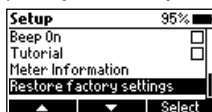
Meter Information

Press **Select** to view the model, serial number, firmware version and selected language. Press the  key to return to the *Setup* menu.





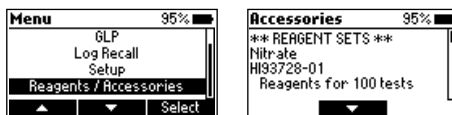
Restore Factory Settings

Press **Select** to reset to factory settings. Press **Accept** to confirm or **Cancel** to exit without restoring the factory settings.




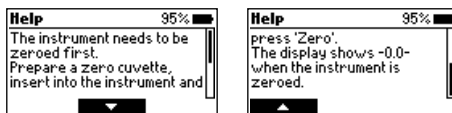
6.6. REAGENTS & ACCESSORIES

Press the  key to enter the menu. Use the functional keys to select *Reagents / Accessories* and press **Select** to access a list of reagents and accessories. To exit press the  key.





6.7. CONTEXTUAL HELP

The HI97728 offers an interactive contextual help mode that assists the user at any time. To access the help screen press the  key.

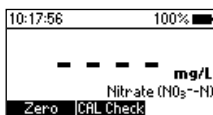


The instrument will display additional information related to the current screen. To read all the available information, scroll the text using the functional keys.

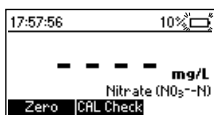
To exit help mode press the  or the  key and the meter will return to the previous screen.

6.8. BATTERY MANAGEMENT

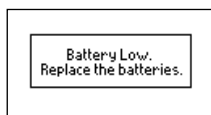
The meter will perform an auto-diagnostic test when it is powered on. During this test, the Hanna Instruments® logo will appear on the LCD. If the auto-diagnostic test was successful, the meter is ready for use. The battery icon on the LCD will indicate the battery status:



Battery is full.



Battery is below 10%.
Replace the batteries soon.



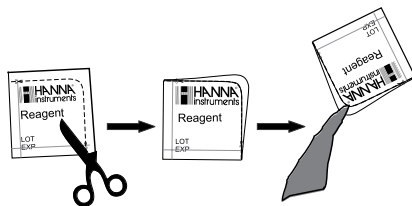
Battery is low.
Replace the batteries with new ones.

To conserve battery, the meter will turn off automatically after 15 minutes of inactivity. If a zero reading has been done but not a read, auto-off time is increased to 30 minutes.

7. PHOTOMETER

7.1. PROPER USE OF POWDER PACKET

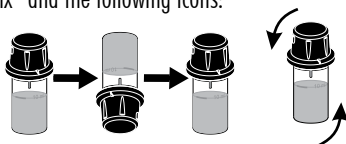
1. Use scissors to open the powder packet.
2. Push the edges of the packet to form a spout.
3. Pour out the content of the packet.



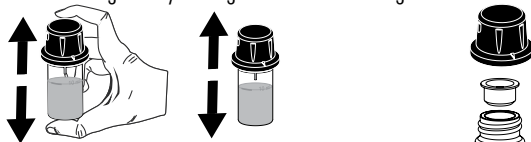
7.2. CUVETTE PREPARATION


Proper mixing is very important for reproducibility of the measurements. The proper mixing technique is listed in the method procedure.

- (a) Invert the cuvette a couple of times or for a specified time: hold the cuvette in the vertical position. Turn the cuvette upside-down and wait for all of the solution to flow to the cap end, then return the cuvette to the upright vertical position and wait for all of the solution to flow to the cuvette bottom. This is one inversion. The correct speed for this mixing technique is 10-15 complete inversions in 30 seconds. This mixing technique is indicated with “invert to mix” and the following icons:



- (b) The mixing method is indicated with “shake vigorously” using one of the following icons:



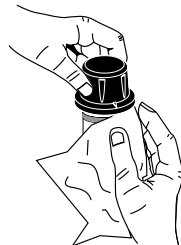
In order to avoid reagent leaking and to obtain more accurate measurements, close the cuvette first with the supplied HDPE plastic stopper  and then the black cap.

Whenever the cuvette is placed into the measurement holder, it must be dry outside and free of fingerprints, oil or dirt. Wipe it thoroughly with [HI731318](#) microfiber cleaning cloth or a lint-free wipe prior to insertion.

Shaking the cuvette can generate bubbles in the sample, causing higher readings. To obtain accurate measurements, remove such bubbles by swirling or by gently tapping the cuvette. Do not let the reacted sample stand too long after reagent has been added. For best accuracy, respect the timings described in the method.

It is possible to take multiple readings in a row, but it is recommended to take a new zero reading for each sample and to use the same cuvette for zeroing and measurement when possible.

