

7. AUTOMATIC ANALYSIS

7.1 Introduction

Automation in general is concerned with the diminution of human intervention in analytical procedures. Three main concepts may be distinguished. Mechanisation is concerned with the production of movement, instrumentation with the production and relaying of information, and automation with the use of systems in which an element of non-human decision making is incorporated.

Thus, this chapter has sections for general terms concerned with automation of analytical procedures, for some terms concerned with specimen processing (mechanisation and robotics) and for selected terms concerned with the measurements (instrumentation). The universal terms relating to the presentation of results and quality assurance etc. concerning analytical procedures are presented in Chapter 2 and 18, respectively.