



# Speciated VOC Methods – Overview

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



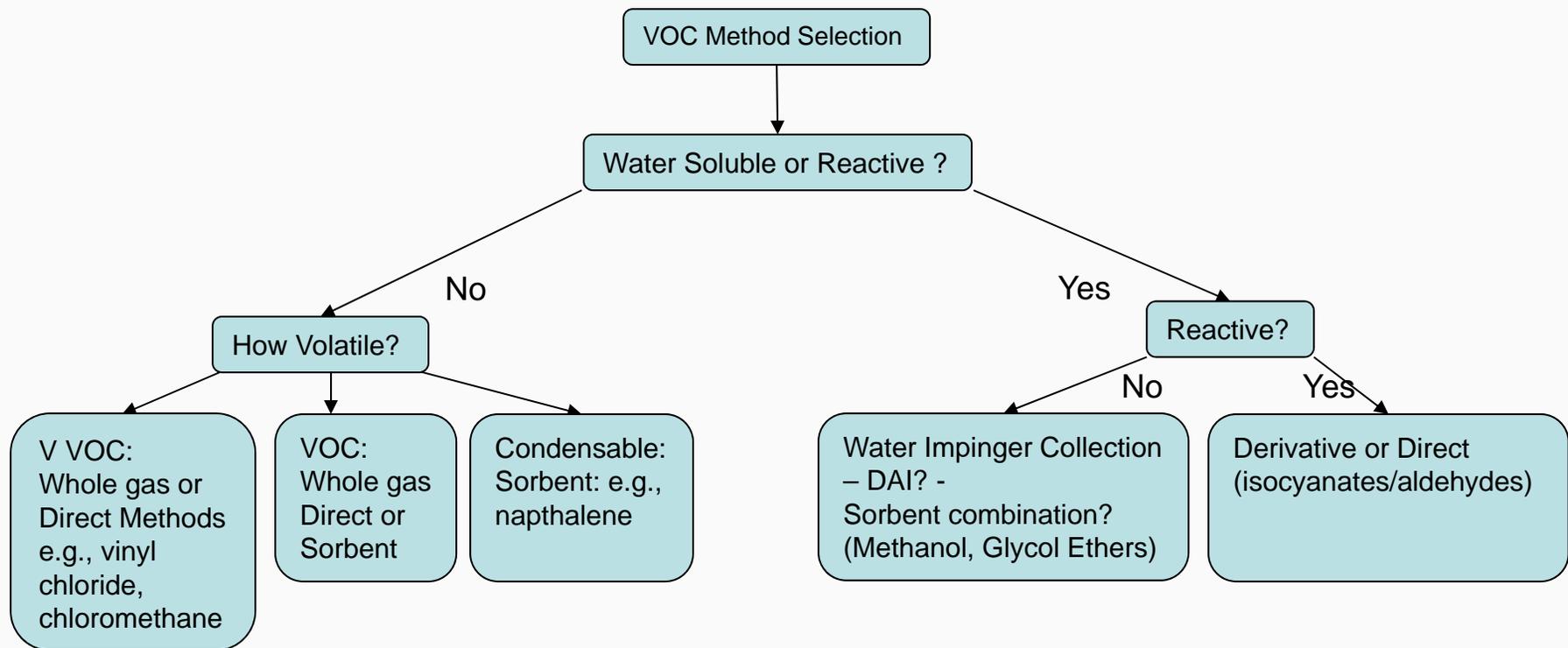
# How do I choose a Method

(What does Ray think about when you ask him about a target VOC measurement?)

- Rule or permit mandated method?
- What do we know about the target VOC(s) physical and chemical behavior?
- Is this a field measurement or a collected sample lab analysis?
- Are there methods for this target already?  
( EPA/ASTM/NIOSH/OSHA)



# Ray's Decision Tree for VOC





# VOC Physical and Chemical Behavior

- Volatility
- Polarity/water solubility
- Reactivity
  - Stable, nonreactive
  - Reacts as condensate with water/pH
- Can I buy a certified standard?