Discard the sample immediately after the reading has been taken, or the glass might become permanently stained. All the reaction times reported in this manual are at 25 °C (77 °F). In general, the reaction time should be increased for temperatures lower than 20 °C (68 °F), and decreased for temperatures higher than 25 °C (77 °F).



8. METHOD PROCEDURE

REQUIRED REAGENTS

Code	Description	Quantity
HI93728-0	Nitrate Reagent	1 packet

REAGENT SETS

HI93728-01 Nitrate Reagent - 100 tests

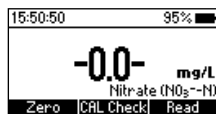
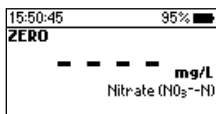
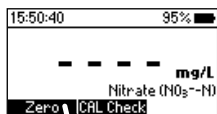
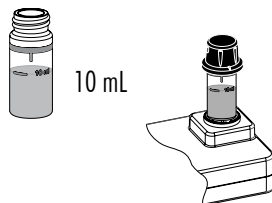
HI93728-03 Nitrate Reagent - 300 tests

For other accessories see ACCESSORIES section.

MEASUREMENT PROCEDURE

Note: If tutorial mode is disabled, follow the measurement procedure below. If the tutorial mode is enabled, press **Measure** and follow the messages on the screen.

- Fill the cuvette with 10 mL of sample (up to the mark). Replace the plastic stopper and the cap.
- Insert the cuvette into the holder and ensure that the notch on the cap is positioned securely in the groove.
- Press **Zero**. The display will show “-0.0-” when the meter is zeroed and ready for measurement.

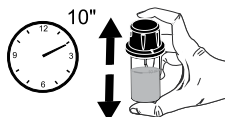


- Remove the cuvette and add the content of one packet of HI93728-0 Nitrate Reagent. Replace the plastic stopper and the cap.

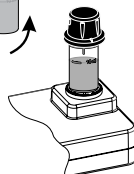


- Shake vigorously up and down for exactly 10 seconds. Continue to mix by inverting the cuvette gently for 50 seconds, while taking care not to induce air bubbles. Powder will not completely dissolve. Time and method of shaking could sensitively affect the measurement.

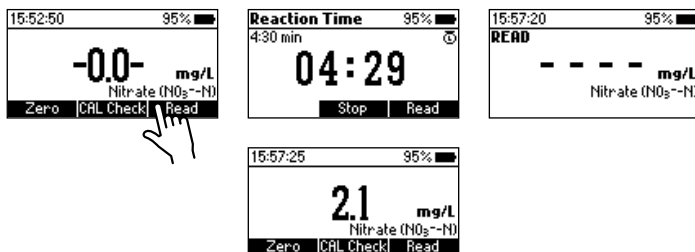
Note: The method is technique sensitive. For proper mixing technique see CUVETTE PREPARATION procedure.



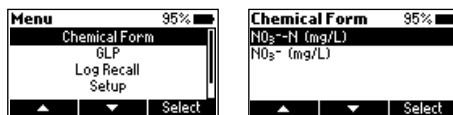
- Insert the cuvette into the holder and ensure that the notch on the cap is positioned securely in the groove.



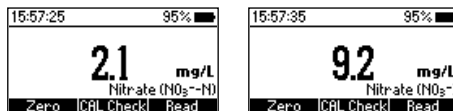
- Press **Read** and the display will show a 4 minute and 30 second countdown prior to the measurement. Alternatively, wait 4 minutes and 30 seconds then press **Read** twice. When the timer ends, the meter will perform the reading. The instrument displays the concentration in **mg/L** of **nitrate-nitrogen ($\text{NO}_3^- \text{-N}$)**.



- Press the  key and use the functional keys to select *Chemical Form*.



- Use the functional keys and press **Select** to change the displayed chemical formula to **mg/L** of **nitrate (NO_3^-)**.



INTERFERENCES

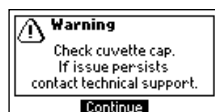
Interference may be caused by:

- Ammonia and amines, as urea and primary aliphatic amines
- Chloride above 100 mg/L
- Chlorine above 2 mg/L
- Copper, Iron (Ferric), Strong oxidizing and reducing substances
- Sulfide must be absent

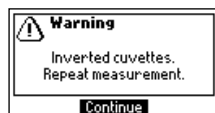
9. WARNING & ERROR DESCRIPTIONS

The instrument shows clear warning messages when erroneous conditions appear and when measured values are outside the expected range.

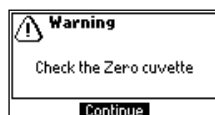
The information below provides an explanation of the errors and warnings, and recommended action to be taken.



There is an excess amount of ambient light reaching the detector. Ensure that the notch on the cap is positioned securely in the groove before performing any measurements. If the issue persists, please contact Hanna Instruments® technical support.



