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APPENDIX 29

STL STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

TITLE: ACID DIGESTION OF SOILS, SW846 METHOD 3050B

(SUPERSEDES: REVISION 1)

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1. SCOPE AND APPLICATION

1.1. This procedure describes the preparation of soil samples for the analysis of certain metals by Graphite Furnace Atomic Absorption (GFAA), Flame Atomic Absorption (FLAA) and Inductively Coupled Plasma Atomic Emission Spectroscopy (ICP) as specified in SW846 Method 3050B.

1.2. Samples prepared by the protocols detailed in this SOP may be analyzed by ICP, ICP/MS, FLAA or GFAA for the elements listed in Table I (Appendix A). Other elements and matrices may be analyzed following digestion by these protocols provided that the method performance criteria specified in Section 13.0 of this SOP are met.

1.3. This method is not a total digestion, but will dissolve almost all metals that could become "environmentally available". By design, metals bound in silicate structures are not dissolved by this procedure as they are not usually mobile in the environment. This SOP can be applied to metals in solids, sludges, wastes and sediments.

2. SUMMARY OF METHOD

A representative 1 gram (wet weight) portion of sample is digested in nitric acid and hydrogen peroxide. The digestate is refluxed with hydrochloric acid for ICP, FLAA or antimony by GFAA analysis. The digestates are then filtered and diluted to 100 mL/100 g.

3. DEFINITIONS

Additional definitions of terms used in this SOP may be found in the glossary of the QAMP.

3.1. Total Metals: The concentration determined on an unfiltered sample following digestion. Note that this method is designed to determine the total *environmentally available* metals.

4. INTERFERENCES

4.1. There are numerous routes by which samples may become contaminated. Potential sources of trace metals contamination include: metallic or metal-containing labware (e.g., talc gloves which contain high levels of zinc), containers, impure reagents, dirty glassware, improper sample transfers, dirty work areas, atmospheric inputs such as dirt and dust, etc. Be aware of potential sources of contamination and take appropriate measures to minimize or avoid them.

4.2. The entire work area, including the bench top and fume hood, should be thoroughly cleaned on a routine schedule in order to minimize the potential for environmental contamination. Refer to Appendix D for additional contamination control guidelines.

4.3. Boron and silica from the glassware will grow into the sample solution during and following sample processing. For critical low level determinations of boron and silica, only quartz and/or plastic labware should be used.

4.4. Physical interference effects may contribute to inaccuracies in the determinations of trace elements. Oils, solvents and other matrices may not be digested using these methods if they are not soluble with acids. If physical interferences are present, they should be documented.

4.5. Visual interferences or anomalies (such as foaming, emulsions, precipitates, etc.) must be documented.

4.6. Allowing samples to boil or go dry during digestion may result in the loss of volatile metals . If this occurs the sample must be reprepared. Antimony is easily lost by volatilization from hydrochloric media.

4.7. Specific analytical interferences are discussed in each of the determinative methods.

5. SAFETY

5.1. Procedures shall be carried out in a manner that protects the health and safety of all STL associates.

5.2. Eye protection that satisfies ANSI Z87.1 (as per the Chemical Hygiene Plan), laboratory coat, and appropriate gloves must be worn while samples, standards, solvents, and reagents are being handled. Disposable gloves that have been contaminated will be removed and discarded; other gloves will be cleaned immediately.

5.3. The health and safety hazards of many of the chemicals used in this procedure have not been fully defined. Additional health and safety information can be obtained from the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) maintained in the laboratory. The following specific hazards are known:

5.3.1. The following materials are known to be **corrosive:**

hydrochloric acid and nitric acid.

5.3.2. The following materials are known to be **oxidizing agents**:

nitric acid and hydrogen peroxide.

5.3.3. All heating of samples must be carried out in a fume hood.

5.4. The acidification of samples containing reactive materials may result in the release of toxic gases, such as cyanides or sulfides. Acidification of samples should be done in a fume hood. The analyst should also be aware of the potential for a vigorous reaction.

5.5. Exposure to chemicals must be maintained **as low as reasonably achievable.** Therefore, unless they are known to be non-hazardous, all samples should be opened, transferred and prepared in a fume hood, or under other means of mechanical ventilation. Solvent and waste containers will be kept closed unless transfers are being made.

5.6. The preparation of standards and reagents will be conducted in a fume hood with the sash closed as far as the operation will permit or under other means of mechanical ventilation.

5.7. All work must be stopped in the event of a known or potential compromise to the health and safety of a STL associate. The situation must be reported **immediately** to a laboratory supervisor.

5.8. Always carry bulk concentrated acid bottles in appropriate impact proof containers.

5.9. Acid/peroxide spills must be neutralized immediately, flushed with water and cleaned up using appropriate spill kits.

5.10. Discard chipped or broken beakers to prevent injury. Chipped glassware may be fire polished as an alternative to disposal.

5.11. Any and all accidents and spills must be reported to the lab supervisor or EH&S coordinator.

6. EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

6.1. Hot plate, digestion block , steam bath or other heating source capable of maintaining a temperature of 90-95°C.

6.2. Thermometer that covers a temperature range of 0-200°C.

6.3. Griffin beakers of assorted sizes or equivalent.

6.4. Vapor recovery device (Watch glasses, ribbed or other device).

6.5. Whatman No. 41 filter paper or equivalent.

6.6. Funnels or equivalent filtration apparatus.

6.7. Centrifugation equipment (if desired method of removing particulates is centrifugation).

6.8. Graduated cylinder or equivalent capable of measuring 100 mL within 3% accuracy.

6.9. Analytical balance capable of accurately weighing to the nearest 0.01 grams.

6.10. Repipetors or suitable reagent dispensers.

6.11. Calibrated automatic pipettes with corresponding pipet tips or Class A glass volumetric pipettes.

6.12. Class A volumetric flasks.

6.13. pH indicator strips (pH range 0 - 6).

6.14. Plastic bottles.

7. REAGENTS AND STANDARDS

7.1. Reagent water must be produced by a Millipore DI system or equivalent. Reagent water must be free of the analytes of interest as demonstrated through the analysis of method blanks as defined in the determinative SOPs..

7.2. Laboratory Control Sample (LCS) and matrix spike (MS) solutions are purchased as custom STL solutions. All standards must be stored in FEP fluorocarbon or previously unused polyethylene or polypropylene bottles. Stock standard solutions must be replaced prior to the expiration date provided by the manufacturer. If no expiration date is provided, the stock solutions may be used for up to one year and must be replaced sooner if verification from an independent source indicates a problem.

7.3. Working ICP LCS/MS spike solution: The ICP LCS/MS working spike solution is provided directly by the vendor, no further standard preparation is necessary.

7.4. Working GFAA LCS/MS spike solution: Prepare the GFAA working LCS/MS spike solution by diluting the custom stock solution (7.2) 100x. The working spike solution must be prepared in a matrix of 5% HNO_3. This acid (5 mL of concentrated HNO_3 per 100 mL) must be added to the volumetric flask before the addition of the stock standard aliquot. The working GFAA LCS/MS solution must be made fresh every three months.

7.5. The LCS and MS samples must contain all the elements designated for analysis in each batch of samples. If a non-routine element is required that is not contained in the custom STL solution, the individual facility must purchase a solution from the designated vendor that will cover the additional analyte(s) of interest and provide for a final spike concentration that is appropriate to the determinative method.

7.6. Aqueous laboratory control samples (LCSW) and matrix spike samples are prepared as described in Sections 9.5 and 9.6. Refer to Tables II and III (Appendix A) for details regarding the stock, working standard and final digestate spike concentrations for ICP and GFAA LCS and matrix spike preparations.

7.7. Nitric acid (HNO_3), concentrated, trace metal grade or better.

7.8. Nitric acid, 1:1 - dilute concentrated HNO_3 with an equal volume of reagent water.

Note: When preparing diluted acids always add acid to water. If the water is added to the acid a violent reaction may occur.

7.9. Hydrochloric acid (HCl), concentrated, trace metal grade or better.

7.10. Hydrochloric acid, 1:1 - dilute concentrated HCl with an equal volume of reagent water.

Note: When preparing diluted acids always add acid to water. If the water is added to the acid a violent reaction may occur.

7.11. 30% Hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2), reagent grade.

8. SAMPLE COLLECTION, PRESERVATION AND STORAGE

8.1. Sample holding time for metals included under the scope of this SOP is 180 days from the date of collection to the date of analysis.

8.2. Soil samples do not require preservation but must be stored at 4 °C ± 2 °C until the time of analysis.

9. QUALITY CONTROL

Table IV (Appendix A) provides a summary of quality control requirements including type, frequency, acceptance criteria and corrective action.

9.1. Initial Demonstration of Capability

Prior to analysis of any analyte using Method 3050B the following requirements must be met.

9.1.1. Method Detection Limit (MDL) - An MDL must be determined for each analyte/matrix prior to the analysis of any samples. The MDL is determined using seven replicates of reagent water, spiked with all the analytes of interest, that have been carried through the entire analytical procedure. MDL's must be redetermined on an annual basis in accordance with 40 CFR Part 136 Appendix B requirements as detailed in STL QA Policy QA-005. The spike level must be between the calculated MDL and 10X the MDL to be valid. The result of the MDL determination must be below the STL reporting limit.

9.1.2. Initial Demonstration Study- This requires the analysis of four QC check samples. The QC check sample is a well characterized laboratory generated sample used to monitor method performance, which should contain all the analytes of interest. The results of the initial demonstration study must be acceptable before analysis of samples may begin. The results of the initial demonstration study may be used to extend a method for the analysis of other elements provided all acceptance criteria are met.

9.1.2.1. Four aliquots of the check sample (LCS) are prepared and analyzed using the procedures detailed in this SOP and the determinative SOPs.

9.1.2.2. Calculations and acceptance criteria for QC check samples are given in the determinative SOPs (CORP-MT-0001, CORP-MT-0003).

9.2. Preparation Batch - A group of up to 20 samples that are of the same matrix and are processed together using the same procedures and reagents. The preparation batch must contain a method blank, a LCS and a matrix spike/matrix spike duplicate. In some cases, at client request, it may be appropriate to process a matrix spike and sample duplicate in place of the MS/MSD. If clients specify specific samples for MS/MSD, the batch may contain multiple MS/MSD pairs.

9.3. Sample Count - Laboratory generated QC samples (method blanks, LCS, MS/MSD) are not counted towards the maximum 20 samples in a batch. Field QC samples are included in the batch count.

9.4. Method Blank (MB) - One method blank must be processed with each preparation batch. The method blank consists of reagent water containing all reagents specific to the method that is carried through the entire analytical procedure, including preparation and analysis. The method blank is used to identify any system and process interferences or contamination of the analytical system that may lead to the reporting of elevated analyte concentrations or false positive data. Criteria for the acceptance of blanks are contained within the individual analytical method SOP's. If the method blank does not meet the criteria contained within the analytical method SOPs, the blank and all associated samples in the batch must be redigested.

9.4.1. Soil method blanks are prepared by taking 1 mL or 1 g of reagent water through the procedure described in Section 11.10.

9.5. Laboratory Control Sample (LCS) - One aqueous LCS must be processed with each preparation batch. The LCS must contain all analytes of interest and must be carried through the entire analytical procedure. The LCS is used to monitor the accuracy of the analytical process. On-going monitoring of the LCS results provides evidence that the laboratory is performing the method within acceptable accuracy and precision guidelines. Criteria for the acceptance of LCS results are contained within the individual analytical method SOP's. Corrective action when LCS results fail to meet control limits will be repreparation and reanalysis of the batch. Tables II and III provide the details regarding the stock, working standards and final spike concentrations for ICP and GFAA. Refer to Section 7.3 or 7.4 for instructions on preparation of the aqueous LCS.

9.5.1. The LCS is prepared by spiking a 1 mL or 1 g aliquot of reagent water with 1 mL of the working LCS/MS spike solution (7.3 or 7.4). The LCS is then processed as described in either Section 11.10.

9.6. Matrix Spike/Matrix Spike Duplicate (MS/MSD) - One MS/MSD pair must be processed for each preparation batch. A matrix spike (MS) is a field sample to which known concentrations of target analytes have been added. A matrix spike duplicate (MSD) is a second aliquot of the same sample (spiked identically as the MS) prepared and analyzed along with the sample and matrix spike. Some client specific data quality objectives (DQO's) may require the use of sample duplicates in place of or in addition to MS/MSD's. The MS/MSD results are used to determine the effect of a matrix on the precision and accuracy of the analytical process. Samples identified as field blanks cannot be used for MS/MSD analysis. If any analyte recovery or RPD falls outside the acceptance range, the recovery of that analyte must be in control for

the LCS. If the recovery of the LCS is outside limits, corrective action must be taken. Corrective action will include repreparation and reanalysis of the batch. Corrective action when MS results fail to meet control limits does not include repreparation of samples unless the results indicate that a spiking error may have occurred. Tables II and III provide the details regarding the stock, working standards and final matrix spike concentrations for ICP and GFAA. Refer to Sections 7.3 and 7.4 for instructions on preparation of the working matrix spike solutions.

9.6.1. The soil matrix spike sample is prepared by spiking a 1 g aliquot of a sample with 1 mL of the working LCS/MS spike solution (7.3 or 7.4). The matrix spike sample is then processed as described in either Section 11.10.

9.7. Quality Assurance Summaries - Certain clients may require specific project or program QC which may supersede the SOP requirements. Quality Assurance Summaries (QAS) should be developed to address these requirements.

10. CALIBRATION AND STANDARDIZATION

10.1. Hotplate or block temperature must be verified daily for each unit used and must be recorded on either the metals preparation log or in a hotplate temperature logbook. The hotplate temperature should be verified by measuring the temperature of a beaker of reagent water placed on each hotplate. For block digestors, use a tube containing water.

11. PROCEDURE

11.1. One time procedural variations are allowed only if deemed necessary in the professional judgment of supervision to accommodate variation in sample matrix, radioactivity, chemistry, sample size, or other parameters. Any variation in procedure shall be completely documented using a Nonconformance Memo and is approved by a Technical Specialist and QA Manager. If contractually required, the client shall be notified. The Nonconformance Memo shall be filed in the project file.

11.2. Any unauthorized deviations from this procedure must also be documented as a nonconformance, with a cause and corrective action described.

11.3. All preparation procedures must be carried out in a properly functioning hood.

11.4. All samples are to be checked out of sample control with the chain of custody documentation filled out completely.

11.5. Proper sample identification is extremely important in any preparation procedure. Labeling of beakers and bottles must be done in a manner to ensure connection with

the proper sample. The use of automatic label printing programs is recommended to reduce transcription errors (Quantims option).

11.6. Samples are typically logged in as either waters or soils. Wastes such as organic liquids or sludges and tissues (animal/vegetable) are usually logged in with solid test codes. When initiating prep examine the sample to see if the sample matches the matrix designation. If the sample is logged in as aqueous but it appears more like a waste (biphasic, sludge like, organic liquid, lots of sediment etc.) contact the lab supervisor or project administrator for further instructions. In some cases it may be more appropriate to process these samples as solids.

11.7. If possible prepare all the samples of a project at the same time to minimize the QC required and streamline the flow of the project through the lab and reporting group.

11.8. In most cases, both AA and ICP digests are required on each sample. It is recommended that both aliquots be weighed out and processed at the same time.

11.9. Guidelines are provided in the appendices on procedures to minimize contamination of samples and standards.

11.10. Preparation of Soils, Sediments and Sludges for Analysis by GFAA, ICP, ICP/MS and FLAA.

11.10.1. Mix sample thoroughly by stirring with a clean plastic or wooden spoon or spatula.

11.10.2. For each digestion procedure required (i.e., ICP or GFAA), weigh a 1.0 portion of solid and record the exact weight to the nearest 0.01 g. A 2 g sample size may also be used if needed to meet the reporting limits.

11.10.3. Measure additional aliquots of the designated samples for the MS and MSD analyses.

11.10.4. Spike each of the MS and MSD aliquots with 1 mL of the working LCS/MS spiking solution (7.3 or 7.4).

11.10.5. Measure 1 mL of reagent water into a beaker for the method blank.

11.10.6. Measure 1 mL of reagent water into a beaker for the LCS. Spike the LCS aliquot with 1 mL of the working LCS/MS spiking solution (7.3 or 7.4).

11.10.7. Add 10 mL of 1:1 HNO_3 and mix the sample.

11.10.8. Heat sample to 95°C and reflux for 10 minutes without boiling, using a vapor recovery device.

Note: DO NOT ALLOW SAMPLE TO BOIL OR GO DRY during any part of the digestion. Doing so will result in the loss of analyte and the sample must be reprepared.

11.10.9. Allow sample to cool.

11.10.10. Add 5 mL of concentrated HNO_3 and replace vapor recovery device.

11.10.11. Reflux at 95°C for 30 minutes.(Add reagent water as needed to ensure that the volume of solution is not reduced to less than 5 mL.)

11.10.12. If brown fumes are observed, repeat step 11.10.10 until no more fumes are evolved.

11.10.13. Using a vapor recovery device, allow the sample to evaporate to 5 - 10 mL while ensuring that no portion of the bottom of the beaker is allowed to go dry. Alternatively heat at 95^{o}C for 2 hours.

11.10.14. Allow the samples to cool.

11.10.15. Add 2 mL of reagent water and 3 mL of 30 % H_2O_2. Care must be taken to ensure that losses do not occur due to excessively vigorous effervescence.

11.10.16. Replace the vapor recovery device and heat sample until effervescence subsides.

11.10.17. Allow the sample to cool.

11.10.18. Continue adding 30% H_2O_2 in 1 mL aliquots with warming until effervescence is minimal or sample appearance is unchanged.

Note: Do not add more than a total of 10 mL of 30 % H_2O_2.

11.10.19. Continue heating at 95^{o}C until the volume is reduced to approximately 5 mL. Alternatively the sample may be heated for 2 hours.

11.10.20. If the sample is being prepared for ICP or FLAA analyses add 10 mL of concentrated HCl and reflux for an additional 15 minutes without boiling. This step is omitted for analysis by ICP-MS and GFAA

Note: Antimony and silver have poor solubility in dilute nitric acid solution. Therefore it is strongly recommended that these elements are determined by the ICP procedure that includes HCl as the final digestion acid.

11.10.21. Allow the sample to cool.

11.10.22. Wash down beaker walls and vapor recovery device with reagent water.

11.10.23. Filter sample through Whatman 41 filter paper or equivalent into a graduated cylinder or pre-weighed bottle. Other measuring bottles (for example, Corning Snap Seals™) may be used if their accuracy is documented and is better than $\pm$ 2%. Rinse beaker and filter paper with reagent water to ensure complete sample transfer.

Note: In place of filtering, the samples, after dilution and mixing, may be centrifuged or allowed to settle by gravity overnight to remove insoluble material

11.10.24. Dilute sample to 100 mL or 100g with reagent water. The sample is now ready for analysis.

Note: This SOP allows for samples to be weighed instead of measured volumetrically. This assumes the density of the diluted sample is close to 1.0 g/mL (See Section 17.1.2).

12. DATA ANALYSIS AND CALCULATIONS

Not Applicable.

13. METHOD PERFORMANCE

13.1. Method performance is determined by the analysis of matrix spike and matrix spike duplicate samples as well as method blanks and laboratory control samples. In general, the matrix spike recovery should fall within +/- 20 % and the matrix spike duplicates should compare within 20% RPD. Method blanks must meet the criteria specified in the determinative SOPs. The laboratory control samples should recover within 20% of the true value until in house control limits are established. Acceptance criteria are given in the determinative SOPs.

