CLAIMS

1. A composition comprising

(i) a mixed metal compound containing at least one trivalent metal selected from iron (III) and aluminium and at least one divalent metal selected from of magnesium, iron, zinc, calcium, lanthanum and cerium,

(ii) xanthan gum

(iii) at least one of (a) polyvinyl pyrrolidone

(b) locust bean gum, and

(c) methyl cellulose

wherein the composition has been irradiated with ionising radiation in an amount of at least 4kGy.

2. A composition according to claim 1 where in the compound is of formula I

$M^{II}_{1-x}M^{III}_{x}(OH)_2A^{n-}_{y}.mH_2O$ (I)

wherein M^{II} is one or more bivalent metals and is at least Mg^{2+};

M^{III} is one or more trivalent metals and is at least Fe^{3+};

A^{n-} is one or more n-valent anions and is at least CO_3^{2-};

$(\Sigma yn)/x$ is from 0.5 to 1.5

$0 < x \leq 0.4$,

$0 < y \leq 1$ and

$0 < m \leq 10$.

3. A composition according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the compound has an aluminium content of less than 10000 ppm.

4. A composition according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the composition has been irradiated with ionising radiation in an amount of at least 6kGy.

5. A composition according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the composition has been irradiated with ionising radiation in an amount of at least 8kGy.

6. A composition according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the composition has been irradiated with ionising radiation in an amount of at least 10kGy.

18. A composition according to claim 17 wherein the composition comprises (ii) xanthan gum and (iii) methyl cellulose, wherein the xanthan gum and methyl cellulose are present in a ratio of approximately 1:1.

19. A composition according to claim 17 or 18 wherein the composition has been irradiated with ionising radiation in an amount of at least 10kGy.

20. A composition according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the composition is a pharmaceutical composition and optionally further comprises (iv) one or more pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvants, excipients, diluents or carriers.

21. ~~A~~ Use of a composition according to any one of claims 1 to 20 ~~for use as~~in the manufacture of a medicament for controlling serum phosphate levels.

22. ~~A pharmaceutical~~Use of a composition according to any one of claims 1 to 20 in the manufacture of a medicament for binding phosphate.

23. ~~A pharmaceutical~~Use of a composition according to any one of claims 1 to 20 ~~for use~~ in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of hyperphosphataemia.