METHOD 8260B
VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS BY GAS CHROMATOGRAPHY/
MASS SPECTROMETRY (GC/MS)

1.0 SCOPE AND APPLICATION

1.1 Method 8260 is used to determine volatile organic compounds in a variety of solid waste matrices. This method is applicable to nearly all types of samples, regardless of water content, including various air sampling trapping media, ground and surface water, aqueous sludges, caustic liquors, acid liquors, waste solvents, oily wastes, mousses, tars, fibrous wastes, polymeric emulsions, filter cakes, spent carbons, spent catalysts, soils, and sediments. The following compounds can be determined by this method:

		Appropriate Preparation Technique[a]					
Compound	CAS No.[b]	5030/ 5035	5031	5032	5021	5041	Direct Inject.
Acetone	67-64-1	pp	c	c	nd	c	c
Acetonitrile	75-05-8	pp	c	nd	nd	nd	c
Acrolein (Propenal)	107-02-8	pp	c	c	nd	nd	c
Acrylonitrile	107-13-1	pp	c	c	nd	c	c
Allyl alcohol	107-18-6	ht	c	nd	nd	nd	c
Allyl chloride	107-05-1	c	nd	nd	nd	nd	c
Benzene	71-43-2	c	nd	c	c	c	c
Benzyl chloride	100-44-7	c	nd	nd	nd	nd	c
Bis(2-chloroethyl)sulfide	505-60-2	pp	nd	nd	nd	nd	c
Bromoacetone	598-31-2	pp	nd	nd	nd	nd	c
Bromochloromethane	74-97-5	c	nd	c	c	c	c
Bromodichloromethane	75-27-4	c	nd	c	c	c	c
4-Bromofluorobenzene (surr)	460-00-4	c	nd	c	c	c	c
Bromoform	75-25-2	c	nd	c	c	c	c
Bromomethane	74-83-9	c	nd	c	c	c	c
n-Butanol	71-36-3	ht	c	nd	nd	nd	c
2-Butanone (MEK)	78-93-3	pp	c	c	nd	nd	c
t-Butyl alcohol	75-65-0	pp	c	nd	nd	nd	c
Carbon disulfide	75-15-0	pp	nd	c	nd	c	c
Carbon tetrachloride	56-23-5	c	nd	c	c	c	c
Chloral hydrate	302-17-0	pp	nd	nd	nd	nd	c
Chlorobenzene	108-90-7	c	nd	c	c	c	c
Chlorobenzene-d_5 (IS)		c	nd	c	c	c	c
Chlorodibromomethane	124-48-1	c	nd	c	nd	c	c
Chloroethane	75-00-3	c	nd	c	c	c	c
2-Chloroethanol	107-07-3	pp	nd	nd	nd	nd	c
2-Chloroethyl vinyl ether	110-75-8	c	nd	c	nd	nd	c
Chloroform	67-66-3	c	nd	c	c	c	c
Chloromethane	74-87-3	c	nd	c	c	c	c
Chloroprene	126-99-8	c	nd	nd	nd	nd	c
3-Chloropropionitrile	542-76-7	I	nd	nd	nd	nd	pc