13.2. The initial demonstration study as detailed in Section 9.1.2 must be acceptable before the analysis of field samples under this SOP may begin. The results of the initial

demonstration study may be used to extend a method for the analysis of other elements provided all acceptance criteria are met.

13.3. Training Qualification:

The group/team leader has the responsibility to ensure that this procedure is performed by an associate who has been properly trained in its use and has the required experience.

14. POLLUTION PREVENTION

14.1. This method does not contain any specific modifications that serve to minimize or prevent pollution.

15. WASTE MANAGEMENT

15.1. Waste generated in the procedure must be segregated and disposed according to the facility hazardous waste procedures. The Environmental Health and Safety Director should be contacted if additional information is required.

15.2. Standards should be purchased and prepared in volumes consistent with laboratory use to minimize the volume of expired standards to be disposed.

16. REFERENCES

16.1. Test Methods for Evaluating Solid Waste, Physical/Chemical Methods, SW-846, 3rd Edition, Final Update III, December 1996. Method 3050B.

16.2. CORP-MT-0001, Inductively Coupled Plasma-Atomic Emission Spectroscopy, Spectrometric Method for Trace Element Analysis of Water and Wastes, Method 6010B and Method 200.7.

16.3. CORP-MT-0003, Graphite Furnace Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy, SW846 Method 7000A and MCAWW 200 Series Methods.

16.4. QA-003, STL QC Program.

16.5. QA-004, Rounding and Significant Figures.

16.6. QA-005, Method Detection Limits.

17. MISCELLANEOUS (TABLES, APPENDICES, ETC. . .)

17.1. Modifications/Interpretations from reference method.

17.1.1. Chapter 1 of SW-846 states that the method blank should not contain any analyte of interest at or above the MDL. This SOP states that the method blank must not contain any analyte of interest at or above the reporting limit. Common lab contaminants, as defined in the determinative SOPs, are allowed up to two times the reporting limit in the blank following consultation with the client.

17.1.2. This SOP allows for aqueous samples to be weighed instead of measured volumetrically. This assumes the density of the sample is close to 1.0 g/mL. Samples with large amounts of sediment or suspended solids, sludges, non-aqueous liquids must be processed volumetrically. Weighing samples directly into the digestion vessel minimizes the potential for cross contamination, offers improved accuracy over the use of graduated cylinders (comparable to volumetric flask accuracy), uses less glassware and is more efficient.

17.2. Modifications from previous SOP

17.2.1. ICP/MS has been added as an appropriate determinative technique.

17.2.2. The table listing appropriate elements has been removed. Any elements meeting the requirements in section 13 may be determined.

17.2.3. Directions for digestion for set time periods rather than reduction to set volumes have been added.

17.2.4. The order of two steps in the digestion has been changed. (See section 11.10.20)

17.2.5. Definition of the method as determining total environmentally available metals has been added.

17.3. Facility Specific SOPs

Each facility shall attach a list of facility specific SOPs or approved attachments (if applicable) which are required to implement this SOP or which are used in conjunction with this SOP. If no facility specific SOPs or amendments are to be

attached, a statement must be attached specifying that there are none. Refer to the Appendices for any facility specific information required to support this SOP.

17.4. Documentation and Record Management

The preparation benchsheet should, at a minimum, include the following information:

- Preparation date, analyst name, matrix, prep type (ICP or GFAA), SOP reference.
- Sample ID, initial weight/volume and final weight/volume.
- Standards Documentation (source, lot, prep date, volume added).
- Analyst Signature.
- Reviewer's Signature and date.

Figure 1. **Soil Sample Preparation (Section 11.10)**

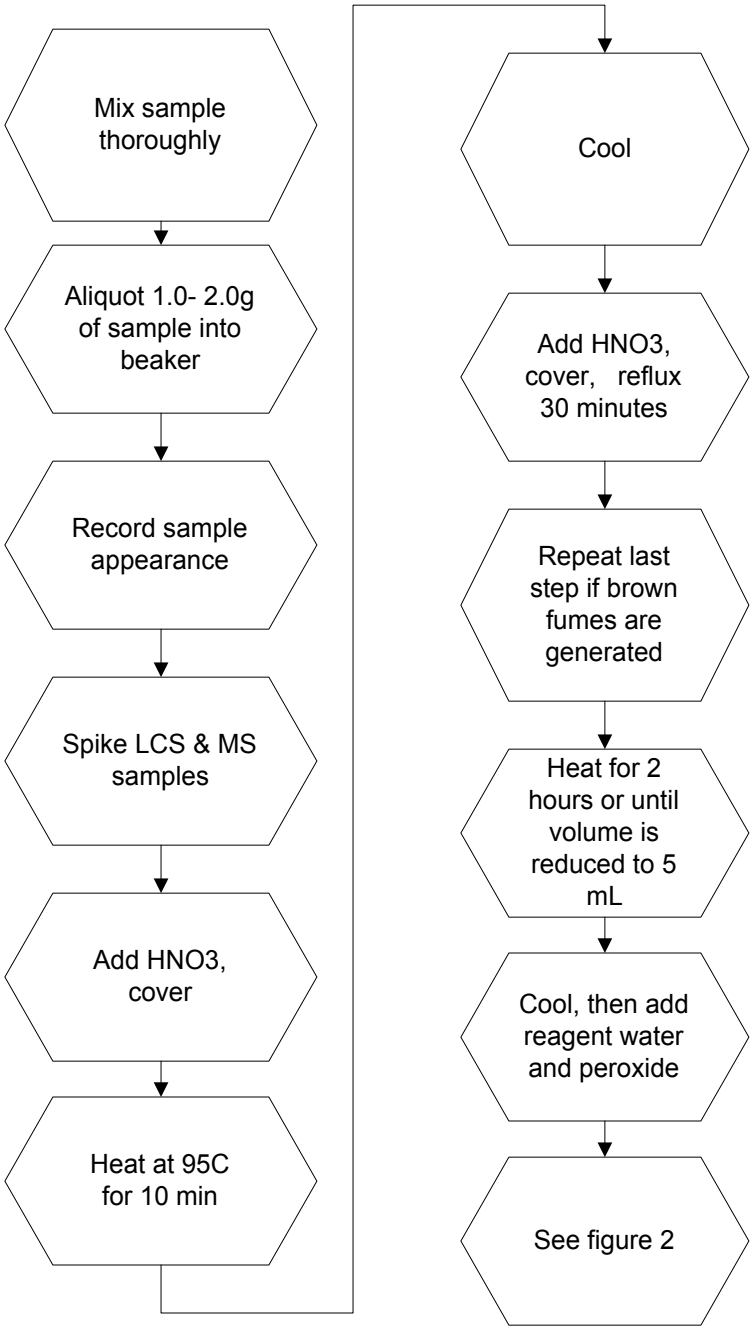
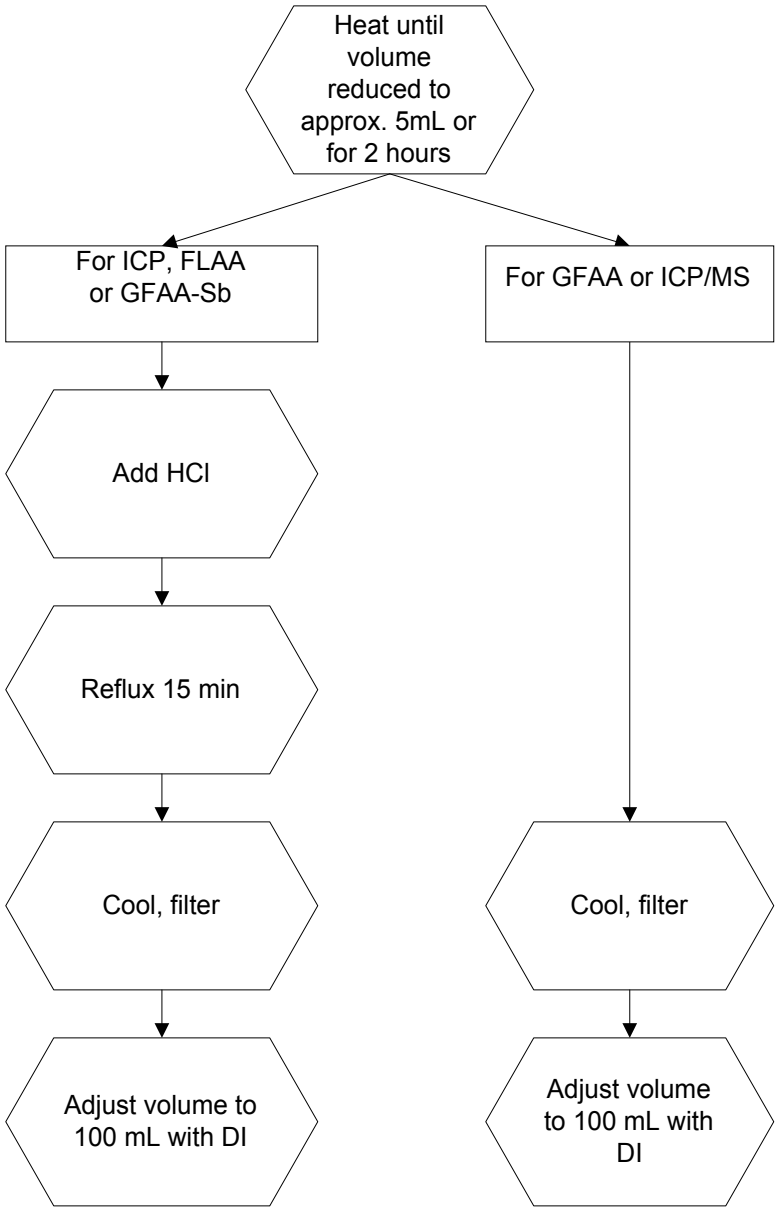


Figure 2. **Soil Sample Preparation (continued)**



APPENDIX A

TABLES

TABLE I. Method 3050A Approved Analyte List

ELEMENT	Symbol	CAS Number
Aluminum	Al	7429-90-5
Antimony *	Sb	7440-36-0
Arsenic	As	7440-38-2
Barium	Ba	7440-39-3
Beryllium	Be	7440-41-7
Cadmium	Cd	7440-43-9
Calcium	Ca	7440-70-2
Chromium	Cr	7440-47-3
Cobalt	Co	7440-48-4
Copper	Cu	7440-50-8
Iron	Fe	7439-89-6
Lead	Pb	7439-92-1
Magnesium	Mg	7439-95-4
Manganese	Mn	7439-96-5
Molybdenum	Mo	7439-98-7
Nickel	Ni	7440-02-0
Osmium	Os	7440-04-2
Potassium	K	7440-09-7
Selenium	Se	7782-49-2
Silver	Ag	7440-22-4
Sodium	Na	7440-23-5
Thallium	Tl	7440-28-0
Vanadium	V	7440-62-2
Zinc	Zn	7440-66-6

TABLE II. ICP and FLAA Soil Matrix Spike and Aqueous LCS Levels

ELEMENT	Working LCS/MS Standard (mg/L)	Aqueous LCS/MS Level* (ug/L)	Soil MS Level ** (mg/Kg)
Aluminum	200	2000	200
Antimony	50	500	50
Arsenic	200	2000	200
Barium	200	2000	200
Beryllium	5	50	5
Cadmium	5	50	5
Calcium	5000	50000	5000
Chromium	20	200	20
Cobalt	50	500	50
Copper	25	250	25
Iron	100	1000	100
Lead	50	500	50
Lithium	100	1000	100
Magnesium	5000	50000	5000
Manganese	50	500	50
Molybdenum	100	1000	100
Nickel	50	500	50
Phosphorous	1000	10000	1000
Potassium	5000	50000	5000
Selenium	200	2000	200
Silver	5	50	5
Sodium	5000	50000	5000
Strontium	100	1000	100
Thallium	200	2000	200
Vanadium	50	500	50
Zinc	50	500	50
Boron	100	1000	100
Silica	1000	10000	1000
Tin	200	2000	200
Titanium	100	1000	100

* Levels shown indicate the spike concentration in the final digestate of the aqueous LCS or matrix spike based on the addition of 1.0 mL working spike (7.3) to 100 mL of sample.

** Final soil spike concentration based on the addition of 1.0 mL working spike (7.3) to 1.0 g of sample/100 mL final volume (assumes 100% solids).

TABLE III. GFAA Soil Matrix Spike and Aqueous LCS Spike Levels

ELEMENT	Stock LCS/MS Standard (mg/L)	Working LCS/MS Standard (ug/L)	Aqueous LCS/ MS Level * (ug/L)	Soil MS Level** (mg/Kg)
Arsenic	400	4000	40	4
Selenium	400	4000	40	4
Lead	400	4000	40	4
Thallium	400	4000	40	4
Antimony	400	4000	40	4
Cadmium	40	400	4	0.4
Chromium	100	1000	10	1
Silver	50	500	5	0.5

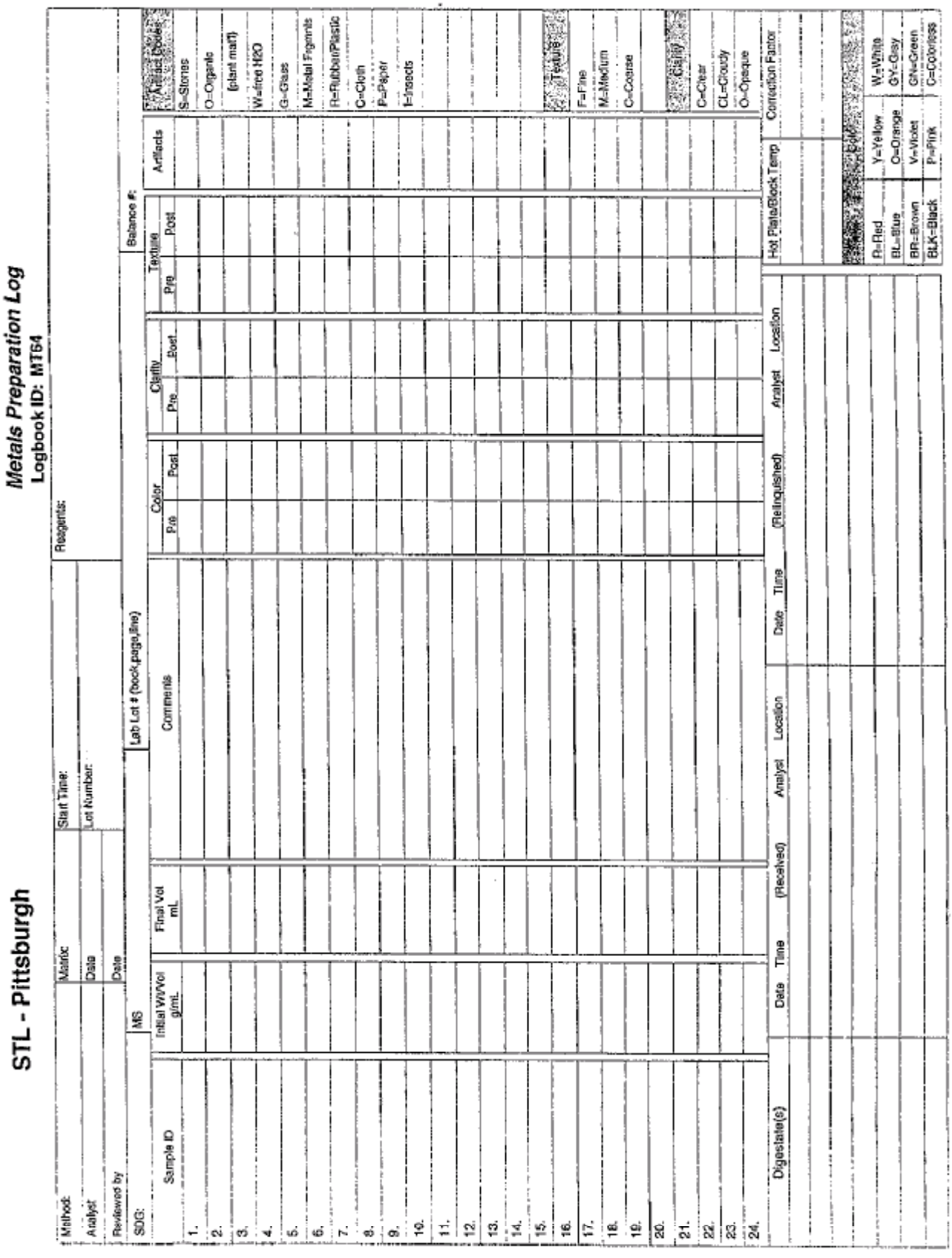
* Levels shown indicate the spike concentration in the final digestate of the aqueous LCS or matrix spike based on the addition of 1.0 mL working spike (7.4) to 100 mL of sample.

** Final soil spike concentration based on the addition of 1.0 mL working spike (7.4) to 1.0 g of sample/100 mL final volume (assumes 100% solids).

TABLE IV. Summary Of Quality Control Requirements

QC PARAMETER	FREQUENCY	ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA	CORRECTIVE ACTION
Method Blank	One per sample preparation batch of up to 20 samples.	Refer to determinative SOPs: CORP-MT-0001 CORP-MT-0003	Redigest and reanalyze samples.
Laboratory Control Sample (LCS)	One per sample preparation batch of up to 20 samples.	Refer to determinative SOPs: CORP-MT-0001 CORP-MT-0003	Redigest and reanalyze all samples associated with the LCS.
Matrix Spike	One per sample preparation batch of up to 20 samples.	Refer to determinative SOPs: CORP-MT-0001 CORP-MT-0003	Reprep not required unless preparation error suspected.
Matrix Spike Duplicate	See Matrix Spike	Refer to determinative SOPs: CORP-MT-0001 CORP-MT-0003	See Corrective Action for Matrix Spike.

APPENDIX B - STL METALS PREPARATION BENCHSHEET



APPENDIX C

CONTAMINATION CONTROL GUIDELINES

APPENDIX C. CONTAMINATION CONTROL GUIDELINES

The following procedures are strongly recommended to prevent contamination:

All work areas used to prepare standards and spikes should be cleaned before and after each use.

All glassware should be washed with detergent and tap water and rinsed with 1:1 nitric acid followed by deionized water.

Proper laboratory housekeeping is essential in the reduction of contamination in the metals laboratory. All work areas must be kept scrupulously clean.

Powdered or Latex Gloves must not be used in the metals laboratory since the powder contains silica and zinc, as well as other metallic analytes. Only vinyl or nitrile gloves should be used in the metals laboratory.

Glassware should be periodically checked for cracks and etches and discarded if found. Etched glassware can cause cross contamination of any metallic analytes.

Autosampler trays should be covered to reduce the possibility of contamination. Trace levels of elements being analyzed in the samples can be easily contaminated by dust particles in the laboratory.

The following are helpful hints in the identification of the source of contaminants:

Reagents or standards can contain contaminants or be contaminated with the improper use of a pipette.

Improper cleaning of glassware can cause contamination.

Separate glassware if an unusually high sample is analyzed and soak with sulfuric acid prior to routine cleaning.

