

## METHOD 3005A

### ACID DIGESTION OF WATERS FOR TOTAL RECOVERABLE OR DISSOLVED METALS FOR ANALYSIS BY FLAA OR ICP SPECTROSCOPY

#### 1.0 SCOPE AND APPLICATION

1.1 Method 3005 is an acid digestion procedure used to prepare surface and ground water samples for analysis by flame atomic absorption spectroscopy (FLAA) or by inductively coupled argon plasma spectroscopy (ICP). Samples prepared by Method 3005 may be analyzed by AAS or ICP for the following metals:

Aluminum	Magnesium
Antimony**	Manganese
Arsenic*	Molybdenum
Barium	Nickel
Beryllium	Potassium
Cadmium	Selenium*
Calcium	Silver
Chromium	Sodium
Cobalt	Thallium
Copper	Vanadium
Iron	Zinc
Lead	

\* ICP only

\*\*May be analyzed by ICP, FLAA, or GFAA

1.2 When analyzing for total dissolved metals filter the sample, at the time of collection, prior to acidification with nitric acid.

#### 2.0 SUMMARY OF METHOD

2.1 Total recoverable metals - The entire sample is acidified at the time of collection with nitric acid. At the time of analysis the sample is heated with acid and substantially reduced in volume. The digestate is filtered and diluted to volume, and is then ready for analysis.

2.2 Dissolved metals - The sample is filtered through a 0.45- $\mu$ m filter at the time of collection and the liquid phase is then acidified at the time of collection with nitric acid. Samples for dissolved metals do not need to be digested as long as the acid concentrations have been adjusted to the same concentration as in the standards.

#### 3.0 INTERFERENCES

3.1 The analyst should be cautioned that this digestion procedure may not be sufficiently vigorous to destroy some metal complexes.

Precipitation will cause a lowering of the silver concentration and therefore an inaccurate analysis.

#### 4.0 APPARATUS AND MATERIALS

4.1 Griffin beakers of assorted sizes or equivalent.

4.2 Watch glasses or equivalent.

4.3 Qualitative filter paper and filter funnels.

4.4 Graduated cylinder or equivalent.

4.5 Electric hot plate or equivalent - adjustable and capable of maintaining a temperature of 90-95°C.

#### 5.0 REAGENTS

5.1 Reagent grade chemicals shall be used in all tests. Unless otherwise indicated, it is intended that all reagents shall conform to the specifications of the Committee on Analytical Reagents of the American Chemical Society, where such specifications are available. Other grades may be used, provided it is first ascertained that the reagent is of sufficiently high purity to permit its use without lessening the accuracy of the determination.

5.2 Reagent Water. Reagent water shall be interference free. All references to water in the method refer to reagent water unless otherwise specified. Refer to Chapter One for a definition of reagent water.

5.3 Nitric acid (concentrated),  $\text{HNO}_3$ . Acid should be analyzed to determine level of impurities. If method blank is < MDL, then acid can be used.

5.4 Hydrochloric acid (concentrated),  $\text{HCl}$ . Acid should be analyzed to determine level of impurities. If method blank is < MDL, then acid can be used.

#### 6.0 SAMPLE COLLECTION, PRESERVATION, AND HANDLING

6.1 All samples must have been collected using a sampling plan that addresses the considerations discussed in Chapter Nine of this manual.

6.2 All sample containers must be prewashed with detergents, acids, and water. Both plastic and glass containers are suitable.

##### 6.3 Sampling

6.3.1 Total recoverable metals - All samples must be acidified at the time of collection with  $\text{HNO}_3$  (5 mL/L).

6.3.2 Dissolved metals - All samples must be filtered through a 0.45- $\mu\text{m}$  filter and then acidified at the time of collection with  $\text{HNO}_3$  (5 mL/L).

## 7.0 PROCEDURE

7.1 Transfer a 100-mL aliquot of well-mixed sample to a beaker.

7.2 For metals that are to be analyzed, add 2 mL of concentrated HNO<sub>3</sub> and 5 mL of concentrated HCl. The sample is covered with a ribbed watch glass or other suitable covers and heated on a steam bath, hot plate or other heating source at 90 to 95°C until the volume has been reduced to 15-20 mL.

CAUTION: Do not boil. Antimony is easily lost by volatilization from hydrochloric acid media.

7.3 Remove the beaker and allow to cool. Wash down the beaker walls and watch glass with water and, when necessary, filter or centrifuge the sample to remove silicates and other insoluble material that could clog the nebulizer. Filtration should be done only if there is concern that insoluble materials may clog the nebulizer; this additional step is liable to cause sample contamination unless the filter and filtering apparatus are thoroughly cleaned and prerinsed with dilute HNO<sub>3</sub>.

7.4 Adjust the final volume to 100 mL with reagent water.

## 8.0 QUALITY CONTROL

8.1 All quality control measures described in Chapter One should be followed.

8.2 For each analytical batch of samples processed, blanks should be carried throughout the entire sample preparation and analytical process. These blanks will be useful in determining if samples are being contaminated. Refer to Chapter One for the proper protocol when analyzing blanks.

8.3 Replicate samples should be processed on a routine basis. A replicate sample is a sample brought through the whole sample preparation and analytical process. Replicate samples will be used to determine precision. The sample load will dictate the frequency, but 5% is recommended. Refer to Chapter One for the proper protocol when analyzing replicates.

8.4 Spiked samples or standard reference materials should be employed to determine accuracy. A spiked sample should be included with each batch. Refer to Chapter One for the proper protocol when analyzing spikes.

## 9.0 METHOD PERFORMANCE

9.1 No data provided.

## 10.0 REFERENCES

1. Rohrbough, W.G.; et al. Reagent Chemicals, American Chemical Society Specifications, 7th ed.; American Chemical Society: Washington, DC, 1986.
2. 1985 Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol. 11.01; "Standard Specification for Reagent Water"; ASTM: Philadelphia, PA, 1985; D1193-77.

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