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BEFORE THE OIL CONVERSATION COMMISSION
Santa Fe, New Mexico
Exhibit No. 45
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Compound	CAS No.[b]	5030/ 5035	5031	5032	5021	5041	Direct Inject.
		Appropriate Preparation Technique[a]					
Crotonaldehyde	4170-30-3	pp	c	nd	nd	nd	c
1,2-Dibromo-3-chloropropane	96-12-8	pp	nd	nd	c	nd	c
1,2-Dibromoethane	106-93-4	c	nd	nd	c	nd	c
Dibromomethane	74-95-3	c	nd	c	c	c	c
1,2-Dichlorobenzene	95-50-1	c	nd	nd	c	nd	c
1,3-Dichlorobenzene	541-73-1	c	nd	nd	c	nd	c
1,4-Dichlorobenzene	106-46-7	c	nd	nd	c	nd	c
1,4-Dichlorobenzene-d_4 (IS)		c	nd	nd	c	nd	c
cis-1,4-Dichloro-2-butene	1476-11-5	c	nd	c	nd	nd	c
trans-1,4-Dichloro-2-butene	110-57-6	pp	nd	c	nd	nd	c
Dichlorodifluoromethane	75-71-8	c	nd	c	c	nd	c
1,1-Dichloroethane	75-34-3	c	nd	c	c	c	c
1,2-Dichloroethane	107-06-2	c	nd	c	c	c	c
1,2-Dichloroethane-d_4 (surr)		c	nd	c	c	c	c
1,1-Dichloroethene	75-35-4	c	nd	c	c	c	c
trans-1,2-Dichloroethene	156-60-5	c	nd	c	c	c	c
1,2-Dichloropropane	78-87-5	c	nd	c	c	c	c
1,3-Dichloro-2-propanol	96-23-1	pp	nd	nd	nd	nd	c
cis-1,3-Dichloropropene	10061-01-5	c	nd	c	nd	c	c
trans-1,3-Dichloropropene	10061-02-6	c	nd	c	nd	c	c
1,2,3,4-Diepoxybutane	1464-53-5	c	nd	nd	nd	nd	c
Diethyl ether	60-29-7	c	nd	nd	nd	nd	c
1,4-Difluorobenzene (IS)	540-36-3	nd	nd	nd	nd	c	nd
1,4-Dioxane	123-91-1	pp	c	c	nd	nd	c
Epichlorohydrin	106-89-8	I	nd	nd	nd	nd	c
Ethanol	64-17-5	I	c	c	nd	nd	c
Ethyl acetate	141-78-6	I	c	nd	nd	nd	c
Ethylbenzene	100-41-4	c	nd	c	c	c	c
Ethylene oxide	75-21-8	pp	c	nd	nd	nd	c
Ethyl methacrylate	97-63-2	c	nd	c	nd	nd	c
Fluorobenzene (IS)	462-06-6	c	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
Hexachlorobutadiene	87-68-3	c	nd	nd	c	nd	c
Hexachloroethane	67-72-1	I	nd	nd	nd	nd	c
2-Hexanone	591-78-6	pp	nd	c	nd	nd	c
2-Hydroxypropionitrile	78-97-7	I	nd	nd	nd	nd	pc
Iodomethane	74-88-4	c	nd	c	nd	c	c
Isobutyl alcohol	78-83-1	pp	c	nd	nd	nd	c
Isopropylbenzene	98-82-8	c	nd	nd	c	nd	c
Malononitrile	109-77-3	pp	nd	nd	nd	nd	c
Methacrylonitrile	126-98-7	pp	I	nd	nd	nd	c
Methanol	67-56-1	I	c	nd	nd	nd	c
Methylene chloride	75-09-2	c	nd	c	c	c	c
Methyl methacrylate	80-62-6	c	nd	nd	nd	nd	c
4-Methyl-2-pentanone (MIBK)	108-10-1	pp	c	c	nd	nd	c
Naphthalene	91-20-3	c	nd	nd	c	nd	c

(continued)

Compound	CAS No.[b]	Appropriate Preparation Technique[a] 5030/ 5035	5031	5032	5021	5041	Direct Inject.
Nitrobenzene	98-95-3	c	nd	nd	nd	nd	c
2-Nitropropane	79-46-9	c	nd	nd	nd	nd	c
N-Nitroso-di-n-butylamine	924-16-3	pp	c	nd	nd	nd	c
Paraldehyde	123-63-7	pp	c	nd	nd	nd	c
Pentachloroethane	76-01-7	I	nd	nd	nd	nd	c
2-Pentanone	107-87-9	pp	c	nd	nd	nd	c
2-Picoline	109-06-8	pp	c	nd	nd	nd	c
1-Propanol	71-23-8	pp	c	nd	nd	nd	c
2-Propanol	67-63-0	pp	c	nd	nd	nd	c
Propargyl alcohol	107-19-7	pp	I	nd	nd	nd	c
β-Propiolactone	57-57-8	pp	nd	nd	nd	nd	c
Propionitrile (ethyl cyanide)	107-12-0	ht	c	nd	nd	nd	pc
n-Propylamine	107-10-8	c	nd	nd	nd	nd	c
Pyridine	110-86-1	I	c	nd	nd	nd	c
Styrene	100-42-5	c	nd	c	c	c	c
1,1,1,2-Tetrachloroethane	630-20-6	c	nd	nd	c	c	c
1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane	79-34-5	c	nd	c	c	c	c
Tetrachloroethene	127-18-4	c	nd	c	c	c	c
Toluene	108-88-3	c	nd	c	c	c	c
Toluene-d_8 (surr)	2037-26-5	c	nd	c	c	c	c
o-Toluidine	95-53-4	pp	c	nd	nd	nd	c
1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene	120-82-1	c	nd	nd	c	nd	c
1,1,1-Trichloroethane	71-55-6	c	nd	c	c	c	c
1,1,2-Trichloroethane	79-00-5	c	nd	c	c	c	c
Trichloroethene	79-01-6	c	nd	c	c	c	c
Trichlorofluoromethane	75-69-4	c	nd	c	c	c	c
1,2,3-Trichloropropane	96-18-4	c	nd	c	c	c	c
Vinyl acetate	108-05-4	c	nd	c	nd	nd	c
Vinyl chloride	75-01-4	c	nd	c	c	c	c
o-Xylene	95-47-6	c	nd	c	c	c	c
m-Xylene	108-38-3	c	nd	c	c	c	c
p-Xylene	106-42-3	c	nd	c	c	c	c