STL STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

TITLE: INDUCTIVELY COUPLED PLASMA-ATOMIC EMISSION SPECTROSCOPY, SPECTROMETRIC METHOD FOR TRACE ELEMENT ANALYSES, SW-846 METHOD 6010B AND EPA METHOD 200.7

(SUPERSEDES: REVISION 2)

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Director, Quality Assurance

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Director, Environmental Health and Safety

Approved by: _____
Management

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1. SCOPE AND APPLICATION

1.1. This procedure describes the analysis of trace elements including metals in solution by Inductively Coupled Plasma -Atomic Emission Spectroscopy (ICP-AES) using SW-846 Method 6010B and EPA Method 200.7 . Table I of Appendix A lists the elements appropriate for analysis by Methods 6010B and 200.7. Additional elements may be analyzed under Methods 6010B and 200.7 provided that the method performance criteria presented in Section 13.0 are met.

1.2. ICP analysis provides for the determination of metal concentrations over several orders of magnitude. Detection limits, sensitivity and optimum concentration ranges of the metals will vary with the matrices and instrumentation used. For instance, in comparison to conventional ICP technique, ICP-Trace can achieve detection levels comparable to those determined using the graphite furnace atomic absorption spectroscopy (GFAAS) technique.

1.3. Method 6010B is applicable to the determination of dissolved, suspended, total recoverable and total elements in ground water, aqueous samples, soils, sludges, wastes, sediments, and TCLP, EP and other leachates/extracts. All matrices require digestion prior to analysis with the exception of analyses for dissolved metals in filtered and acidified aqueous samples. Although digestion is not specifically required by the method, some clients and regulators may require digestion of **dissolved samples** and this must be clarified and documented before project initiation. Silver concentrations must be below 2.0 mg/L in aqueous samples and 100 mg/kg in solid matrix samples. Precipitation may occur in samples where silver concentrations exceed these levels and lead to the generation of erroneous data.

1.4. Method 200.7 is applicable to the determination of dissolved, suspended, total recoverable, and total elements in water, waste water, and solid wastes. All matrices require digestion prior to analysis with the exception of analyses for dissolved metals in filtered and acidified aqueous samples if the criteria in Section 11.1 are met. Silver concentrations must be below 0.1 mg/L in aqueous samples and 50 mg/kg in solid matrix samples.

1.5. State-specific requirements may take precedence over this SOP for drinking water sample analyses

2. SUMMARY OF METHOD

2.1. This method describes a technique for the determination of multi elements in solution using sequential or simultaneous optical systems and axial or radial viewing of the plasma. The basis of the method is the measurement of atomic emission by an optical spectroscopic technique. Samples are nebulized and the aerosol that is produced is transported to the plasma torch where excitation occurs. Characteristic atomic-line

emission spectra are produced by a radio frequency inductively coupled plasma (ICP). The spectra are dispersed by a grating spectrometer and the intensities of the emission lines are monitored by photomultiplier tubes. The photocurrents from the photomultiplier tubes are processed and controlled by a computer system. A background correction technique is required to compensate for variable background contribution to the determination of trace elements. Background must be measured adjacent to analyte lines during analysis. The position selected for the background intensity measurement, on either or both sides of the analytical line, will be determined by the complexity of the spectrum adjacent to the analyte line. The position used must be free of spectral interferences and reflect the same change in background intensity as occurs at the analyte wavelength measured. Background correction is not required in cases of line broadening where a background correction measurement would actually degrade the analytical result. The possibility of additional interferences should also be recognized and appropriate actions taken. Alternatively, multivariate calibration methods may be chosen for which point selection for background correction is superfluous since whole spectral regions are processed.

2.2. Refer to the appropriate SOPs for details on sample preparation methods.

3. DEFINITIONS

3.1. Dissolved Metals: Those elements which pass through a 0.45 um membrane. (Sample is acidified after filtration).

3.2. Suspended Metals: Those elements which are retained by a 0.45 um membrane.

3.3. Total Metals: The concentration determined on an unfiltered sample following vigorous digestion.

3.4. Total Recoverable Metals: The concentration determined on an unfiltered sample following treatment with hot, dilute mineral acid.

4. INTERFERENCES

4.1. Spectral, physical and chemical interference effects may contribute to inaccuracies in the determinations of trace elements by ICP. Spectral interferences are caused by:

- Overlap of a spectral line from another element.
- Unresolved overlap of molecular band spectra.
- Background contribution from continuous or recombination phenomena.
- Stray light from the line emission of high concentration elements.

4.1.1. A background correction technique is required to compensate for variable background contribution to the determination of trace elements. Background correction is not required in cases where a background corrective measurement would actually degrade the analytical result.

4.1.2. Inter-element correction factors (IECs) are necessary to compensate for spectral overlap. Inter-element interferences occur when elements in the sample emit radiation at wavelengths so close to that of the analyte that they contribute significant intensity to the analyte channel. If such conditions exist, the intensity contributed by the matrix elements will cause an excessively high (or sometimes low) concentration to be reported for the analyte. Inter-element corrections IECs must be applied to the analyte to remove the effects of these unwanted emissions.

4.1.3. Physical interferences are generally considered to be effects associated with sample transport, nebulization and conversion within the plasma. These interferences may result in differences between instrument responses for the sample and the calibration standards. Physical interferences may occur in the transfer of solution to the nebulizer (e.g., viscosity effects), at the point of aerosol formation and transport to the plasma (e.g., surface tension) or during excitation and ionization processes within the plasma itself. Changes in viscosity and surface tension can cause significant inaccuracies, especially in samples containing high dissolved solids or high acid concentrations. If physical interferences are present, dilution of the sample, use of a peristaltic pump, mass flow controller, use of an internal standard and/or use of a high solids nebulizer can reduce the effect.

4.1.4. Chemical interferences are characterized by molecular compound formation, ionization effects and solute vaporization effects. Normally these effects are not significant with the ICP technique but if observed can be minimized by buffering the sample, matrix matching or standard addition procedures.

5. SAFETY

5.1. Procedures shall be carried out in a manner that protects the health and safety of all STL associates.

5.2. Eye protection that satisfies ANSI Z87.1 (as per the Chemical Hygiene Plan), laboratory coat, and appropriate gloves must be worn while samples, standards, solvents, and reagents are being handled. Disposable gloves that have been contaminated will be removed and discarded; other gloves will be cleaned immediately.

5.3. The health and safety hazards of many of the chemicals used in this procedure have not been fully defined. Additional health and safety information can be obtained from the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) maintained in the laboratory.

5.3.1. The following materials are known to be **corrosive**:

sulfuric acid, hydrochloric acid, nitric acid and hydrofluoric acid. (NOTE: sulfuric and hydrofluoric acids are used in cleaning the ICP torch and hydrofluoric acid is also commonly used in air toxics preparations.)

5.3.2. The following materials are known to be **oxidizing agents**:

nitric acid and hydrogen peroxide.

5.3.3. The plasma emits strong UV light and is harmful to vision. **NOTE**: **AVOID looking directly at the plasma**.

5.3.4. The RF generator produces strong radio frequency waves, most of which are unshielded. People with pacemakers should not go near the instrument while in operation.

5.4. Exposure to chemicals must be maintained **as low as reasonably achievable**, therefore, unless they are known to be non-hazardous, all samples should be opened, transferred and prepared in a fume hood, or under other means of mechanical ventilation. Metals digestates can be processed outside of a fume hood. Solvent and waste containers will be kept closed unless transfers are being made.

5.5. The preparation of standards and reagents will be conducted in a fume hood or well ventilated area.

5.6. All work must be stopped in the event of a known or potential compromise to the health and safety of a STL associate. The situation must be reported **immediately** to a laboratory supervisor.

5.7. The use of hydrofluoric acid requires special safety precautions. Consult the facility EH&S Manager and laboratory supervisor for guidance.

6. EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

6.1. Inductively Coupled Plasma Atomic Emission Spectrometer equipped with autosampler and background correction.

6.2. Radio Frequency Generator.

6.3. Argon gas supply, welding grade or equivalent.

6.4. Coolflow or appropriate water cooling device.

6.5. Peristaltic Pump.

6.6. Calibrated automatic pipettes or Class A glass volumetric pipettes.

6.7. Class A volumetric flasks.

6.8. Autosampler tubes.

7. REAGENTS AND STANDARDS

7.1. Intermediate standards are purchased as custom STL multi-element mixes or as single-element solutions. All standards must be stored in FEP fluorocarbon or unused polyethylene or polypropylene bottles. Intermediate standard solutions must be replaced prior to the expiration date provided by the manufacturer. If no expiration date is provided, the intermediate solutions may be used for up to one year and must be replaced sooner if verification from an independent source indicates a problem. Expiration dates can be extended provided that the acceptance criteria described in laboratory-specific SOPs are met.

7.2. Working calibration and calibration verification solutions may be used for up to 3 months and must be replaced sooner if verification from an independent source indicates a problem. Standards should be prepared in a matrix of 5% hydrochloric and 5% nitric acids. An exception to this is in the event the Trace ICP is utilized without the internal standard. In this case, the standard acid matrix must be matched to the final preparation matrix as listed in Section 11.10.

7.3. Refer to Tables III, IV, IVA, V and VI (Appendix A) for details regarding the working standard concentrations for calibration, calibration verification, interference correction and spiking solutions.

7.4. Concentrated nitric acid (HNO_3), trace metal grade or better.

7.5. Concentrated hydrochloric acid (HCl), trace metal grade or better.

7.6. Reagent water must be produced by a Millipore DI system or equivalent. Reagent water must be free of the analytes of interest as demonstrated through the analysis of method blanks.

8. SAMPLE COLLECTION, PRESERVATION AND STORAGE

8.1. Sample holding times for metals are six months from time of collection to the time of analysis.

8.2. Aqueous samples are preserved with nitric acid to a pH of <2 and may be stored in either plastic or glass. If boron or silica are to be determined, plastic containers are preferred. Refrigeration is not required. Preservation must be verified prior to analysis. For samples that will be analyzed by Method 200.7 for compliance with Safe Drinking Water regulations, the samples must be held for a minimum of 16 hours prior to verifying the pH.

8.3. Soil samples do not require preservation but must be stored at 4°C ± 2° until the time of preparation .

9. QUALITY CONTROL

Table VII (Appendix A) provides a summary of quality control requirements including type, frequency, acceptance criteria and corrective action.

9.1. Initial Demonstration of Capability

Prior to analysis of any analyte using either Method 200.7 or Method 6010B, the following requirements must be met.

9.1.1. Instrument Detection Limit (IDL) - The IDL for each analyte must be determined for each analyte wavelength used on each instrument. The IDL must be determined annually. If the instrument is adjusted in anyway that may affect the IDL, the IDL for that instrument must be redetermined. The IDL shall be determined by multiplying by 3, the standard deviation obtained from the analysis of a standard solution (each analyte in reagent water) at a concentration 3x - 5x the previously determined IDL, with seven consecutive measurements. Each measurement must be performed as though it were a separate analytical sample (i.e., each measurement must be followed by a rinse and/or any other procedure performed between the analysis of separate samples). The result of the IDL determination must be below the STL reporting limit. The CLP IDL procedure can be used for this method.

9.1.2. Method Detection Limit (MDL) - An MDL must be determined for each analyte prior to the analysis of any client samples. The MDL is determined using seven replicates of reagent water, spiked with all the analytes of interest, that have been carried through the entire analytical procedure. MDLs must be redetermined on an annual basis in accordance with 40 CFR Part 136 Appendix B requirements as detailed in STL QA Policy QA-005. The spike level must be between the calculated MDL and 10X the MDL to be considered valid. The result of the MDL determination must be below the STL reporting limit (RL). MDL studies for the determination of metals in soil need not be performed; an appropriate soil MDL may be computed from the experimentally determined MDL for metals in aqueous solution.

9.1.3. Linear Range Verification (LR) - The linear range must be determined on an

annual basis for each analyte wavelength used on each instrument. The linear range is the concentration above which results cannot be reported without dilution of the sample. The standards used to define the linear range limit must be analyzed during a routine analytical run. For the **initial** determination of the upper limit of the linear dynamic range (LDR) for each wavelength, determine the signal responses from a minimum of three to five different concentration standards across the estimated range. One standard should be near the upper limit of the estimated range. The concentration measured at the LDR must be no more than 10% less than the expected level extrapolated from lower standards. If the instrument is adjusted in any way that may affect the LRs, new dynamic ranges must be determined. The LR data must be documented and kept on file.

9.1.4. Background Correction Points - To determine the appropriate location for off-line background correction when establishing methods, the user must scan the area on either side adjacent to the wavelength and record the apparent emission intensity from all other method analytes. This spectral information must be documented and kept on file. The location selected for background correction must be either free of off-line interelement spectral interference or a computer routine must be used for automatic correction on all determinations. Tests to determine spectral interference must be done using analyte concentrations that will adequately describe the interference. Background correction points must be set prior to determining IECs. Refer to the facility-specific instrument operation SOP and ICP instrument manual for specific procedures to be used in setting background correction points.

9.1.5. Inter-element Corrections (IECs) - ICP interelement correction factors must be determined prior to the analysis of samples and every six months thereafter. If the instrument is adjusted in any way that may affect the IECs, the IECs must be redetermined. When initially determining IECs for an instrument, wavelength scans must be performed to ensure that solutions in use are free from contaminants. If an IEC varies significantly from the previously determined IEC then the possibility of contamination should be investigated. The purity of the IEC check solution can be verified by using a standard from a second source or an alternate method (i.e., GFAA or ICP-MS). Published wavelength tables (e.g. MIT tables, Inductively Coupled Plasma-Atomic Spectroscopy: Prominent Lines) can also be consulted to evaluate the validity of the IECs. Refer to the facility specific instrument operation SOP and instrument manufacturer's recommendations for specific procedures to be used in setting IECs. An IEC must be established to compensate for any interelement interference which results in a false analyte signal greater than $\pm$ the RL as defined in Tables I, IA or II. To determine IECs, run a single element standard at the established linear range. To calculate an IEC, divide the observed concentration of the analyte by the observed concentration of the "interfering element."

Note: Trace ICP IECs are more sensitive to small changes in the plasma and instrument setup conditions. Adjustments in the IECs will be required on a more frequent basis for the Trace as reflected by the ICSA response.

9.1.6. Rinse Time Determination - Rinse times must be determined annually. To determine the appropriate rinse time for a particular ICP system, the linear range verification standard (see 9.1.3) should be aspirated as a regular sample followed by the analysis of a series of rinse blanks. The length of time required to reduce the analyte signals to < RL will define the rinse time for a particular ICP system. For some analytes it may be impractical to set the rinse time based on the linear range standard result (i.e., analyte not typically detected in environmental samples at that level and an excessive rinse time would be required at the linear range level). Until the required rinse time is established, the method recommends a rinse period of at least 60 seconds between samples and standards. If a memory effect is suspected, the sample must be reanalyzed after a rinse period of sufficient length. Rinse time studies can be conducted at additional concentration levels. These additional studies must be documented and kept on file, if a concentration other than the linear range level is used to set the rinse time. The concentration levels used to establish the rinse time must be taken into consideration when reviewing the data.

9.2. Method Blank (MB) - One method blank must be processed with each preparation batch. The method blank consists of reagent water containing all reagents specific to the method that is carried through the entire analytical procedure, including preparation and analysis. The method blank is used to identify any system and process interferences or contamination of the analytical system that may lead to the reporting of elevated analyte concentrations or false positive data. The method blank should not contain any analyte of interest at or above the reporting limit (exception: common laboratory contaminants, see below) or at or above 5% of the measured concentration of that analyte in associated samples, whichever is higher (sample result must be a minimum of 20x higher than the blank contamination level).

- If the analyte is a common laboratory contaminant (copper, iron, lead (Trace only) or zinc) the data may be reported with qualifiers if the concentration of the analyte in the method blank is less than two times the RL. **Such action must be taken in consultation with the client and must be addressed in the project narrative.**

- Repreparation and reanalysis of all samples associated with an unacceptable method blank is required when reportable concentrations are determined in the samples (see exception noted above).

- If there is no analyte greater than the RL in the samples associated with an unacceptable method blank, the data may be reported with qualifiers. **Such**

action must be taken in consultation with the client and must be addressed in the project narrative.

- If the above criteria are not met and reanalysis is not possible, then the sample data must be qualified. **This anomaly must be addressed in the project narrative and the client must be notified.**

- For dissolved metals samples which have not been digested, a CCB result is reported as the method blank. The CCB run immediately prior to the start of the dissolved sample analyses must be used for this purpose. No more than 20 samples can be associated with one CCB.

9.3. Laboratory Control Sample (LCS) - One aqueous LCS must be processed with each preparation batch. The LCS must contain all analytes of interest and must be carried through the entire analytical procedure. Aqueous LCS spike levels are provided in Table III (Appendix A). The LCS is used to monitor the accuracy of the analytical process. On-going monitoring of the LCS results provides evidence that the laboratory is performing the method within acceptable accuracy and precision guidelines.

- If any analyte is outside established control limits the system is out of control and corrective action must occur. Until in-house control limits are established, for method 6010B, a control limit of 80 - 120% (85-115% for 200.7) recovery must be applied.

- In the event that an MS/MSD analysis is not possible a Laboratory Control Sample Duplicate (LCSD) must be analyzed. The RPD of the LCS and LCSD must be compared to the matrix spike RPD limits.

- In the instance where the LCS recovery is greater than 120% (115% for 200.7) and the sample results are < RL, the data may be reported with qualifiers. **Such action must be taken in consultation with the client and must be addressed in the report narrative.**

- Corrective action will be repreparation and reanalysis of the batch unless the client agrees that other corrective action is acceptable.

- For dissolved metals samples which have not been digested, a CCV result is reported as the LCS. The CCV run immediately prior to the start of the dissolved sample analyses must be used for this purpose. No more than 20 samples can be associated with one CCV.

9.4. Matrix Spike/Matrix Spike Duplicate (MS/MSD) - One MS/MSD pair must be processed for each preparation batch. A matrix spike (MS) is a field sample to which known concentrations of target analytes have been added. A matrix spike duplicate (MSD) is a second aliquot of the same sample (spiked identically as the MS) prepared

and analyzed along with the sample and matrix spike. Some client specific data quality objectives (DQO's) may require the use of sample duplicates in place of or in addition to MS/MSDs. The MS/MSD results are used to determine the effect of a matrix on the precision and accuracy of the analytical process. Due to the potential variability of the matrix of each sample, these results may have immediate bearing only on the specific sample spiked. Samples identified as field blanks cannot be used for MS/MSD analysis. Spiking levels are provided in Tables III and VI (Appendix A).

- If any analyte recovery or RPD falls outside the acceptance range, the recovery of that analyte must be in control for the LCS. For both methods 200.7 and 6010B, control limits of 75 - 125% recovery and 20% RPD or historical acceptance criteria must be applied to the MS/MSD. If the LCS recovery is within limits, then the laboratory operation is in control and the results may be accepted. If the recovery of the LCS is outside limits corrective action must be taken. Corrective action will include repreparation and reanalysis of the batch. MS/MSD results which fall outside the control limits must be addressed in the narrative.

- If the native analyte concentration in the MS/MSD exceeds 4x the spike level for that analyte, the recovery data are reported as NC (i.e., not calculated). If the reporting software does not have the ability to report NC then the actual recovery must be reported and narrated as follows: "Results outside of limits do not necessarily reflect poor method performance in the matrix due to high analyte concentrations in the sample relative to the spike level."

