

A crystalline, hydrated form of the sodium salt of 3-pyridyl-1-hydroxyethylidene-1,1-bisphosphonic acid contains from 6.4 up to 22 weight % of sodium, based on the anhydrous substance, and 15 up to 23 weight % of crystalline water if the sodium content is lower than 7.5 weight %, or 4.5 up to 18 weight % if the sodium content is higher than 7.5 weight %.