The sample and the zero cuvettes are inverted. Swap the cuvettes and repeat the measurement.



There is either too much light or the instrument can not adjust the light level. Please check the preparation of the zero cuvette and that the sample does not contain any debris.



The meter is either overheating or its temperature has dropped too low to operate within published accuracy specifications. The meter must be between 0 and 50 °C (32 and 122 °F) to perform any measurements.



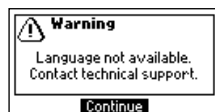
Meter temperature has changed significantly since the zero measurement has been performed. The zero measurement must be performed again.



The measured value is outside the limits of the method. Verify that the sample does not contain any debris. Check the sample preparation and the measurement preparation.



Date and time settings have been lost. Please reset the values. If the issue persists, please contact Hanna Instruments technical support.



English is the only available language. Help function is not available. Restart the meter. If the issue persists, please contact Hanna Instruments technical support.

Battery Low.
Replace the batteries.

Battery level is too low for the meter to function properly. Replace the batteries with new ones.

Info

Tutorial Mode is Enabled.

Continue

Tutorial mode has been enabled in the Setup menu. Press **Continue** and follow the prompt on the screen. Tutorial mode can be disabled in the Setup menu.



Error


Restart the meter.
If issue persists
contact technical support.

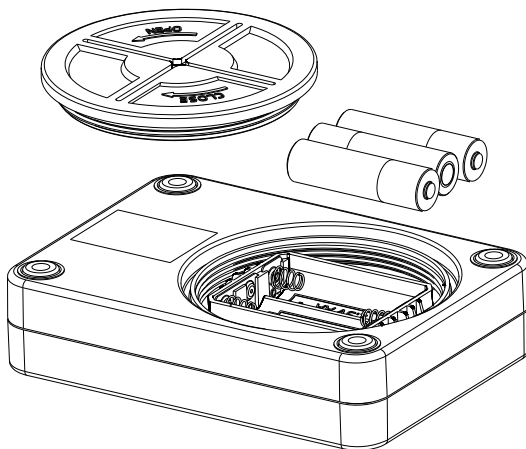
Continue

A critical error has occurred. Restart the meter. If the issue persists, please contact Hanna Instruments® technical support.

10. BATTERY REPLACEMENT

To replace the instrument's batteries, follow these steps:

- Turn the instrument off by pressing and holding the  key.
- Remove the battery cover by turning it counterclockwise.
- Remove the old batteries, replace them with three new 1.5V AA batteries.
- Replace the battery cover, turn it clockwise to close.



11. ACCESSORIES

11.1. REAGENT SETS

Ordering Information	Description
HI93728-01	Nitrate Reagent - 100 tests
HI93728-03	Nitrate Reagent - 300 tests

11.2. OTHER ACCESSORIES

Ordering Information	Description
HI7101412	HI97 series blue carrying case with 2 cuvette slots
HI731318	Cloth for wiping cuvettes (4 pcs.)
HI731331	Glass cuvette (4 pcs.)
HI731336N	Cap for glass cuvette (4 pcs.)
HI93703-50	Cuvette cleaning solution (250 mL)
HI97728-11	CAL Check™ standards for Nitrate - cuvette kit

CERTIFICATION

All Hanna[®] instruments conform to the CE European Directives and UK Standards.



RoHS
compliant

Disposal of Electrical & Electronic Equipment. The product should not be treated as household waste. Instead, hand it over to the appropriate collection point for the recycling of electrical and electronic equipment, which will conserve natural resources.

Disposal of waste batteries. This product contains batteries, do not dispose of them with other household waste. Hand them over to the appropriate collection point for recycling.

Ensuring proper product and battery disposal prevents potential negative consequences for the environment and human health. For more information, contact your city, your local household waste disposal service, or the place of purchase.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR USERS

Before using this product, make sure it is entirely suitable for your specific application and for the environment in which it is used. Any variation introduced by the user to the supplied equipment may degrade the meter's performance. For your and the meter's safety do not use or store the meter in hazardous environments.

WARRANTY

The [HI97728](#) is warranted for two years against defects in workmanship and materials when used for its intended purpose and maintained according to instructions. This warranty is limited to repair or replacement free of charge. Damage due to accidents, misuse, tampering, or lack of prescribed maintenance is not covered. If service is required, contact your local Hanna Instruments[®] office. If under warranty, report the model number, date of purchase, serial number (engraved on the bottom of the meter), and the nature of the problem. If the repair is not covered by the warranty, you will be notified of the charges incurred. If the meter is to be returned to Hanna Instruments, first obtain a Returned Goods Authorization (RGA) number from the Technical Service department and then send it with shipping costs prepaid. When shipping any meter, make sure it is properly packed for complete protection.