- If an MS/MSD is not possible due to limited sample volume then a laboratory control sample duplicate (LCSD) should be analyzed. The RPD of the LCS and LCSD must be compared to the matrix spike RPD limits.

- For dissolved metals samples which have not been digested, a MS/MSD must be performed per batch of up to 20 samples by spiking two aliquots of the sample at the levels specified in Table III (Appendix A).

9.5. Dilution test – A dilution test is performed to determine whether significant physical or chemical interferences exist due to the sample matrix. One sample per preparation batch must be processed as a dilution test. The test is performed by running a sample at a 5x (1:4) dilution. Samples identified as field blanks cannot be used for dilution tests. The results of the diluted sample, after correction for dilution, should agree within 10% of the original sample determination when the original sample concentration is greater than 50x the IDL. If the results are not within 10%, the possibility of chemical or physical interference exists.

9.6. Initial Calibration Verification (ICV/ICB) - Calibration accuracy is verified by analyzing a second source standard (ICV). For analyses conducted under Method 200.7, the ICV result must fall within 5% of the true value for that solution with relative standard deviation <3% from replicate (minimum of two) exposures. For

Method 6010B, the ICV must fall within 10% of the true value for that solution with relative standard deviation <5% from replicate (minimum of two) exposures. An ICB is analyzed immediately following the ICV to monitor low level accuracy and system cleanliness. The ICB result must fall within +/- the RL from zero. If either the ICV or ICB fail to meet criteria, the analysis should be terminated, the problem corrected, the instrument recalibrated and the calibration reverified. (See Section 11.11 or 11.12 for required run sequence).

9.7. Continuing Calibration Verification (CCV/CCB) - Calibration accuracy is monitored throughout the analytical run through the analysis of a known standard after every 10 samples. The CCV is be a mid-range standard made from a dilution of the calibration standard. The CCV for both methods must fall within 10% of the true value for that solution with relative standard deviation <5% from replicate (minimum of two) exposures. A CCB is analyzed immediately following each CCV. (See Section 11.11 or 11.12 for required run sequence.) The CCB result must fall within +/- RL from zero. If the blank is less than 1/10 the concentration of the action level of interest, and no sample is within 10% of the action limit, reanalysis and recalibration are not required before continuation of the run. Sample results may only be reported when bracketed by valid CCV/CCB pairs. If a mid-run CCV or CCB fails, the analysis for the affected element must be terminated, the problem corrected, the instrument recalibrated, the calibration verified and the affected samples reanalyzed. (Refer to Section 11.13 for an illustration of the appropriate rerun sequence).

9.8. Interference Check Analysis (ICSA/ICSAB) - The validity of the interelement correction factors is demonstrated through the successful analysis of interference check solutions. The ICSA contains only interfering elements, the ICSAB contains analytes and interferents. Refer to Table V (Appendix A) for the details of ICSA and ICSAB composition. Custom STL multielement ICS solutions must be used. All analytes should be spiked into the ICSAB solution, therefore, if a non-routine analyte is required then it should be manually spiked into the ICSAB using a certified ultra high purity single element solution or custom lab-specific mix. If the ICP will display overcorrection as a negative number then the non-routine elements can be controlled from the ICSA as described in section 9.8.3. Elements known to be interferents on a required analyte must be included in the ICP run when that analyte is determined. Aluminum, iron, calcium and magnesium must always be included in all ICP runs.

9.8.1. The ICSA and ICSAB solutions must be run at the beginning of the run. (See Section 11.11 or 11.12 for required run sequence.)

9.8.2. The ICSAB results for the interferents must fall within 80 - 120% of the true value. If any ICSAB interferent result fails criteria, the analysis should be terminated, the problem corrected, the instrument recalibrated and the samples rerun.

9.8.3. ICSA results for the non-interfering elements with reporting limits ≤ 10 ug/L must fall within the STL guidelines of ± 2x RL from zero. ICSA results for the non-interfering elements with RLs> 10 µg/L must fall within the STL guidelines of ± 1x RL from zero. If the ICSA results for the non-interfering elements do not fall within +/- 2x RL (RL ≤10) or ± 1xRL (RL>10) from zero the field sample data must be evaluated as follows:

- If the non-interfering element concentration in the ICSA is the result of contamination versus a spectral interference, and this reason is documented, the field sample data can be accepted.
- If the affected element was not required then the sample data can be accepted.
- If the interfering elements are not present in the field sample at a concentration which would result in a false positive or negative result greater than +/- 2x RL from zero then the field sample data can be accepted.
- If the interfering element is present in the field sample at a level which would result in a false analyte signal greater than ± 2x RL from zero, the data can be accepted only if the concentration of the affected analyte in the field sample is more than 10x the analyte signal in the ICSA.
- If the data does not meet the above conditions then the IECs must be re-evaluated and corrected if necessary and the affected samples reanalyzed or the sample results manually corrected through application of the new IEC to the raw results. If the results are recalculated manually the calculations must be clearly documented on the raw data.

9.9. Method of Standard Addition (MSA) -This technique involves adding known amounts of standard to one or more aliquots of the processed sample solution. This technique compensates for a sample interferent that may enhance or depress the analyte signal, thus producing a different slope from that of the calibration standards. It will not correct for additive interferences which cause a baseline shift. Refer to Section 11.17 for additional information on when MSA is required as well as Appendix D for specific MSA requirements.

9.10. Quality Assurance/Project Summaries - Certain clients may require project- or program-specific QC which may supersede this SOP requirements. Quality Assurance Summaries (QASs) or equivalent documents providing project-specific requirements should be developed so that project staff clearly understand the special project requirements.

10. CALIBRATION AND STANDARDIZATION

10.1. Set up the instrument with the operating parameters recommended by the manufacturer. Allow the instrument to become thermally stable before beginning calibration (approximately 30 minutes of warm-up is required).

10.2. Profile and calibrate the instrument according to the instrument manufacturer's recommended procedures. Flush the system with the calibration blank between each standard or as the manufacturer recommends. The calibration curve must consist of a minimum of a blank and a standard. Refer to the facility-specific instrument SOP or ICP instrument manual for a detailed set up and operation protocols.

10.3. Calibration must be performed daily and each time the instrument is set up. Instrument runs may be continued over periods exceeding 24 hours as long as all calibration verification (CCV) and interference check QC criteria are met. The instrument standardization date and time must be included in the raw data.

10.4. Refer to Section 9.0 for calibration verification procedures, acceptance criteria and corresponding corrective actions.

11. PROCEDURE

11.1. For 200.7 analyses, dissolved (preserved) samples must be digested unless it can be documented that the sample meets all of the following criteria:

A. Visibly transparent with a turbidity measurement of 1 NTU or less.

B. Is of one liquid phase and free of particulate or suspended matter following acidification.

C. Is NOT being analyzed for silver.

11.2. A minimum of <u>two</u> <u>exposures</u> for each standard, field sample and QC sample is required. The average of the exposures is reported. For Trace ICP analyses, the results of the sum channel must be used for reporting.

11.3. Prior to calibration and between each sample/standard the system is rinsed with the calibration blank solution. The minimum rinse time between analytical samples is 60 seconds unless following the protocol outlined in 9.1.6 it can be demonstrated that a shorter rinse time may be used. Triton-X can be added to the rinse solution to facilitate the rinse process.

11.4. The use of an autosampler for all runs is strongly recommended.

11.5. The use of automated QC checks through the instrument software is highly recommended for all calibration verification samples (ICV,CCV), blanks

(ICB,CCB,PB), interference checks (ICSA,ICSAB) and field samples (linear range) to improve the data review process.

11.6. To facilitate the early identification of QC failures and samples requiring rerun it is strongly recommended that sample data be reviewed periodically throughout the run.

11.7. To facilitate the data review and reporting processes it is strongly recommended that all necessary dilutions be performed before closing out the instrument run.

11.8. For unattended overnight auto-runs it is strongly recommended that the frequency of ICSA/ICSAB analysis be increased to every 4 hours.

11.9. The use of an internal standard is recommended on the conventional, non-Trace ICPs as an alternative to using the method of standard additions. This technique is useful in overcoming matrix interferences especially in high solids matrices. However, for conventional ICP techniques, internal standards may not be necessary provided that one of the following is performed to minimize physical interferences: (1) peristaltic pump is used, (2) high solids nebulizer is used, or (3) high solids samples are diluted and reanalyzed.

11.10. The use of an internal standard is **required** on the Trace ICP unless the calibration and QC standards are matrix matched to each digestion procedure used as follows:

Preparation Method	% HNO_3	% HCl
CLP Aqueous	1	5
CLP Soil	5	2.5
SW846 3050	5	10
SW846 3005	2	5
SW846 3010	3	5

The following procedural guidelines must be followed when using an internal standard:

11.10.1. Typically used internal standards are: yttrium or scandium. (Note: Any element can be used that is not typically found in environmental samples at a high rate of occurrence.)

11.10.2. The internal standard (IS) must be added to every sample and standard at the

same concentration. It is recommended that the IS be added to each analytical sample automatically through use of a third pump channel and mixing coil. Internal standards should be added to blanks, samples and standards in a like manner, so that dilution effects resulting from the addition may be disregarded.

11.10.3. The concentration of the internal standard should be sufficiently high to obtain good precision in the measurement of the IS analyte used for data correction and to minimize the possibility of correction errors if the IS analyte is naturally present in the sample.

11.10.4. The internal standard raw intensity counts must be printed on the raw data.

11.10.5. The analyst must monitor the response of the internal standard throughout the sample analysis run. This information is used to detect potential problems and identify possible background contributions from the sample (i.e., natural occurrence of IS analyte).

11.10.5.1. If the internal standard counts fall within ±30% of the counts observed in the ICB then the data is acceptable.

11.10.5.2. If the internal standard counts in the field samples are more than ±30% higher than the expected level, the field samples must then be:

(1) Diluted and reanalyzed;

(2) The IS concentrations must be raised; or

(3) A different internal standard must be used.

.

11.11. The following analytical sequence must be used for Methods 6010B and 200.7:

Instrument Calibration
ICV
ICB
ICSA
ICSAB
8 samples
CCV
CCB
10 samples
CCV
CCB

Repeat sequence of up to 10 samples between CCV/CCB pairs as required to complete run
CCV
CCB

Refer to Quality Control Section 9.0 and Table VII (Appendix A) for Method 6010B and 200.7 quality control criteria.

11.12. Additional quality control analyses are necessary for analysis under the Contract Laboratory Program (CLP). If these are included then CLP, 6010 and 200.7 samples can be included in the same sequence. Refer to CORP-MT-002 for details.

11.13. Full method required QC must be available for each wavelength used in determining reported analyte results.

11.14. Guidelines are provided in the appendices on procedures to minimize contamination of samples and standards, preventive maintenance and troubleshooting.

11.15. All measurements must fall within the defined linear range where spectral interference correction factors are valid. Dilute and reanalyze all samples for required analytes that exceed the linear range or use an alternate wavelength for which QC data are established. If an interelement correction exists for an analyte which exceeds the linear range, the IEC may be inaccurately applied. Therefore, even if an overrange analyte may not be required to be reported for a sample, if that analyte is a interferent for any requested analyte in that sample, the sample must be diluted. Acid strength must be maintained in the dilution of samples.

11.16. For TCLP samples, full four-point MSA will be required if all of the following conditions are met:

1) recovery of the analyte in the matrix spike is not at least 50%,

2) the concentration of the analyte does not exceed the regulatory level, and,

3) the concentration of the analyte is within 20% of the regulatory level.

The reporting and regulatory limits for TCLP analyses as well as matrix spike levels are detailed in Table VI (Appendix A). Appendix E provides guidance on performing MSA analyses.

11.17. Any variation in procedure shall be completely documented using instrument run logs, maintenance logs, report narratives, a Nonconformance Memo, or an anomaly report and is approved by a Supervisor/Group Leader and QA Manager. If contractually required, the client shall be notified by the Project Manager.

11.18. Nonconformance documentation shall be filed in the project file.

11.19. Any unauthorized deviations from this procedure must also be documented as a nonconformance, with a cause and corrective action described.

12. DATA ANALYSIS AND CALCULATIONS

12.1. ICV percent recoveries are calculated according to the equation:

$$\%R = 100\left(\frac{Found(ICV)}{True(ICV)}\right)$$

12.2. CCV percent recoveries are calculated according to the equation:

$$\%R = 100\left(\frac{Found(CCV)}{True(CCV)}\right)$$

12.3. Matrix Spike Recoveries are calculated according to the following equation:

$$\%R = 100\left(\frac{SSR - SR}{SA}\right)$$

Where:
SSR = Spike Sample Result
SR = Sample Result
SA = Spike Added

12.4. The relative percent difference (RPD) of matrix spike/matrix spike duplicates are calculated according to the following equations:

$$RPD = 100\left[\frac{|MSD - MS|}{\left(\frac{MSD + MS}{2}\right)}\right]$$

Where:
MS = determined spiked sample concentration
MSD = determined matrix spike duplicate concentration

12.5. The final concentration for a digested aqueous sample is calculated as follows:

$$mg / L = \frac{C \times V1 \times D}{V2}$$

Where:
C = Concentration (mg/L) from instrument readout
D = Instrument dilution factor
V1 = Final volume in liters after sample preparation
V2 = Initial volume of sample digested in liters

12.6. The final concentration determined in digested solid samples when reported on a dry weight basis is calculated as follows:

$$mg / Kg, dry\ weight = \frac{C \times V \times D}{W \times S}$$

Where:
C = Concentration (mg/L) from instrument readout
D = Instrument dilution factor
V = Final volume in liters after sample preparation
W = Weight in Kg of wet sample digested
S = Percent solids/100

Note: A Percent Solids determination must be performed on a separate aliquot when dry weight concentrations are to be reported. If the results are to be reported on wet weight basis the "S" factor should be omitted from the above equation.

12.7. The LCS percent recovery is calculated according to the following equation:

$$\%R = 100\left(\frac{Found(LCS)}{True(LCS)}\right)$$

12.8. The dilution test percent difference for each component is calculated as follows:

$$\%Difference = \frac{|I - S|}{I} \times 100$$

Where:
I = Sample result (Instrument reading)
S = Dilution test result (Instrument reading × 5)

12.9. Appropriate factors must be applied to sample values if dilutions are performed.

12.10. Sample results should be reported with up to three significant figures in accordance with the STL significant figure policy.

13. METHOD PERFORMANCE

13.1. Each laboratory must have initial demonstration of performance data on file for each analyte of interest as described in Section 9.0.

13.2. Refer to Tables I, IA & II in Appendix A for the list of Method 6010B and 200.7 analytes as well as additional analytes that may be analyzed using this SOP.

13.3. Method performance is determined by the analysis of MS and MSD samples as well as method blanks and laboratory control samples. The MS or MSD recovery should fall within +/- 25 % and the MS/MSD should compare within 20% RPD or within the laboratory's historical acceptance limits. These criteria apply to analyte concentrations greater than or equal to 10xIDL. Method blanks must meet the criteria specified in Section 9.2. The laboratory control samples should recover within 20% (15% for 200.7) of the true value or within the laboratory's historical acceptance limits.

13.4. Training Qualification:

The group/team leader or the supervisor has the responsibility to ensure that this procedure is performed by an associate who has been properly trained in its use and has the required experience.

14. POLLUTION PREVENTION

14.1. This method does not contain any specific modifications that serve to minimize or prevent pollution.

15. WASTE MANAGEMENT

15.1. Waste generated in the procedure must be segregated and disposed of according to the facility hazardous waste procedures and per the local, state, and federal regulations. The Environmental Health and Safety Director should be contacted, if additional information is required.

15.2. Standards should be purchased and prepared in volumes consistent with laboratory use to minimize the volume of expired standards to be disposed.

16. REFERENCES

16.1. 40 CFR Part 136, Appendix B, 7-5-95, Determination of Method Detection Limits.

16.2. Test Methods for Evaluating Solid Waste , Physical/Chemical Methods, SW-846, 3rd Edition, Final Update III, Revision 2, December 1996. Method 6010B.

16.3. Determination of Metals and Trace Elements in Water and Wastes by Inductively Coupled Plasma-Atomic Emission Spectrometry, Revision 4.4, May 1994. Method 200.7.

16.4. CORP-MT-0002, Inductively Coupled Plasma-Atomic Emission Spectroscopy, Method 200.7 & CLP-M, SOW ILMO3.0.

16.5. QA-003, STL QC Program.

16.6. QA-004, Rounding and Significant Figures.

16.7. QA-005, Method Detection Limits.

17. MISCELLANEOUS (TABLES, APPENDICES, ETC.)

17.1. Modifications/Interpretations from reference method

17.1.1. Modifications/interpretations from <u>both</u> Methods 6010B and 200.7.

17.1.1.1. STL laboratories use mixed calibration standard solutions purchased from approved vendors instead of using individual mixes prepared in house as recommended by the subject methods.

17.1.1.2. The alternate run sequence presented in Section 11.12 is consistent with method requirements. Additional QC (i.e., ICSA) analyses were added to accommodate the CLP protocol requirements.

17.1.1.3. Methods 200.7 and 6010B state that if the correction routine is operating properly, the determined apparent analyte(s) concentration from analysis of each interference solution should fall within a specific concentration range around the calibration blank. In determining IECs, because of lack of definition clarification for "concentration range around the calibration blank," STL has adopted the procedure in EPA CLP ILMO4.0.

17.1.1.4. Section 8.5 of Method 6010B and Section 9.5 of Method 200.7 recommend that whenever a new or unusual matrix is encountered, a series of tests be performed prior to reporting concentration data for that analyte. The dilution test helps determine if a chemical or physical interference exists. Because STL laboratories receive no prior information from clients regarding when to expect a new or

unusual matrix, STL may select to perform a dilution test on one sample in each prep batch. According to the method, the post digestion spike (PDS) determines any potential matrix interferences. At STL labs, matrix interference is determined by evaluating data for the LCS and MS/MSD. STL requires documented, clear guidance when a new or unusual matrix will be received for a project and a request to perform the dilution test or PDS on a client-identified sample.

17.1.2. Modifications from Method 200.7.

17.1.2.1. Method 200.7 defines the IDL as the concentration equivalent to a signal, due to the analyte, which is equal to three times the standard deviation of a series of ten replicate measurements of the calibration blank signal at the same wavelength. STL labs utilize the CLP IDL definition as defined in Section 9.1.1 of this SOP.

17.1.2.2. The calibration blank is prepared in an acid matrix of 5% HNO_3/5% HCl instead of the specified 2% HNO_3/10% HCl matrix as the former matrix provides for improved performance relative to the wide variety of digestate acid matrices which result from the various EPA preparation protocols applied.

17.1.2.3. Method section 9.3.4 specifies that "Analysis of the IPC (ICSA/AB) solution immediately following calibration must verify that the instrument is within ± 5% of calibration with a relative standard deviation <3% from replicate integrations ≥ 4." STL uses a minimum of two exposures.

17.1.2.4. Section 7.12 of 200.7 indicates that the QCS (ICV) should be prepared at a concentration near 1 ppm. The ICV specified in this SOP accommodates the 1 ppm criteria for the majority of analytes. For the remaining analytes, this SOP specifies ICV concentrations which are appropriate to the range of calibration. The intent of the ICV, verification of calibration standard accuracy, is independent of the ICV concentration used.