[a] See Sec. 1.2 for other appropriate sample preparation techniques
[b] Chemical Abstract Service Registry Number

c = Adequate response by this technique
ht = Method analyte only when purged at 80°C
nd = Not determined
I = Inappropriate technique for this analyte
pc = Poor chromatographic behavior
pp = Poor purging efficiency resulting in high Estimated Quantitation Limits
surr = Surrogate
IS = Internal Standard

1.2 There are various techniques by which these compounds may be introduced into the GC/MS system. The more common techniques are listed in the table above. Purge-and-trap, by Methods 5030 (aqueous samples) and 5035 (solid and waste oil samples), is the most commonly used technique for volatile organic analytes. However, other techniques are also appropriate and necessary for some analytes. These include direct injection following dilution with hexadecane (Method 3585) for waste oil samples; automated static headspace by Method 5021 for solid samples; direct injection of an aqueous sample (concentration permitting) or injection of a sample concentrated by azeotropic distillation (Method 5031); and closed system vacuum distillation (Method 5032) for aqueous, solid, oil and tissue samples. For air samples, Method 5041 provides methodology for desorbing volatile organics from trapping media (Methods 0010, 0030, and 0031). In addition, direct analysis utilizing a sample loop is used for sub-sampling from Tedlar® bags (Method 0040). Method 5000 provides more general information on the selection of the appropriate introduction method.

1.3 Method 8260 can be used to quantitate most volatile organic compounds that have boiling points below 200°C. Volatile, water soluble compounds can be included in this analytical technique by the use of azeotropic distillation or closed-system vacuum distillation. Such compounds include low molecular weight halogenated hydrocarbons, aromatics, ketones, nitriles, acetates, acrylates, ethers, and sulfides. See Tables 1 and 2 for analytes and retention times that have been evaluated on a purge-and-trap GC/MS system. Also, the method detection limits for 25-mL sample volumes are presented. The following compounds are also amenable to analysis by Method 8260:

Bromobenzene	1,3-Dichloropropane
n-Butylbenzene	2,2-Dichloropropane
sec-Butylbenzene	1,1-Dichloropropene
tert-Butylbenzene	p-Isopropyltoluene
Chloroacetonitrile	Methyl acrylate
1-Chlorobutane	Methyl-t-butyl ether
1-Chlorohexane	Pentafluorobenzene
2-Chlorotoluene	n-Propylbenzene
4-Chlorotoluene	1,2,3-Trichlorobenzene
Dibromofluoromethane	1,2,4-Trimethylbenzene
cis-1,2-Dichloroethene	1,3,5-Trimethylbenzene

1.4 The estimated quantitation limit (EQL) of Method 8260 for an individual compound is somewhat instrument dependent and also dependent on the choice of sample preparation/introduction method. Using standard quadrapole instrumentation and the purge-and-trap technique, limits should be approximately 5 µg/kg (wet weight) for soil/sediment samples, 0.5 mg/kg (wet weight) for wastes, and 5 µg/L for ground water (see Table 3). Somewhat lower limits may be achieved using an ion trap mass spectrometer or other instrumentation of improved design. No matter which instrument is used, EQLs will be proportionately higher for sample extracts and samples that require dilution or when a reduced sample size is used to avoid saturation of the detector.

1.5 This method is restricted to use by, or under the supervision of, analysts experienced in the use of gas chromatograph/mass spectrometers, and skilled in the interpretation of mass spectra and their use as a quantitative tool.

2.0 SUMMARY OF METHOD

2.1 The volatile compounds are introduced into the gas chromatograph by the purge-and-trap method or by other methods (see Sec. 1.2). The analytes are introduced directly to a wide-bore capillary column or cryofocussed on a capillary pre-column before being flash evaporated to a narrow-bore capillary for analysis. The column is temperature-programmed to separate the analytes, which are then detected with a mass spectrometer (MS) interfaced to the gas chromatograph (GC).

2.2 Analytes eluted from the capillary column are introduced into the mass spectrometer via a jet separator or a direct connection. (Wide-bore capillary columns normally require a jet separator, whereas narrow-bore capillary columns may be directly interfaced to the ion source). Identification of target analytes is accomplished by comparing their mass spectra with the electron impact (or electron impact-like) spectra of authentic standards. Quantitation is accomplished by comparing the response of a major (quantitation) ion relative to an internal standard using a five-point calibration curve.