17.1.2.5. The ICS criteria applied by this SOP differ from those stated in the method. Method 200.7 section 10.4 states that results should fall within the established control limits of 3 times the standard deviation of the calibration blank for that analyte. The control limits listed in this SOP are those applicable to the EPA designed solution.

17.1.2.6. Method 200.7 section 9.3.4 states the CCB should be less than the IDL, but > the lower 3-sigma control limit of the calibration blank. The intent of this requirement is to ensure that the calibration is not drifting at the low end. STL has adopted an absolute control limit of +/- RL from zero for calibration blank criteria. SOP section 9.7 provides the detailed corrective action criteria that must be followed.

17.1.3. Modifications from Method 6010B.

17.1.3.1. Chapter 1 of SW-846 states that the method blank should not contain any analyte of interest at or above the MDL. This SOP states that the method blank must not contain any analyte of interest at or above the reporting limit. Common lab contaminants are allowed up to two times the reporting limit in the blank following consultation with the client.

17.1.3.2. Method 6010B section 8.6.1.3 states that the results of the calibration blank are to agree within 3x the IDLIf not, repeat the analysis two or more times and average the results. If the average is not within three standard deviation of the background mean, terminate the analysis, correct the problem, recalibrate, and reanalyze the previous 10 samples. The intent of this requirement is to ensure that the calibration is not drifting at the low end. STL has adopted an absolute control limit of +/- RL from zero for calibration blank criteria. See SOP Section 9.7 for a detailed description of the required corrective action procedures.

17.2. Modifications from previous SOP

Refer to revision 1 of this SOP.

17.3. Facility-Specific SOPs

Each facility shall review and revise as appropriate this SOP to reflect any facility-specific requirementsIf no facility-specific amendments are required, the SOP can be adopted as is.

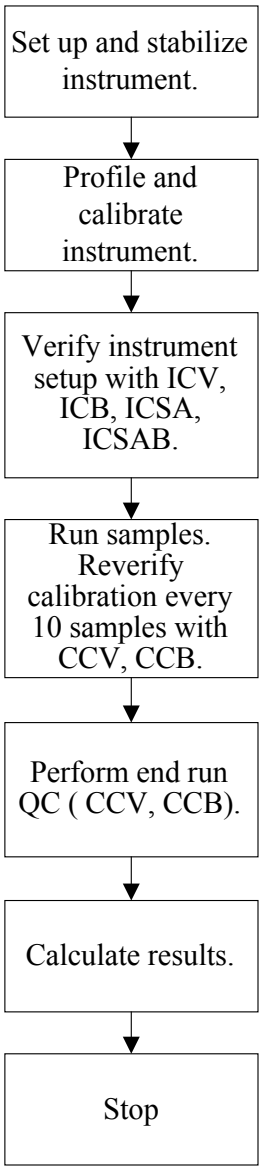
17.4. Documentation and Record Management

The following documentation comprises a complete ICP raw data package:

- Raw data (direct instrument printout).
- Relevant sample preparation benchsheets.

- Run log printout from instrument software where this option is available (TJA) or manually generated run log (i.e., Ward WSL printout).
- Data review checklist - See Appendix B.
- Standards documentation (including prep and expiration dates, source, and lot #).
- Nonconformance/anomaly documentation (if applicable).

17.5. Flow Diagram



APPENDIX A

TABLES

TABLE I. Method 200.7 and 6010B Target Analyte List

ELEMENT	Symbol	CAS #	6010B analyte	200.7 analyte	Reporting Limit (ug/L) Water	Reporting Limit (mg/kg) Soil
Aluminum	Al	7429-90-5	X	X	200	20
Antimony	Sb	7440-36-0	X	X	60	6
Arsenic	As	7440-38-2	X	X	300	30
Barium	Ba	7440-39-3	X	X	200	20
Beryllium	Be	7440-41-7	X	X	5.0	0.5
Boron	B	7440-42-8		X	200	20
Cadmium	Cd	7440-43-9	X	X	5.0	0.5
Calcium	Ca	7440-70-2	X	X	5000	500
Chromium	Cr	7440-47-3	X	X	10	1
Cobalt	Co	7440-48-4	X	X	50	5
Copper	Cu	7440-50-8	X	X	25	2.5
Iron	Fe	7439-89-6	X	X	100	10
Lead	Pb	7439-92-1	X	X	100	10
Lithium	Li	7439-93-2	X	X	50	5
Magnesium	Mg	7439-95-4	X	X	5000	500
Manganese	Mn	7439-96-5	X	X	15	1.5
Molybdenum	Mo	7439-98-7	X	X	40	4
Nickel	Ni	7440-02-0	X	X	40	4
Phosphorus	P	7723-14-0	X	X	300	30
Potassium	K	7440-09-7	X	X	5000	500
Selenium	Se	7782-49-2	X	X	250	25
Silicon	Si	7631-86-9		X	500	N/A
Silver	Ag	7440-22-4	X	X	10	1
Sodium	Na	7440-23-5	X	X	5000	500
Strontium	Sr	7440-24-6	X		50	5
Thallium	Tl	7440-28-0	X	X	2000	200
Vanadium	V	7440-62-2	X	X	50	5
Zinc	Zn	7440-66-6	X	X	20	2

TABLE IA. Method 200.7 and 6010B Trace ICP Target Analyte List

ELEMENT	Symbol	CAS #	Reporting Limit (ug/L) Water	Reporting Limit (mg/kg) Soil
Arsenic	As	7440-38-2	10	1.0
Lead	Pb	7439-92-1	3.0	0.3
Selenium	Se	7782-49-2	5.0	0.5
Thallium	Tl	7440-28-0	10	1.0
Antimony	Sb	7440-36-0	10	1.0
Cadmium	Cd	7440-43-9	2.0	0.2
Silver	Ag	7440-22-4	5.0	0.5
Chromium	Cr	7440-47-3	5.0	0.5

TABLE II. Non-Routine Analyte List

ELEMENT	Symbol	CAS #	Reporting Limit (ug/L) Water	Reporting Limit (mg/kg) Soil
Tin	Sn	7440-31-5	100	10
Titanium	Ti	7440-32-6	50	5
Bismuth	Bi	7440-06-99	200	20
Zirconium	Zr	7440-06-77	100	10
Tungsten	W	7440-03-37	500	50
Tellurium	Te	1349-48-09	500	50
Thorium	Th	7440-02-91	500	50
Uranium	U	7440-06-11	500	50
Palladium	Pd	7440-00-53	100	10

NOTE: Analysis of all elements listed may not be available at all STL facilities.

TABLE III. Matrix Spike and Aqueous Laboratory Control Sample Levels

ELEMENT	LCS Level (ug/L)	Matrix Spike Level (ug/L)
Aluminum	2000	2000
Antimony	500	500
Arsenic	2000	2000
Barium	2000	2000
Beryllium	50	50
Cadmium	50	50
Calcium	50000	50000
Chromium	200	200
Cobalt	500	500
Copper	250	250
Iron	1000	1000
Lead	500	500
Lithium	1000	1000
Magnesium	50000	50000
Manganese	500	500
Molybdenum	1000	1000
Nickel	500	500
Phosphorous	10000	10000
Potassium	50000	50000
Selenium	2000	2000
Silver	50	50
Sodium	50000	50000
Strontium	1000	1000
Thallium	2000	2000
Vanadium	500	500
Zinc	500	500
Boron	1000	1000
Silicon	10000	10000
Tin	2000	2000
Titanium	1000	1000
Bismuth	1000	1000
Zirconium	1000	1000
Tellurium	1000	1000
Thorium	1000	1000
Uranium	1000	1000
Tungsten	1000	1000
Palladium	1000	1000

TABLE IV. ICP Calibration and Calibration Verification Standards

Element	Calibration Level	RL (ug/L)	ICV (ug/L)	CCV (ug/L)
Aluminum	100000	200	25000	50000
Antimony	10000	60	1000	5000
Arsenic	10000	300	1000	5000
Barium	10000	200	1000	5000
Beryllium	10000	5	1000	5000
Cadmium	10000	5	1000	5000
Calcium	100000	5000	25000	50000
Chromium	10000	10	1000	5000
Cobalt	10000	50	1000	5000
Copper	10000	25	1000	5000
Iron	100000	100	25000	50000
Lead	10000	100	1000	5000
Lithium	10000	50	1000	5000
Magnesium	100000	5000	25000	50000
Manganese	10000	15	1000	5000
Molybdenum	10000	40	1000	5000
Nickel	10000	40	1000	5000
Phosphorous	10000	300	1000	5000
Potassium	100000	5000	25000	50000
Selenium	10000	250	1000	5000
Silver	2000	10	500	1000
Sodium	100000	5000	25000	50000
Strontium	10000	50	1000	5000
Thallium	20000	2000	5000	10000
Vanadium	10000	50	1000	5000
Zinc	10000	20	1000	5000
Boron	10000	200	1000	5000
Silicon	10000	500	1000	5000
Tin	10000	100	1000	5000
Titanium	10000	50	1000	5000
Bismuth	10000	200	1000	5000
Zirconium	10000	100	1000	5000
Tellurium	10000	500	1000	5000
Thorium	10000	500	1000	5000
Uranium	10000	500	1000	5000
Tungsten	10000	500	1000	5000
Palladium	10000	100	1000	5000

TABLE IVA. Trace ICP Calibration and Calibration Verification Standards

Element	Calibration Level	RL (ug/L)	ICV (ug/L)	CCV (ug/L)
Aluminum	50000	200	12500	25000
Antimony	1000	10	250	500
Arsenic	1000	10	250	500
Barium	4000	10	1000	2000
Beryllium	4000	5	1000	2000
Cadmium	1000	2	250	500
Calcium	100000	5000	25000	50000
Chromium	4000	5	1000	2000
Cobalt	4000	50	1000	2000
Copper	4000	25	1000	2000
Iron	50000	100	12500	25000
Lead	1000	3	250	500
Magnesium	100000	5000	25000	50000
Manganese	4000	15	1000	2000
Molybdenum	4000	40	1000	2000
Nickel	4000	40	1000	2000
Potassium	100000	5000	25000	50000
Selenium	1000	5	250	500
Silver	2000	5	500	1000
Sodium	100000	5000	25000	50000
Thallium	2000	10	500	1000
Vanadium	4000	50	1000	2000
Zinc	4000	20	1000	2000

TABLE V. Interference Check Sample Concentrations*

Element	ICSA (ug/L)	ICSAB (ug/L)
Aluminum	500000	500000
Antimony	-	1000
Arsenic	-	1000
Barium	-	500
Beryllium	-	500
Cadmium	-	1000
Calcium	500000	500000
Chromium	-	500
Cobalt	-	500
Copper	-	500
Iron	200000	200000
Lead	-	1000
Magnesium	500000	500000
Manganese	-	500
Molybdenum	-	1000
Nickel	-	1000
Potassium	-	10000
Selenium	-	1000
Silver	-	1000
Sodium	-	10000
Thallium	-	10000**
Vanadium	-	500
Zinc	-	1000
Tin	-	1000

* Custom STL solutions contain analytes common to all STL facilities. Non-routine elements not listed above should be spiked into the ICSAB at 1000 ug/L.

** Thallium level for Trace ICP should be at 1000 ug/L.

TABLE VI. TCLP Reporting Limits, Regulatory Limits and Matrix Spike Levels

ELEMENT	Reporting Level (ug/L)	Regulatory Limit (ug/L)	Spike Level (ug/L)
Arsenic	500	5000	5000
Barium	10000	100000	50000
Cadmium	100	1000	1000
Chromium	500	5000	5000
Lead	500	5000	5000
Selenium	250	1000	1000
Silver	500	5000	1000

TABLE VII. Summary Of Quality Control Requirements

QC PARAMETER	FREQUENCY *	ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA	CORRECTIVE ACTION
Two-point Initial Calibration	Beginning of every analytical run, every 24 hours, whenever instrument is modified, or CCV criterion is not met	RSD between duplicate exposures ≤5%	Terminate analysis; Correct the problem; Prepare new standards; Recalibrate following system performance.
ICV	Beginning of every analytical run.	Method 200.7: 95 - 105 % recovery. Method 6010B: 90 - 110 % recovery.	Terminate analysis; Correct the problem; Recalibrate.
ICB	Beginning of every analytical run, immediately following the ICV.	The result must be within +/- RL from zero.	Terminate analysis; Correct the problem; Recalibrate.
CCV	Every 10 samples and at the end of the run.	Method 200.7 & 6010B: 90 - 110 % recovery.	Terminate analysis; Correct the problem; Recalibrate and rerun all samples not bracketed by acceptable CCV.
CCB	Immediately following each CCV.	The result must be within +/- RL from zero.	Terminate analysis; Correct the problem; Recalibrate and rerun all samples not bracketed by acceptable CCB.
ICSA	Beginning of every run	See Section 9.8.3	See Section 9.8.3.
ICSAB	Immediately following each ICSA.	Results must be within 80 - 120% recovery.	See Section 9.8.2.

* See Sections 11.11 and 11.12 for exact run sequence to be followed.

TABLE VII. Summary of Quality Control Requirements (Continued)

QC PARAMETER	FREQUENCY	ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA	CORRECTIVE ACTION
Dilution Test	One per prep batch.	For samples > 50x IDL, dilutions must agree within 10%.	Narrate the possibility of physical or chemical interference per client request.
Method Blank	One per sample preparation batch of up to 20 samples.	The result must be less than or equal to the RL. Common lab contaminants may be accepted up to 2x the RL after consultation with the client (See 9.2). Sample results greater than 10x the blank concentration are acceptable. Samples for which the contaminant is < RL may not require redigestion or reanalysis (see Section 9.2).	Redigest and reanalyze samples. Note exceptions under criteria section. See Section 9.2 for additional requirements.
Laboratory Control Sample (LCS)	One per sample preparation batch of up to 20 samples.	Aqueous LCS must be within 80 - 120% recovery or in-house control limits. (85-115% for 200.7) Samples for which the contaminant is < RL and the LCS results are > 120% (115% for 200.7) may not require redigestion or reanalysis (see Section 9.3)	Terminate analysis; Correct the problem; Redigest and reanalyze all samples associated with the LCS.

TABLE VII. Summary of Quality Control Requirements (Continued)

QC PARAMETER	FREQUENCY	ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA	CORRECTIVE ACTION
Matrix Spike	One per sample preparation batch of up to 20 samples.	75 - 125 % recovery or in-house control limits. I For TCLP See Section 11.17.	In the absence of client specific requirements, flag the data; no flag required if the sample level is > 4x the spike added. For TCLP see Section 11.17.
Matrix Spike Duplicate	See Matrix Spike	75 - 125 % recovery; RPD ≤ 20% .	See Corrective Action for Matrix Spike.

APPENDIX B

STL ICP DATA REVIEW CHECKLIST

STL ICP Data Review Checklist

Run/Project Information:

Run Date: _____ **Analyst:**_____ **Instrument:**_____
Prep Batches Run:_____

Circle Methods used: 6010B / 200.7: CORP-MT-0001 Rev 2
CLP ILMO3.0/4.0 : CORP-MT-0002 Rev 1

Review Items

A. Calibration/Instrument Run QC	Yes	No	N/A	2nd Level
1. Instrument calibrated per manufacturer's instructions and at SOP specified levels ?				
2. ICV/CCV analyzed at appropriate frequency and within control limits ? (6010B, CLP = 90 - 110%, 200.7 = 95 -105%[ICV])				
3. ICB/CCB analyzed at appropriate frequency and within +/- RL or +/- CRDL (CLP) ?				
4. CRI analyzed? (for CLP only)				
5. ICSA/ICSAB run at required frequency and within SOP limits ?				
B. Sample Results				
1. Were samples with concentrations > the linear range for any parameter diluted and reanalyzed ?				
2. All reported results bracketed by in control QC ?				
3. Sample analyses done within holding time ?				
C. Preparation/Matrix QC				
1. LCS done per prep batch and within QC limits ?				
2. Method blank done per prep batch and < RL or CRDL (CLP) ?				
3. MS run at required frequency and within limits ?				
4. MSD or DU run at required frequency and RPD within SOP limits ?				
5. Dilution Test done per prep batch (or per SDG for CLP) ?				
6. Post digest spike analyzed if required (CLP only) ?				
D. Other				
1. Are all nonconformances documented appropriately ?				
2. Current IDL/LR/IEC data on file ?				
3. Calculations checked for error ?				
4. Transcriptions checked for error ?				
5. All client/project specific requirements met ?				
6. Date/time of analysis verified as correct ?				

Analyst: _____ **Date:** _____
Comments:_____
_____
_____

2nd Level Reviewer : _____ **Date:** _____
Comments:_____
_____
_____

APPENDIX C

CROSS REFERENCE OF TERMS USED IN METHODS 6010B, 200.7, AND BY STL

CROSS REFERENCE OF TERMS COMMONLY USED IN METHODS EPA 200.7, SW6010B, AND STL INC. SOP

EPA 200.7	SW6010B	STL Inc. SOP
Calibration blank (CB)	Calibration blank	Initial and continuing calibration blanks (ICB/CCB)
Dilution test	Dilution test	Dilution Test
Instrument detection limit (IDL)	Instrument detection limit (IDL)	Instrument detection limit (IDL)
Instrument performance check (IPC)	Continuing calibration verification (CCV)	Continuing calibration verification (CCV)
Internal standard	Internal standard	Internal standard (IS)
Laboratory duplicates	n/a	n/a
Laboratory fortified blank (LFB)	n/a	Laboratory control sample (LCS)
Laboratory fortified sample matrix (LFM)	Matrix spike and matrix spike duplicate (MS/MSD)	Matrix spike and matrix spike duplicate (MS/MSD)
Laboratory reagent blank (LRB)	Method blank	Method or Prep blank (MB)
Linear dynamic range (LDR)	Linear dynamic range (LDR)	Linear dynamic range (LDR)
Method detection limit (MDL)	Method detection limit (MDL)	Method detection limit (MDL)
Quality control sample (QCS)	Check standard or Initial calibration verification (ICV)	Initial calibration verification (ICV)
Spectral interference check solution (SIC)	Interference check solution (ICS)	Interference check solution (ICSA/ICSAB)

APPENDIX D

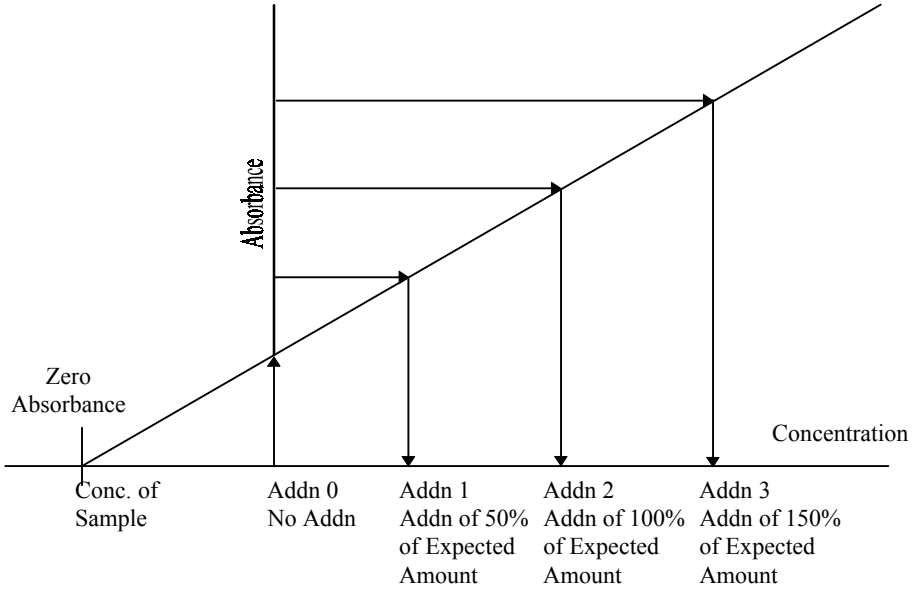
MSA GUIDANCE

Appendix D. MSA Guidance

Method of Standard Addition

Four equal volume aliquots of sample are measured and known amounts of standards are added to three aliquots. The fourth aliquot is the unknown and no standard is added to it. The concentration of standard added to the first aliquot should be 50% of the expected concentration. The concentration of standard added to the second aliquot should be 100% of the expected concentration and the concentration of standard added to the third aliquot should be 150% of the expected concentration. The volume of the unspiked and spiked standard should be the same.

In order to determine the concentration of analyte in the sample, the analytical value of each solution is determined and a plot or linear regression performed. On the vertical axis the analytical value is plotted versus the concentrations of the standards on the horizontal axis. An example plot is shown in Figure 1. When the resulting line is extrapolated back to zero absorbance, the point of interception of the horizontal axis is the concentration of the unknown.



For the method of standard additions to be correctly applied, the following limitations must be taken into consideration:

- The plot of the sample and standards must be linear over the concentration range of concern. For best results, the slope of the curve should be similar to that of a plot of the aqueous standard curve.

- The effect of the interference should not vary as the ratio of the standard added to the sample matrix changes.

APPENDIX E

TROUBLESHOOTING GUIDE

APPENDIX E. TROUBLESHOOTING GUIDE

Problem	Possible Cause/ Solution
High Blanks	Increase rinse time Clean or replace tip Clean or replace torch Clean or replace sample tubing Clean or replace nebulizer Clean or replace mixing chamber Lower Torch
Instrument Drift	RF not cooling properly Vacuum level is too low Replace torch (Crack) Clean or replace nebulizer (blockage) Check room temperature (changing) Replace pump tubing Room humidity too high Clean torch tip (salt buildup) Check for argon leaks Adjust sample carrier gas Reprofile Horizontal Mirror Replace PA tube
Erratic Readings, Flickering Torch or High RSD	Check for argon leaks Adjust sample carrier gas Replace tubing (clogged) Check drainage(back pressure changing) Increase uptake time (too short) Increase flush time (too short) Clean nebulizer, torch or spray chamber Increase sample volume introduced Check that autosampler tubes are full Sample or dilution of sample not mixed Increase integration time (too short) Realign torch Reduce amount of tubing connectors
Cu/Mn Ratio Outside Limits or Low Sensitivity	Plasma conditions changed Clean nebulizer, torch or spray chamber Replace tubing (clogged) Realign torch Check IECs
Standards reading twice normal absorbance or concentration	Incorrect standard used Incorrect dilution performed

APPENDIX F

CONTAMINATION CONTROL GUIDELINES

APPENDIX F. CONTAMINATION CONTROL GUIDELINES

The following procedures are strongly recommended to prevent contamination:

All work areas used to prepare standards and spikes should be cleaned before and after each use.

All glassware should be washed with detergent and tap water and rinsed with 1:1 nitric acid followed by deionized water.

Proper laboratory housekeeping is essential in the reduction of contamination in the metals laboratory. All work areas must be kept scrupulously clean.

Powdered or Latex Gloves must not be used in the metals laboratory since the powder contains silica and zinc as well as other metallic analytes. Only vinyl or nitrile gloves should be used in the metals laboratory.

Glassware should be periodically checked for cracks and etches and discarded if found. Etched glassware can cause cross contamination of any metallic analytes.

Autosampler trays should be covered to reduce the possibility of contamination. Trace levels of elements being analyzed in the samples can be easily contaminated by dust particles in the laboratory.

The following are helpful hints in the identification of the source of contaminants:

Yellow pipet tips and volumetric caps can sometimes contain cadmium.

Some sample cups have been found to contain lead.

The markings on glass beakers have been found to contain lead. If acid baths are in use for glassware cleaning, they should be periodically checked for contaminants since contaminant concentrations will increase over time.

New glassware especially beakers can be a source of silica and boron.

Reagents or standards can contain contaminants or be contaminated with the improper use of a pipette.

Improper cleaning of glassware can cause contamination.

Latex gloves contain over 500 ppb of zinc.

APPENDIX G

PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE

APPENDIX G. PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE

A maintenance log is used to record when maintenance is performed on instruments. When an instrument problem occurs indicate the date, time and instrument number, then identify the problem and corrective action in the maintenance log.

The following procedures are required to ensure that that the instrument is fully operational.

Daily	Change sample pump tubing and pump windings Check argon gas supply level Check rinse solution and fill if needed Check waste containers and empty if needed Check sample capillary tubing is clean and in good condition Check droplet size to verify nebulizer is not clogged. Check sample flow for cross flow nebulizer Check Cu/Mn ratio-should be 30% of value at date that IECs were performed Check pressure for vacuum systems
As Needed	Clean plasma torch assembly to remove accumulated deposits Clean nebulizer and drain chamber; keep free-flowing to maintain optimum performance Replace peristaltic pump tubing, sample capillary tubing and autosampler sipper probe
Weekly	Apply silicon spray on autosampler tracks Check water level in coolflow
Monthly	Clean air filters on back of power unit to remove dust Check D mirror for air instruments
Bi-yearly	Change oil for vacuum systems Replace coolant water filter (may require more or less frequently depending on quality of cooling water)

STL STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

TITLE: PREPARATION AND ANALYSIS OF MERCURY IN SOLID SAMPLES BY COLD VAPOR ATOMIC ABSORPTION SPECTROSCOPY, SW846 7471A AND MCAWW 245.5

(SUPERSEDES: REVISION 1)

Prepared by: Kurt Ill

Reviewed by: _____
Technical Specialist

Approved by: _____
Director, Quality Assurance

Approved by: _____
Director, Environmental Health and Safety

Approved by: _____
Management

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LIST OF APPENDICES:

1. SCOPE AND APPLICATION

1.1. This procedure describes the preparation and analysis of mercury (Hg, CAS # 7439-97-6) by Cold Vapor Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy (CVAA) using SW-846 Method 7471A and MCAWW Method 245.5.

1.2. CVAA analysis provides for the determination of total mercury (organic and inorganic). The combination of the oxidants, potassium permanganate and potassium persulfate, has been found to give 100% recovery with both types of compounds. Detection limits, sensitivity and optimum concentration ranges for mercury analysis will vary with the matrices, instrumentation and volume of sample used.

1.3. Methods 7471A and 245.5 are applicable to the preparation and analysis of mercury in soils, sediments, bottom deposits and sludge-type materials. All matrices require sample preparation prior to analysis.

1.4. The STL reporting limit for mercury in solid matrices is 0.033 mg/kg based a 0.6 g sample aliquot (wet weight).

2. SUMMARY OF METHOD

2.1. This SOP describes a technique for the determination of mercury in solution. The procedure is a physical method based on the absorption of radiation at 253.7 nm by mercury vapor. A representative portion of the sample is digested in sulfuric and nitric acids. Organic mercury compounds are oxidized with potassium permanganate and potassium persulfate and the mercury reduced to its elemental state with stannous chloride and aerated from solution in a closed system. The mercury vapor passes through a cell positioned in the light path of an atomic absorption spectrophotometer. Absorbance is measured as a function of mercury concentration. Concentration of the analyte in the sample is determined by comparison of the sample absorbance to the calibration curve (absorbance vs. concentration).

3. DEFINITIONS

3.1. Total Metals: The concentration determined on an unfiltered sample following digestion.

4. INTERFERENCES

Chemical and physical interferences may be encountered when analyzing samples using this method.

4.1. Potassium permanganate which is used to breakdown organic mercury compounds also eliminates possible interferences from sulfide. Concentrations as high as 20 mg/L of sulfide as sodium sulfide do not interfere with the recovery of inorganic mercury from reagent water.

4.2. Copper has also been reported to interfere; however, copper concentrations as high as 10 mg/L had no effect on the recovery of mercury from spiked samples.

4.3. Chlorides can cause a positive interference. Samples high in chlorides require additional permanganate (as much as 25 mL) because, during the oxidation step, chlorides are converted to free chlorine, which also absorbs radiation at 253.7 nm. Care must be taken to ensure that free chlorine is absent before the mercury is reduced and swept into the cell. This is accomplished by adding excess hydroxylamine reagent (25 mL) and purging the sample headspace before stannous chloride is added. Both inorganic and organic mercury spikes have been quantitatively recovered from seawater using this technique.

Note: Sufficient addition of permanganate is apparent when the purple color persists at least 15 minutes. Some samples may require dilution prior to digestion due to extremely high concentrations of chloride.

4.4. Interference from certain volatile organic materials that absorb at this wavelength may also occur. If suspected, a preliminary run without stannous chloride can determine if this type of interference is present. While the possibility of absorption from certain organic substances present in the sample does exist, this problem is not routinely encountered. This is mentioned only to caution the analyst of the possibility. If this condition is found to exist, the mercury concentration in the sample can be determined by subtracting the result of the sample run without the reducing reagent (stannous chloride) from that obtained with the reducing reagent.

4.5. Samples containing high concentrations of oxidizable organic materials, as evidenced by high COD levels, may not be completely oxidized by this procedure. When this occurs the recovery of mercury will be low. The problem can be eliminated by reducing the volume of original sample used.

4.6. The most common interference is laboratory contamination which may arise from impure reagents, dirty glassware, improper sample transfers, dirty work areas, etc. Be aware of potential sources of contamination and take appropriate measures to minimize or avoid them.

5. SAFETY

5.1. Procedures shall be carried out in a manner that protects the health and safety of all STL associates.

5.2. Eye protection that satisfies ANSI Z87.1 (as per the Chemical Hygiene Plan), laboratory coat, and appropriate gloves must be worn while samples, standards, solvents, and reagents are being handled. Disposable gloves that have been contaminated will be removed and discarded; other gloves will be cleaned immediately.

5.3. The health and safety hazards of many of the chemicals used in this procedure have not been fully defined. Additional health and safety information can be obtained from the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) maintained in the laboratory. The following specific hazards are known:

5.3.1. The following materials are known to be **corrosive:**

hydrochloric acid, nitric acid and sulfuric acid.

5.3.2. The following materials are known to be **oxidizing agents**:

nitric acid, potassium permanganate, potassium persulfate and magnesium perchlorate.

5.3.3. Mercury is a highly toxic element that must be handled with care. The analyst must be aware of the handling and clean-up techniques before working with mercury. Since mercury vapor is toxic, precaution must be taken to avoid its inhalation, ingestion or absorption through skin. All lines should be checked for leakage and the mercury vapor must be vented into a hood or passed through a mercury absorbing media such as:

5.3.3.1. Equal volumes of 0.1 M $KMnO_4$ and 10% H_2SO_4, or

5.3.3.2. Iodine, 0.25%, in a 3% KI solution.

5.3.4. Magnesium sulfate is known to be a reproductive toxin (mutagen).

5.4. Exposure to chemicals must be maintained **as low as reasonably achievable.** Therefore, unless they are known to be non-hazardous, all samples should be opened, transferred and prepared in a fume hood, or under other means of mechanical ventilation. Solvent and waste containers will be kept closed unless transfers are being made.

5.5. The preparation of standards and reagents will be conducted in a fume hood with the sash closed as far as the operation will permit.

5.6. All work must be stopped in the event of a known or potential compromise to the health and safety of a STL associate. The situation must be reported **immediately** to a laboratory supervisor.

5.7. Do not look directly into the beam of the Hg lamp. The UV light that these lamps radiate is harmful to the eyes.

5.8. Cylinders of compressed gas must be handled with caution, in accordance with local regulations. It is recommended that, wherever possible, cylinders be located outside the laboratory and the gas led to the instrument through approved lines.

5.9. The CVAA apparatus must be properly vented to remove potentially harmful fumes generated during sample analysis.

6. EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

6.1. Temperature controlled water bath (capable of maintaining temperature of 90- 95 °C) or autoclave capable of obtaining 15 lbs., 120 °C.

6.2. Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer equipped with:

6.2.1. Absorption Cell with quartz end windows perpendicular to the longitudinal axis. Dimensions of the cell must result in sufficient sensitivity to meet the SOP defined reporting limit. The quartz windows must be maintained to provide accurate measurements. Any scratches or fingerprints can alter the absorption of UV radiation.

6.2.2. Mercury specific hollow cathode lamp (HCL) or electrodeless discharge lamp (EDL).

6.2.3. Peristaltic pump which can deliver 1 L/min air.

6.2.4. Flowmeter capable of measuring an airflow of 1 L/min.

6.2.5. Recorder or Printer.

6.2.6. Aeration Tubing: A straight glass frit having a course porosity and Tygon tubing is used for the transfer of mercury vapor from the sample bottle to the absorption cell and return.

6.2.7. Drying device (a drying tube containing magnesium perchlorate or magnesium sulfate and/or a lamp with a 60 W bulb) to prevent condensation in cell. The lamp is positioned to shine on the absorption cell maintaining the air temperature in the cell about 10 °C above room temperature. Other drying devices that acheive the same purpose are also acceptable (i.e., Gortex filter).

Note: Instruments designed specifically for the measurement of mercury using the cold vapor technique may be substituted for the atomic absorption spectrophotometer.

6.3. BOD bottles or equivalent.

6.4. Nitrogen or argon gas supply, welding grade or equivalent.

6.5. Calibrated automatic pipettes or Class A glass volumetric pipettes.

6.6. Class A volumetric flasks.

6.7. Top-loading balance, capable of reading up to two decimal places.

6.8. Thermometer (capable of accurate readings at 95 °C).

6.9. Disposable cups or tubes.

7. REAGENTS AND STANDARDS

7.1. Reagent water must be produced by a Millipore DI system or equivalent. Reagent water must be free of the analytes of interest as demonstrated through the analysis of method blanks.

7.2. Stock (1000 ppm) mercury standards (in 10% HNO_3) are purchased as custom STL solutions. All standards must be stored in FEP fluorocarbon or previously unused polyethylene or polypropylene bottles. Stock standard solutions must be replaced prior to the expiration date provided by the manufacturer. If no expiration date is provided, the stock solutions may be used for up to one year and must be replaced sooner if verification from an independent source indicates a problem.

7.3. Intermediate mercury standard (10 ppm): Take 1 mL of the stock mercury standard (7.2) and dilute to 100 mL with reagent water. The intermediate standard must be made monthly and must be prepared in a matrix of 2% HNO_3 . This acid (2 mL of

concentrated HNO_3) must be added to the flask/bottle before the addition of the stock standard aliquot.

7.4. Working mercury standard (0.1 ppm): Take 1 mL of the intermediate mercury standard (7.3) and dilute to 100 mL with reagent water. The working mercury standard must be made daily and must be prepared in a matrix of 0.15% HNO_3. This acid (150 uL of concentrated HNO_3) must be added to the flask/bottle before the addition of the stock standard aliquot.

7.5. The calibration standards must be prepared fresh daily from the working standard (7.4) by transferring 0, 0.2, 0.5, 1.0, 2.0, 5.0 and 10.0 mL aliquots of the working mercury standard into sample prep bottles and proceeding as specified in Section 11.1

Note: Alternate approaches to standard preparation may be taken and alternate volumes of standard may be prepared as long as the accuracy and final standard concentrations as detailed in Table I are maintained. For example, automated mercury systems do not require 100 mL of standard and therefore smaller volumes may be generated to reduce waste generation.

7.6. The initial calibration verification standard must be made from a different stock solution than that of the calibration standards.

7.7. Refer to Table I (Appendix A) for details regarding the working standard concentrations for calibration, calibration verification and spiking solutions. All standards must be processed through the entire analytical procedure including sample preparation.

7.8. Nitric acid (HNO_3), concentrated, trace metal grade or better.

Note: If a high reagent blank is obtained, it may be necessary to distill the nitric acid.

7.9. Sulfuric acid (H_2SO_4), concentrated, trace metal grade or better.

7.9.1. Sulfuric acid, 0.5 N: Dilute 14.0 mL of concentrated H_2SO_4 to 1 liter with reagent water.

7.10. Hydrochloric acid (HCl), concentrated, trace metal grade or better.

7.11. Aqua Regia: Prepare immediately before use by carefully adding three volumes of concentrated HCl to one volume of concentrated HNO_3.

7.12. Stannous sulfate solution: Add 25 g of stannous sulfate to 250 mL of 0.5 N sulfuric acid. This mixture is a suspension and should appear cloudy. This solution should be made daily and should be stirred continuously during use.

Note: Stannous chloride may be used in place of stannous sulfate. Prepare the stannous chloride solution according to the recommendations provided by the instrument manufacturer.

7.13. Sodium chloride-hydroxylamine hydrochloride solution: Add 12 g of sodium chloride and 12 g of hydroxylamine hydrochloride to every 100 mL of reagent water.

Note: Hydroxylamine sulfate may be used in place of hydroxylamine hydrochloride.

7.14. Potassium permanganate, 5% solution (w/v): Dissolve 5 g of potassium permanganate for every 100 mL of reagent water.

7.15. Potassium persulfate, 5% solution (w/v): Dissolve 5 g of potassium persulfate for every 100 mL of reagent water.

8. SAMPLE COLLECTION, PRESERVATION AND STORAGE

8.1. Sample holding time for mercury is 28 days from time of collection to the time of sample analysis.

8.2. Soil samples do not require preservation but must be stored at 4° C ± 2° C until the time of analysis.

9. QUALITY CONTROL

Table II (Appendix A) provides a summary of quality control requirements including type, frequency, acceptance criteria and corrective action.

9.1. Initial Demonstration of Capability

Prior to the analysis of any analyte using 7471A or the 245.5, the following requirements must be met.

9.1.1. Method Detection Limit (MDL) - An MDL must be determined for each analyte/matrix prior to the analysis of any samples. The MDL is determined

using seven replicates of reagent water, spiked with all the analytes of interest, that have been carried through the entire analytical procedure. MDLs must be redetermined on an annual basis in accordance with 40 CFR Part 136

Appendix B requirements. The spike level must be between the calculated MDL and 10X the MDL to be valid. The result of the MDL determination must be below the STL reporting limit.

9.1.2. Initial Demonstration Study - This requires the analysis of four QC check samples. The QC check sample is a well characterized laboratory generated sample used to monitor method performance. The results of the initial demonstration study must be acceptable before analysis of samples may begin.

9.1.2.1. Four aliquots of the check sample (LCS) are prepared and analyzed using the procedures detailed in this SOP and the determinative SOPs.

9.2. Preparation Batch - A group of up to 20 samples that are of the same matrix and are processed together using the same procedures and reagents. The preparation batch must contain a method blank, a LCS and a matrix spike/matrix spike duplicate. In some cases, at client request, it may be appropriate to process a matrix spike and sample duplicate in place of the MS/MSD. If clients specify specific samples for MS/MSD, the batch may contain multiple MS/MSD pairs.

9.3. Sample Count - Laboratory generated QC samples (method blanks, LCS and MS/MSDs) are not included in the sample count for determining the size of a preparation batch.