2.3 The method includes specific calibration and quality control steps that supersede the general requirements provided in Method 8000.

3.0 INTERFERENCES

3.1 Major contaminant sources are volatile materials in the laboratory and impurities in the inert purging gas and in the sorbent trap. The use of non-polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) thread sealants, plastic tubing, or flow controllers with rubber components should be avoided, since such materials out-gas organic compounds which will be concentrated in the trap during the purge operation. Analyses of calibration and reagent blanks provide information about the presence of contaminants. When potential interfering peaks are noted in blanks, the analyst should change the purge gas source and regenerate the molecular sieve purge gas filter. Subtracting blank values from sample results is not permitted. If reporting values without correcting for the blank results in what the laboratory feels is a false positive result for a sample, the laboratory should fully explained this in text accompanying the uncorrected data.

3.2 Contamination may occur when a sample containing low concentrations of volatile organic compounds is analyzed immediately after a sample containing high concentrations of volatile organic compounds. A technique to prevent this problem is to rinse the purging apparatus and sample syringes with two portions of organic-free reagent water between samples. After the analysis of a sample containing high concentrations of volatile organic compounds, one or more blanks should be analyzed to check for cross-contamination. Alternatively, if the sample immediately following the high concentration sample does not contain the volatile organic compounds present in the high level sample, freedom from contamination has been established.

3.3 For samples containing large amounts of water-soluble materials, suspended solids, high boiling compounds, or high concentrations of compounds being determined, it may be necessary to wash the purging device with a soap solution, rinse it with organic-free reagent water, and then dry the purging device in an oven at 105°C. In extreme situations, the entire purge-and-trap device may require dismantling and cleaning. Screening of the samples prior to purge-and-trap GC/MS analysis is highly recommended to prevent contamination of the system. This is especially true for soil and waste samples. Screening may be accomplished with an automated headspace technique (Method 5021) or by Method 3820 (Hexadecane Extraction and Screening of Purgeable Organics).

3.4 Many analytes exhibit low purging efficiencies from a 25-mL sample. This often results in significant amounts of these analytes remaining in the sample purge vessel after analysis. After removal of the sample aliquot that was purged, and rinsing the purge vessel three times with organic-free water, the empty vessel should be subjected to a heated purge cycle prior to the analysis of another sample in the same purge vessel. This will reduce sample-to-sample carryover.

3.5 Special precautions must be taken to analyze for methylene chloride. The analytical and sample storage area should be isolated from all atmospheric sources of methylene chloride. Otherwise, random background levels will result. Since methylene chloride will permeate through PTFE tubing, all gas chromatography carrier gas lines and purge gas plumbing should be constructed from stainless steel or copper tubing. Laboratory clothing worn by the analyst should be clean, since clothing previously exposed to methylene chloride fumes during liquid/liquid extraction procedures can contribute to sample contamination.

3.6 Samples can be contaminated by diffusion of volatile organics (particularly methylene chloride and fluorocarbons) through the septum seal of the sample container into the sample during shipment and storage. A trip blank prepared from organic-free reagent water and carried through the sampling, handling, and storage protocols can serve as a check on such contamination.

3.7 Use of sensitive mass spectrometers to achieve lower detection level will increase the potential to detect laboratory contaminants as interferences.

3.8 Direct injection - Some contamination may be eliminated by baking out the column between analyses. Changing the injector liner will reduce the potential for cross-contamination. A portion of the analytical column may need to be removed in the case of extreme contamination. The use of direct injection will result in the need for more frequent instrument maintenance.

3.9 If hexadecane is added to waste samples or petroleum samples that are analyzed, some chromatographic peaks will elute after the target analytes. The oven temperature program must include a post-analysis bake out period to ensure that semivolatile hydrocarbons are volatilized.

4.0 APPARATUS AND MATERIALS

4.1 Purge-and-trap device for aqueous samples - Described in Method 5030.

4.2 Purge-and-trap device for solid samples - Described in Method 5035.

4.3 Automated static headspace device for solid samples - Described in Method 5021.

4.4 Azeotropic distillation apparatus for aqueous and solid samples - Described in Method 5031.

4.5 Vacuum distillation apparatus for aqueous, solid and tissue samples - Described in Method 5032.

4.6 Desorption device for air trapping media for air samples - Described in Method 5041.

4.7 Air sampling loop for sampling from Tedlar® bags for air samples - Described in Method 0040.