9.4. Method Blank (MB) - One method blank must be processed with each preparation batch. The method blank consists of reagent water containing all reagents specific to the method that is carried through the entire analytical procedure, including preparation and analysis. The method blank is used to identify any system and process interferences or contamination of the analytical system that may lead to the reporting of elevated analyte concentrations or false positive data. The method blank should not contain any analyte of interest at or above the reporting or at or above 5% of the measured concentration of that analyte in associated samples, whichever is higher (sample result must be a minimum of 20 times higher than the blank contamination level).

- Repreparation and reanalysis of all samples associated with an unacceptable method blank is required when reportable concentrations are determined in the samples (see exception noted above).

- If there is no analyte greater than the RL in the samples associated with an unacceptable method blank, the data may be reported with qualifiers. **Such**

action must be taken in consultation with the client and must be addressed in the project narrative.

- If the above criteria are not met and reanalysis is not possible, then the sample data must be qualified. **This anomaly must be addressed in the project narrative and the client must be notified.**

9.5. Laboratory Control Sample (LCS) - One aqueous LCS must be processed with each preparation batch. The LCS is used to monitor the accuracy of the analytical process. On-going monitoring of the LCS results provides evidence that the laboratory is performing the method within acceptable accuracy and precision guidelines. The LCS must be carried through the entire analytical procedure. The CCV results can be reported as the LCS results since all CCVs (as well as all other standards) are processed through the sample preparation step with the field samples. No more than 20 samples can be associated with one CCV used for the purpose of reporting LCS data.

- If the LCS is outside established control limits the system is out of control and corrective action must occur. Until in-house control limits are established, a control limit of 80 - 120% recovery must be applied.

- In the instance where the LCS recovery is > 120% and the sample results are < RL, the data may be reported with qualifiers. Such action must be taken in consultation with the client and must be addressed in the case narrative."

- In the event that an MS/MSD analysis is not possible, a Laboratory Control Sample Duplicate (LCSD) must be analyzed. The RPD of the LCS and LCSD must be compared to the matrix spike RPD limits.

- Corrective action will be repreparation and reanalysis of the batch unless the client agrees that other corrective action is acceptable.

9.6. Matrix Spike/Matrix Spike Duplicate (MS/MSD) - One MS/MSD pair must be processed for each preparation batch. A matrix spike (MS) is a field sample to which known concentrations of target analytes have been added. A matrix spike duplicate (MSD) is a second aliquot of the same sample (spiked identically as the MS) prepared and analyzed along with the sample and matrix spike. Some client specific data quality objectives (DQO's) may require the use of sample duplicates in place of or in addition to MS/MSD's. The MS/MSD results are used to determine the effect of a matrix on the precision and accuracy of the analytical process. Due to the potential

variability of the matrix of each sample, these results may have immediate bearing only on the specific sample spiked. Samples identified as field blanks cannot be used for MS/MSD analysis. Spiking levels are provided in Table I (Appendix A).

- If analyte recovery or RPD falls outside the acceptance range, the recovery of that analyte must be in control for the LCS. Until in-house control limits are established, a control limit of 75 - 125 % recovery and 20% RPD must be applied to the MS/MSD. If the LCS recovery is within limits, then the laboratory operation is in control and the results may be accepted. If the recovery of the LCS is outside limits, corrective action must be taken. Corrective action will include repreparation and reanalysis of the batch. MS/MSD results which fall outside the control limits must be addressed in the narrative.

- If the native analyte concentration in the MS/MSD exceeds 4 times the spike level for that analyte, the recovery data are reported as NC (i.e., not calculated). If the reporting software does not have the ability to report NC then the actual recovery must be reported and narrated as follows: "Results outside of limits do not necessarily reflect poor method performance in the matrix due to high analyte concentrations in the sample relative to the spike level."

- If an MS/MSD is not possible due to limited sample volume, then a laboratory control sample duplicate (LCSD) should be analyzed. The RPD of the LCS and LCSD must be compared to the matrix spike RPD limits.

9.7. Initial Calibration Verification (ICV/ICB) - Calibration accuracy is verified by analyzing a second source standard (ICV). The ICV result must fall within 20% of the true value for that solution. An ICB is analyzed immediately following the ICV to monitor low level accuracy and system cleanliness. The ICB result must fall within +/- the reporting limit (RL) from zero. If either the ICV or ICB fail to meet criteria, the analysis should be terminated, the problem corrected and the instrument recalibrated. (See Section 11.2.10 and Section 11.2.11 for required run sequence). If the cause of the ICV or ICB failure was not directly instrument related the corrective action will include repreparation of the associated samples.

9.8. Continuing Calibration Verification (CCV/CCB) - Calibration accuracy is monitored throughout the analytical run through the analysis of a known standard after every 10 samples. The CCV must be a mid-range standard at a concentration other than that of the ICV. The CCV result must fall within 20% of the true value for that solution. A CCB is analyzed immediately following each CCV. (See Section 11.2.10 and 11.2.11 for required run sequence.) The CCB result must fall within +/- RL from zero. Each

CCV and CCB analyzed must reflect the conditions of analysis of all associated samples. Sample results may only be reported when bracketed by valid ICV/CCV and ICB/CCB pairs. If a mid-run CCV or CCB fails, the analysis must be terminated, the problem corrected, the instrument recalibrated, the calibration verified and the

affected samples reanalyzed. If the cause of the CCV or CCB failure was not directly instrument related the corrective action will include repreparation of the associated samples.

9.9. Method of Standard Addition (MSA) -This technique involves adding known amounts of standard to one or more aliquots of the sample prior to preparation. This technique compensates for a sample interferent that may enhance or depress the analyte signal, thus producing a different slope from that of the calibration standards. It will not correct for additive interferences which cause a baseline shift. Refer to Section 11.2.12 for additional information on when full 4 point MSA is required as well as Appendix C for specific MSA requirements.

10. CALIBRATION AND STANDARDIZATION

10.1. Calibration standards must be processed through the preparation procedure as described in Section 11.1.

10.2. Due to the differences in preparation protocols separate calibration and calibration verification standards must be prepared for aqueous and solid matrices.

10.3. Calibration must be performed daily (every 24 hours) and each time the instrument is set up. The instrument calibration date and time must be included in the raw data.

10.4. Set up the instrument with the operating parameters recommended by the manufacturer. Allow the instrument to become thermally stable before beginning calibration (approximately 30 minutes of warm-up is required). Refer to the facility specific instrument SOP and CVAA instrument manual for detailed setup and operation protocols.

10.5. Calibrate the instrument according to instrument manufacturer's instructions, using a minimum of five standards and a blank. One standard must be at the STL reporting limit. Analyze standards in ascending order beginning with the blank. Refer to Section 7.5 and Table I for additional information on preparing calibration standards and calibration levels.

10.6. The calibration curve must have a correlation coefficient of ≥ 0.995 or the instrument shall be stopped and recalibrated prior to running samples. Sample results can not be reported from a curve with an unacceptable correlation coefficient.

10.7. Refer to Section 9.0 for calibration verification procedures, acceptance criteria and corrective actions.

11. PROCEDURE

11.1. Standard and Sample Preparation:

11.1.1. All calibration and calibration verification standards (ICV, ICB, CCV, CCB) are processed through the digestion procedure as well as the field samples.

11.1.2. Transfer 0, 0.2, 0.5, 1.0, 2.0, 5.0 and 10.0 mL aliquots of the working standard (7.5) into a series of sample digestion bottles.

Note: Alternate volumes of standard may be prepared as long as the accuracy and final standard concentrations as detailed in Table I are maintained.

11.1.3. Add reagent water to each standard bottle to make a total volume of 10 mL. Continue preparation as described under 11.1.5 or 11.1.6 below.

11.1.4. Transfer triplicate 0.2 g portions of a well mixed sample into a clean sample digestion bottle. Continue preparation as described under 11.2.2 or 11.2.3 below.

11.1.5. Water Bath protocol:

11.1.5.1. To each **standard** bottle: Add 5 mL of aqua regia.
To each **sample** bottle: Add 5 mL of reagent water and 5 mL of aqua regia.

11.1.5.2. Heat for 2 minutes in a water bath at 90 - 95 ° C.

11.1.5.3. Cool.

11.1.5.4. Add 50 mL of distilled water.

11.1.5.5. Add 15 mL of potassium permanganate solution.

11.1.5.6. Add 8 mL of potassium persulfate solution, mix thoroughly.

11.1.5.7. Heat for 30 minutes in the water bath at 90 - 95 °C.

11.1.5.8. Cool.

11.1.5.9. Add 6 mL of sodium chloride-hydroxylamine sulfate solution to reduce the excess permanganate.

11.1.5.10. To each **standard** bottle: Add 50 mL of reagent water.
To each **sample** bottle: Add 55 mL of reagent water.

11.1.5.11. Continue as described under Section 11.2.

11.1.6. Autoclave protocol:

11.1.6.1. Add 5 mL concentrated of H_2SO_4 and 2 mL of concentrated HNO_3.

11.1.6.2. Add 5 mL of saturated potassium permanganate solution.

11.1.6.3. Cover digestion bottle with aluminum foil or screw cap loosely applied.

11.1.6.4. Heat samples at 121 °C and 15 lbs. pressure for 15 minutes.

11.1.6.5. Cool.

11.1.6.6. Add 6 mL of sodium chloride-hydroxylamine sulfate solution to reduce excess permanganate.

Note: Alternate final volumes may be used as long as the standards and sample are treated the same way and reagents are adjusted proportionally.

11.1.6.7. Make up to volume of 100 mL with reagent water.

11.1.6.8. Continue as described under Section 11.2.

11.2. Sample Analysis:

11.2.1. Because of differences between various makes and models of CVAA instrumentation, no detailed operating instructions can be provided. Refer to

the facility specific instrument operating SOP and the CVAA instrument manual for detailed setup and operation protocols.

11.2.2. All labs are required to detail the conditions/programs utilized for each instrument within the facility specific instrument operation SOP.

11.2.3. Manual determination:

11.2.3.1. Treating each sample individually, purge the head space of the sample bottle for at least one minute.

11.2.3.2. Add 5 mL of stannous chloride solution and immediately attach the bottle to the aeration apparatus.

11.2.3.3. Allow the sample to stand quietly without manual agitation while the sample is aerated (1 L/min flow). Monitor the sample absorbance during aeration. When the absorbance reaches a maximum and the signal levels off, open the bypass valve and continue aeration until the absorbance returns to its baseline level. Close the bypass valve and remove the aeration device.

11.2.3.4. Place the aeration device into 100 mLs of 1% HNO_3 and allow to bubble rinse until the next sample is analyzed.

11.2.4. Automated determination: Follow instructions provided by instrument manufacturer.

11.2.5. Perform a linear regression analysis of the calibration standards by plotting maximum response of the standards vs. ug of mercury. Determine the mercury concentration in the samples from the linear regression fit of the calibration curve. Calibration using computer or calculation based regression curve fitting techniques on concentration/response data is acceptable.

11.2.6. All measurements must fall within the defined calibration range to be valid. Dilute and reanalyze all samples for analytes that exceed the highest calibration standard.

11.2.7. If the sample results are negative and the absolute value of the negative result is greater than the reporting limit, the sample must be diluted and reanalyzed.

11.2.8. The samples must be allowed to cool to room temperature prior to analysis or a decrease in the response signal can occur.

11.2.9. Baseline correction is acceptable as long as it is performed after every sample or after the CCV and CCB; resloping is acceptable as long as it is immediately preceded and followed by a compliant CCV and CCB.

11.2.10. The following analytical sequence must be used with 7471A and 245.5:

Instrument Calibration
ICV
ICB
Maximum 10 samples
CCV
CCB
Repeat sequence of 10 samples between CCV/CCB pairs as required to complete run
CCV
CCB

Refer to Quality Control Section 9.0 and Table II (Appendix A) for quality control criteria to apply to Methods 7471A and 245.5.

Note: Samples include the method blank, LCS, MS, MSD, duplicate, field samples and sample dilutions.

11.2.11. The following run sequence is consistent with 7471A, CLP and 245.5 and may be used as an alternate to the sequence in 11.2.10. This run sequence is recommended if multiple method requirements must be accommodated in one analytical run:

Instrument Calibration
ICV
ICB
CRA*
CCV
CCB
10 samples
CCV
CCB
Repeat sequence of 10 samples between CCV/CCB pairs as required to complete run.
CCV
CCB

Refer to the appropriate CLP SOP (CORP-MT-0008) for quality control requirements for QC samples.

* Refer to the CLP SOP for information on the CRA.

11.2.12. For TCLP samples, full four point MSA will be required if all of the following conditions are met:

1) recovery of the analyte in the matrix spike is not at least 50%,

2) the concentration of the analyte does not exceed the regulatory level, and,

3) the concentration of the analyte is within 20% of the regulatory level.

Appendix E provides guidance on performing MSA analyses. For TCLP mercury determinations, MSA spikes must be added prior to sampe preparation.

11.3. To facilitate the early identification of QC failures and samples requiring rerun it is strongly recommended that sample data be reviewed periodically throughout the run.

11.4. Guidelines are provided in the appendices on procedures to minimize contamination of samples and standards, preventive maintenance and troubleshooting.

11.5. One time procedural variations are allowed only if deemed necessary in the professional judgment of supervision to accommodate variation in sample matrix, radioactivity, chemistry, sample size, or other parameters. Any variation in procedure shall be completely documented using a Nonconformance Memo and is approved by a Technical Specialist and QA Manager. If contractually required, the client shall be notified. The Nonconformance Memo shall be filed in the project file.

11.6. Any unauthorized deviations from this procedure must also be documented as a nonconformance, with a cause and corrective action described.

12. DATA ANALYSIS AND CALCULATIONS

12.1. ICV percent recoveries are calculated according to the equation:

$$\%R = 100\left(\frac{Found(ICV)}{True(ICV)}\right)$$

12.2. CCV percent recoveries are calculated according to the equation:

$$\%R = 100\left(\frac{Found(CCV)}{True(CCV)}\right)$$

12.3. Matrix spike recoveries are calculated according to the following equation:

$$\%\ R\ =\ 100\left(\frac{SSR\ -\ SR}{SA}\right)$$

Where:
SSR = Spike Sample Result
SR = Sample Result
SA = Spike Added

12.4. The relative percent difference (RPD) of matrix spike/matrix spike duplicates or sample duplicates are calculated according to the following equations:

$$RPD = 100\left[\frac{|MSD - MS|}{\left(\frac{MSD + MS}{2}\right)}\right]$$

Where:
MS = determined spiked sample concentration
MSD = determined matrix spike duplicate concentration

$$RPD = 100\left[\frac{|DU1 - DU2|}{\left(\frac{DU1 + DU2}{2}\right)}\right]$$

Where:
DU1 = Sample result
DU2 = Sample duplicate result

12.5. For automated determinations, the final concentration determined in solid samples when reported on a dry weight basis is calculated as follows:

$$mg/kg,\ dry\ weight = \quad (C \times V \times D)/(W \times S)$$

Where:
C = Concentration (ug/L) from instrument readout

V = Volume of digestate (L)
D = Instrument dilution factor
W = Weight in g of wet sample digested
S = Percent solids/100

Note: A Percent Solids determination must be performed on a separate aliquot when dry weight concentrations are to be reported. If the results are to be reported on a wet weight basis, the "S" factor should be omitted from the above equation.

12.6. For manual (total) determinations, the final concentration determined in solid samples when reported on a dry weight basis is calculated as follows:

$$mg/kg,\ dry\ weight = (C)/(W \times S)$$

Where:
C = Concentration (ug) from instrument readout
W = Weight in g of wet sample digested
S = Percent solids/100

Note: A Percent Solids determination must be performed on a separate aliquot when dry weight concentrations are to be reported. If the results are to be reported on a wet weight basis, the "S" factor should be omitted from the above equation.

12.7. The LCS percent recovery is calculated according to the following equation:

$$\%R = 100\left(\frac{Found(LCS)}{True(LCS)}\right)$$

12.8. Sample results should be reported with up to three significant figures in accordance with the STL significant figure policy.

13. METHOD PERFORMANCE

13.1. Each laboratory must have initial demonstration of performance data on file for each analyte of interest as described in Section 9.0.

13.2. Method performance is determined by the analysis of method blank, laboratory control sample, matrix spike and matrix spike duplicate samples. The matrix spike recovery should fall within +/- 25 % and the matrix spike duplicates should compare within 20% RPD. The method blanks must meet the criteria in Section 9.3. The

laboratory control sample should recover within 20% of the true value until in house limits are established.

13.3. Training Qualification:

The group/team leader has the responsibility to ensure that this procedure is performed by an associate who has been properly trained in its use and has the required experience.

14. POLLUTION PREVENTION

14.1. This method does not contain any specific modifications that serve to minimize or prevent pollution.

15. WASTE MANAGEMENT

15.1. Waste generated in the procedure must be segregated and disposed according to the facility hazardous waste procedures. The Environmental Health and Safety Director should be contacted if additional information is required.

16. REFERENCES

16.1. Test Methods for Evaluating Solid Waste , Physical/Chemical Methods, SW-846, 3rd Edition, Final Update II, Revision I, September 1994, Method 7471A (Mercury).

16.2. “Methods for the Chemical Analysis of Water and Wastes”, EPA-600/4-79-020, U.S.EPA, August 1983, Method 245.5.

16.3. U.S.EPA Statement of Work for Inorganics Analysis, ILMO3.0.

16.4. QA-003, STL QC Program.

16.5. QA-004, Rounding and Significant Figures.

16.6. QA-005, Method Detection Limits.

17. MISCELLANEOUS (TABLES, APPENDICES, ETC. . .)

17.1. Modifications/Interpretations from reference method.

17.1.1. Modifications from both 7471A and 245.5.

17.1.1.1. A potassium persulfate oxidation step has been included to facilitate the breakdown of organic mercurials which are not completely oxidized by potassium permanganate. Use of potassium persulfate in combination with the permanganate improves the recovery of mercury from organo-mercury compounds. The use of persulfate has been incorporated in several recent EPA mercury protocols.

17.1.1.2. The alternate run sequence presented in Section 11.2.11 is consistent with method requirements. An additional QC analysis (CRA) was added to accommodate the CLP protocol requirements.

17.1.2. Modifications from Method 7471A

17.1.2.1. Chapter 1 of SW846 specify the use of reagent water with a purity equivalent to ASTM Type II water. This SOP specifies the use of a Millipore DI system or equivalent to produce reagent water. This SOP requires that reagent water must be free of the analytes of interest as demonstrated through the analysis of method blanks.

17.1.2.2. Chapter 1 of SW-846 states that the method blank should not contain any analyte of interest at or above the MDL. This SOP states that the method blank must not contain any analyte of interest at or above the reporting limit.

17.1.2.3. Method 7471A does not state control criteria within the text of the method. The QC section of 7471A refers the analyst to Section 8.0 of Method 7000A, the generic atomic absorption method, which discusses flame and furnace methods. The ICV criteria stated in Method 7000A is ± 10%. This SOP requires ICV control limits of ± 20% based on the fact that the mercury ICV, unlike the ICV for the flame and furnace analytes, is digested and therefore is equivalent to a LCS. The CLP protocol 245.5 CLP-M recognizes this factor and requires control limits of ± 20%.

17.1.3. Modifications from 245.5

17.1.3.1. Method 245.5 Section 9.3 states concentrations should be reported as follows: Between 0.1 and 1 ug/g, to the nearest 0.01 ug; between 1 and 10 ug/g, to the nearest 0.1ug; above 10 ug/g, to the nearest ug. STL reports all Hg results under this SOP to two significant figures.

17.2. Modifications from previous SOP

17.2.1. Section 1.4 reporting limit changed from 0.1 mg/kg based on a 0.2 g to 0.033 mg/kg based on a 0.6 g sample aliquot.

17.2.2. Section 9.3 added MS and MSDs as not counted in determination of preparation batches.

17.3. Facility Specific SOPs

Each facility shall attach a list of facility specific SOPs or approved attachments (if applicable) which are required to implement this SOP or which are used in conjunction with this SOP. If no facility specific SOPs or amendments are to be attached, a statement must be attached specifying that there are none. Refer to the Appendices for any facility specific information required to support this SOP.

17.4. Documentation and Record Management

The following documentation comprises a complete CVAA raw data package:

- Raw data (direct instrument printout)
- Run log printout from instrument software where this option is available or manually generated run log. (A bench sheet may be substituted for the run log as long as it contains an accurate representation of the analytical sequence).
- Data review checklist - See Appendix B
- Standards Documentation (source, lot, date).
- Copy of digestion log.
- Non-conformance summary (if applicable).

Figure 1. Solid Sample Preparation for Mercury - Autoclave Procedure

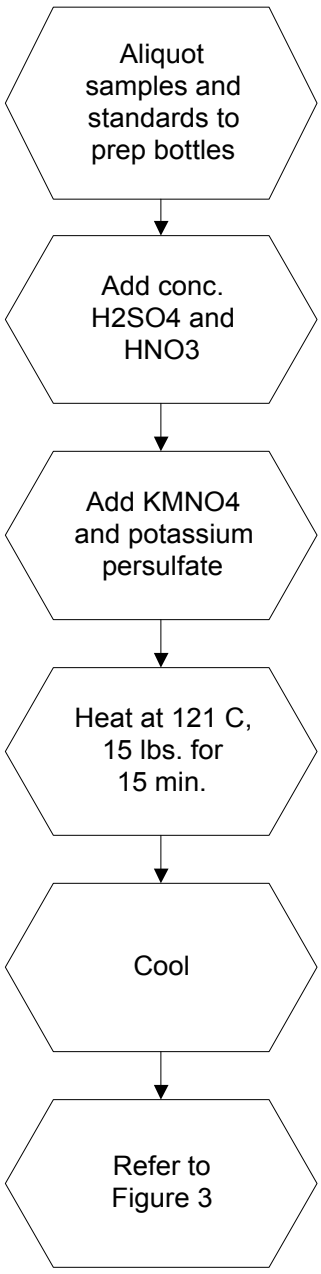


Figure 2. Solid Sample Preparation for Mercury - Water Bath Procedure

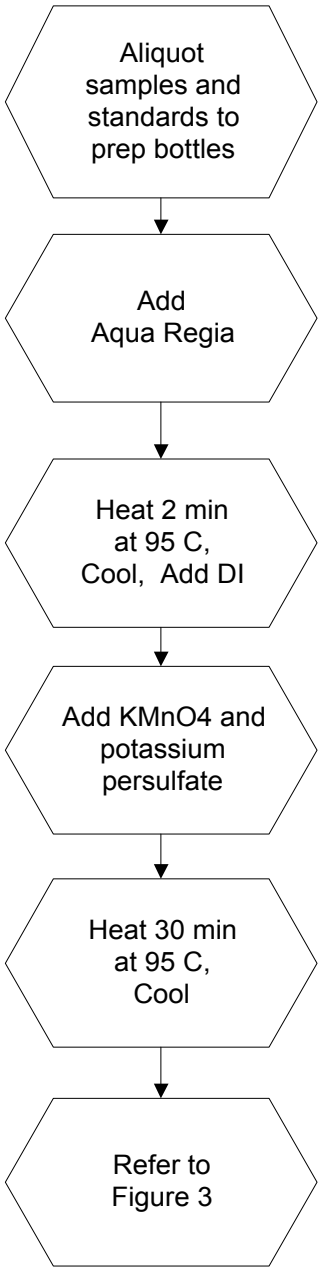
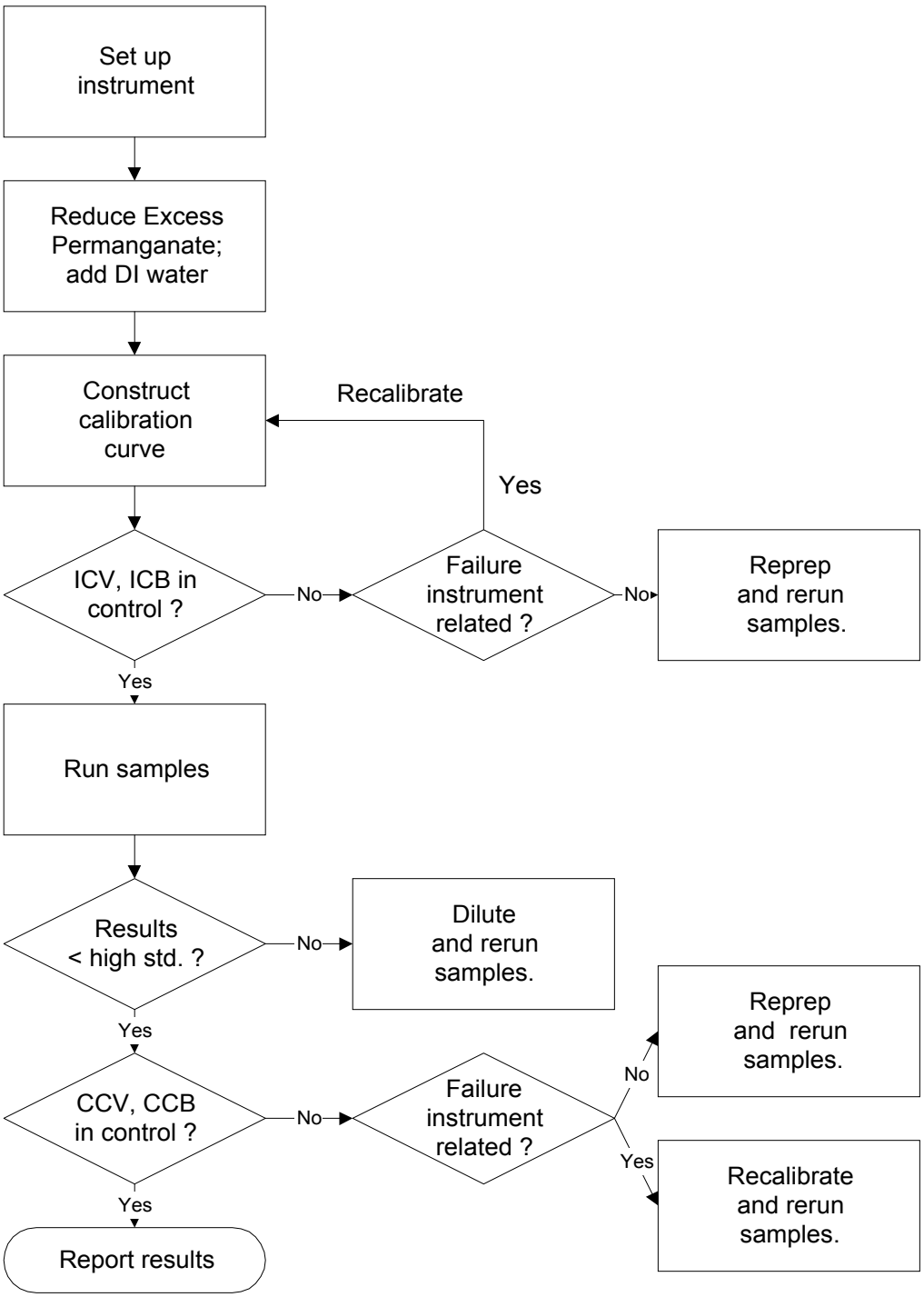


Figure 3. CVAA Mercury Analysis



APPENDIX A

TABLES

TABLE I . MERCURY REPORTING LIMITS, CALIBRATION STANDARD*, QC STANDARD AND SPIKING LEVELS

Soil RL (mg/kg) SW-7471A	0.033
Soil RL (mg/kg) CLP	0.1
Std 0 (mg/L)	0
Std 1 (mg/L)	0.0002
Std 2 (mg/L)	0.0005
Std 3 (mg/L)	0.001
Std 4 (mg/L)	0.005
Std 5 (mg/L)	0.010
ICV (mg/L)	0.001 or 0.0025 **
CCV/LCS (mg/L)	0.0025 or 0.005 **
MS (mg/L)	0.001

*** SOP specified calibration levels must be used unless prevented by the instrument configuration or client specific requirements. Deviations from specified calibration levels must be documented in the facility specific instrument operation SOP and must be approved by the facility technical manager and Quality Assurance Manager.**

**** Concentration level dependent on high calibration standard used. CCV must be 50% of the high standard concentration and the ICV must be 20-25% of the high standard concentration.**

TABLE II. Summary Of Quality Control Requirements

QC PARAMETER	FREQUENCY *	ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA	CORRECTIVE ACTION
ICV	Beginning of every analytical run.	80 - 120 % recovery.	Terminate analysis; Correct the problem; Recalibrate or reprep batch (see Section 9.7).
ICB	Beginning of every analytical run, immediately following the ICV.	The result must be within +/- RL from zero.	Terminate analysis; Correct the problem; Recalibrate or reprep batch (see Section 9.7).
CCV	Every 10 samples and at the end of the run.	80 - 120 % recovery.	Terminate analysis; Correct the problem; Recalibrate and rerun all samples not bracketed by acceptable CCV or reprep batch (see Section 9.8).
CCB	Immediately following each CCV.	The result must be within +/- RL from zero.	Terminate analysis; Correct the problem; Recalibrate and rerun all samples not bracketed by acceptable CCB or reprep batch (see Section 9.8).
Method Blank	One per sample preparation batch of up to 20 samples.	The result must be less than or equal to the RL. Sample results greater than 20x the blank concentration are acceptable. Samples for which the contaminant is < RL do not require redigestion (See Section 9.4)	Redigest and reanalyze samples. Note exceptions under criteria section. See Section 9.4 for additional requirements.

*See Sections 11.2.10 and 11.2.11 for exact run sequence to be followed.

TABLE II. Summary of Quality Control Requirements (Continued)

QC PARAMETER	FREQUENCY	ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA	CORRECTIVE ACTION
Laboratory Control Sample (LCS)	One per sample preparation batch of up to 20 samples.	Aqueous LCS must be within 80 - 120% recovery or in-house control limits.	Terminate analysis; Correct the problem; Redigest and reanalyze all samples associated with the LCS (see Section 9.5).
Matrix Spike	One per sample preparation batch of up to 20 samples.	75 - 125 % recovery or in-house control limits. If the MS/MSD is out for an analyte, it must be in control in the LCS.	In the absence of client specific requirements, flag the data; no flag required if the sample level is > 4x the spike added. (see Section 9.6) For TCLP see Section 11.3.12
Matrix Spike Duplicate	See Matrix Spike	75 - 125 % recovery or in-house control limits; RPD ≤ 20%. (See MS)	See Corrective Action for Matrix Spike.

APPENDIX B
STL Hg DATA REVIEW CHECKLIST

STL Hg Data Review Checklist

Run/Project Information

Run Date: _____ **Analyst:**_____ **Instrument:**_____
Prep Batches Run:_____

Circle Methods used: **7470A / 245.1 :** CORP-MT-0005 Rev 1 **7471 / 245.5 :** CORP-MT-0007 Rev 1
CLP - AQ : CORP-MT-0006 Rev 0 **CLP - SOL :** CORP-MT-0008 Rev 0

Review Items

A. Calibration/Instrument Run QC	Yes	No	N/A	2ndLevel
1. Instrument calibrated per manufacturer's instructions and at SOP specified levels ?				
2. ICV/CCV analyzed at appropriate frequency and within control limits?				
3. ICB/CCB analyzed at appropriate frequency and within +/- RL or +/- CRDL (CLP)?				
4. CRA run (CLP only)?				
B. Sample Results				
1. Were samples with concentrations > the high calibration standard diluted and reanalyzed?				
2. All reported results bracketed by in control QC ?				
3. Sample analyses done within holding time?				
C. Preparation/Matrix QC				
1. LCS done per prep batch and within QC limits ?				
2. Method blank done per prep batch and < RL or CRDL (CLP) ?				
3. MS run at required frequency and within limits ?				
4. MSD or DU run at required frequency and RPD within SOP limits?				
D. Other				
1. Are all nonconformances documented appropriately ?				
2. Current IDL/MDL data on file?				
3. Calculations and Transcriptions checked for error ?				
4. All client/ project specific requirements met?				
5. Date of analysis verified as correct ?				

Analyst: _____ **Date:**_____
Comments:
_____
_____

2nd Level Reviewer : _____ **Date:**_____
_____
_____

APPENDIX C

MSA GUIDANCE

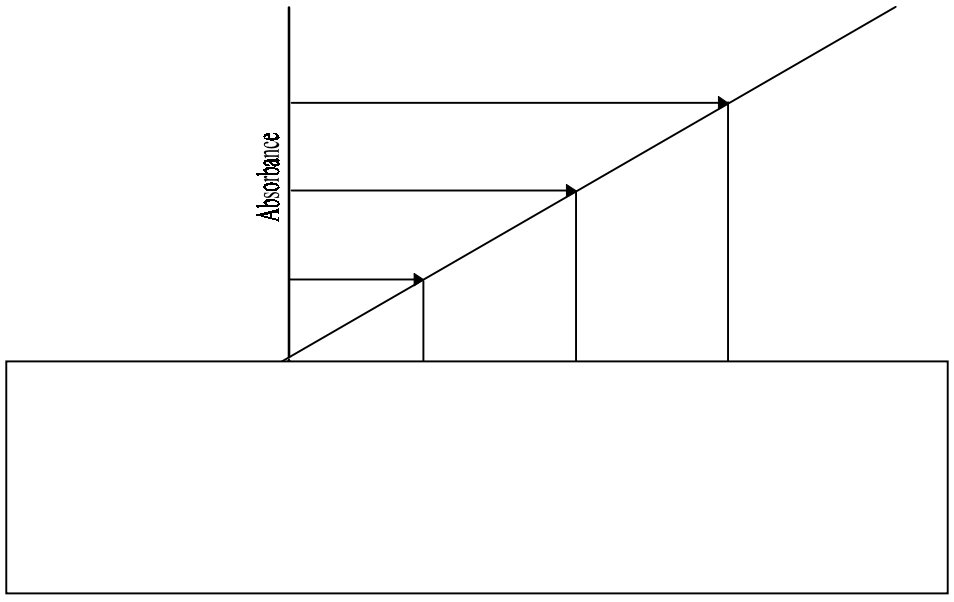
APPENDIX C. MSA GUIDANCE

Method of Standard Addition

Four equal volume aliquots of sample are measured and known amounts of standards are added to three aliquots. The fourth aliquot is the unknown and no standard is added to it. The concentration of standard added to the first aliquot should be 50% of the expected concentration. The concentration of standard added to the second aliquot should be 100% of the expected concentration and the concentration of standard added to the third aliquot should be 150% of the expected concentration. The volume of the unspiked and spiked aliquots should be the same (i.e., the volume of the spike added should be negligible in relation to the volume of sample).

To determine the concentration of analyte in the sample, the absorbance (or response) of each solution is determined and a linear regression performed. On the vertical axis the absorbance (or response) is plotted versus the concentrations of the standards on the horizontal axis using 0 as the concentration of the unspiked aliquot. An example plot is shown in Figure 1. When the resulting line is extrapolated back to zero absorbance, the point of interception of the horizontal axis is the concentration of the unknown. Calculate the correlation coefficient (r) and the x-intercept (where y=0) of the curve. The concentration in the digestate is equal to the negative x-intercept.

Figure 1



- For the method of standard additions to be correctly applied, the following limitations must be taken into consideration.

- The plot of the sample and standards must be linear over the concentration range of concern. For best results, the slope of the curve should be similar to that of a plot of the aqueous standard curve.

- The effect of the interference should not vary as the ratio of the standard added to the sample matrix changes.

APPENDIX D

TROUBLESHOOTING GUIDE

APPENDIX D. TROUBLESHOOTING GUIDE

Problem	Possible Cause
Poor or No Absorbance or Sensitivity Check failed	Incorrect wavelength Dirty windows Window loose Etched or dirty optics Wrong lamp Bad lamp Not enough or no sample introduced Empty sample cup Incorrectly made standards Gas leak EDL power supply set on “Continuous”
Erratic Readings	Source lamp not aligned properly Lamp not prewarmed Injection tip partially clogged Contaminated reagents Contaminated glassware Drying tube saturated Bad lamp Injection tip hitting outside of tube Injection tip coated or not set properly Leak in sample tubing Power fluctuations Air bubbles in tubing
EDL Won’t Light	Lamp cable not plugged in Lamp power set at 0 Lamp is dead Power supply fuse is blown Short in cord
Standards reading twice or half normal absorbance or concentration	Incorrect standard used Incorrect dilution performed Dirty cell
Background Correction Light Blinking	Background screen or attenuator faulty

APPENDIX E

CONTAMINATION CONTROL GUIDELINES

APPENDIX E. CONTAMINATION CONTROL GUIDELINES

The following procedures are strongly recommended to prevent contamination:

All work areas used to prepare standards and spikes should be cleaned before and after each use.

All glassware should be washed with detergent and tap water and rinsed with 1:1 nitric acid followed by deionized water.

Proper laboratory housekeeping is essential in the reduction of contamination in the metals laboratory. All work areas must be kept scrupulously clean.

Powdered or Latex Gloves must not be used in the metals laboratory since the powder contains silica and zinc, as well as other metallic analytes. Only vinyl or nitrile gloves should be used in the metals laboratory.

Glassware should be periodically checked for cracks and etches and discarded if found. Etched glassware can cause cross contamination of any metallic analytes.

Autosampler trays should be covered to reduce the possibility of contamination. Trace levels of elements being analyzed in the samples can be easily contaminated by dust particles in the laboratory.

The following are helpful hints in the identification of the source of contaminants:

Reagents or standards can contain contaminants or be contaminated with the improper use of a pipette.

Improper cleaning of glassware can cause contamination.

Separate glassware if an unusually high sample is analyzed and soak with sulfuric acid prior to routine cleaning.

APPENDIX F

PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE

APPENDIX F. PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE

A maintenance log is used to record when maintenance is performed on instruments. When an instrument problem occurs indicate the date, time and instrument number, then identify the problem and corrective action in the maintenance log.

The following procedures are required to ensure that that the instrument is fully operational.

Cold Vapor Atomic Absorption (Leeman PS 200) (1)

Daily	Semi-annually	Annually
Clean lens.	Check Hg lamp intensity.	Change Hg lamp.
Check aperture.		Check liquid/gas separator.
Check argon flow.		
Check tubing.		
Check drain.		
Replace drying tube.		

Cold Vapor Atomic Absorption (PE 5000) (1)

Daily	Monthly
Clean aspirator by flushing with DI water.	Clean cell in aqua regia.
Check tubing and replace if needed.	Clean aspirator in aqua regia.
Clean windows with methanol.	
Change silica gel in drying tube.	
Check argon gas supply.	
Adjust lamp.	