# How Volatile is your target VOC

## ☐ Very volatile organic compounds (VVOCs)

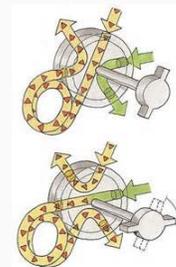
It's about capturing a representative sample of an elusive gas e.g. vinyl chloride

- ✓ Low molecular weight
- ✓ Vapor pressures greater than 15 kPa at 25° C
- ✓ Boiling points typically below 30° C.
- ✓ Purgeable or not water soluble

## ☐ Very volatile compound measurement

### ➤ Reference Methods

- ✓ Whole gas sampling in bags with loop injections (Method 18)
- ✓ Direct gas sampling with loop injection (Method 18)
- ✓ Direct gas sampling into measurement cell (Method 320)



Note: Boiling Point/Vapor Pressure (see ASTM D6345 Standard Guide for Selection of Methods for Active, Integrative Sampling of VOC in Air)

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# How Volatile is your target VOC

## ☐ Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC)

(It's about getting the target VOC to the detector. e.g., benzene, trichloroethylene)

- Vapor pressures greater than  $10^{-2}$  kPa at  $25^{\circ}$  C
- Boiling points typically 30 to  $180^{\circ}$  C.
- Purgeable or not water soluble

## ☐ Volatile compound measurement

- Reference Methods
  - ✓ Sorbent sampling option (Method 18)\*
  - ✓ Whole gas sampling in bags with loop injections (Method 18)
  - ✓ Direct gas sampling with loop injection (Method 18)
  - ✓ Direct gas sampling into measurement cell (Method 320)

\* Note the connection to NIOSH and OSHA sorbent methods.



# How Volatile is your target VOC

## Condensable/Semivolatile/Non-Reactive

(Its all about collecting/concentrating enough to measure e.g., naphthalene)

- Vapor pressures greater than  $10^{-2}$  to  $10^{-8}$  kPa at  $25^{\circ}$  C
- Boiling points typically 180 to  $350^{\circ}$  C.

## Semivolatile compound measurement

- Sorbent sampling (e.g., styrene, naphthalene)

(We are playing this one by ear)

- ✓ Heated sampling lines – direct analysis
- ✓ SW-826 Methods 0010/8270
- ✓ Method 18 or other sorbent methods



# Summary for Methods for Non-Reactive Hydrophobic Volatile Organic Compounds

## ☐ Methods (Work Horses)

- Reference Method 18
  - ✓ Very volatile compounds from Tedlar bags or direct interface
  - ✓ Volatile compounds – add sorbent sampling
- Reference Method 320
  - ✓ Direct interface FTIR
  - ✓ Can I use a bag sample?



# Why or Why Not Canisters for Non Reactive VOC?

## ❑ Canisters – Multiple Use

- Combustion Matrix
  - ✓ Contamination/compromise
  - ✓ Acid gases
  - ✓ Water condensation
  - ✓ No visible inspection
  - ✓ Multiple use

## ❑ Bags

- One time use
- Blank contamination
- Permeation
- Water condensation

## ❑ What About Non-combustion gas ?

- High concentration/safety
  - ✓ Fuels BTU Analysis

## ❑ What About Ambient Condition Source Gas

- 2% or less moisture
- Ambient temperature



# How do I choose a Method

- ❑ **Nonreactive, polar/water soluble VOC**  
(Measurements are more challenging - e.g., methanol, ethanol, acetone, acetaldehyde, methyl ethyl ketone, ethers)
  - Manual sampling
  - Aqueous impinger with or without sorbent backup.
  - Direct aqueous analysis – not very sensitive
  - Extract derivative and analyze
  
- ❑ **Nonreactive, polar/water soluble method examples**
  - Water dropout, Method 323 (formaldehyde, others?)
    - ✓ Derivatization/analysis
  
  - Water dropout sorbent backup Method 308 (methanol, glycol ethers)
    - ✓ Water analysis
    - ✓ Sorbent analysis



## How Do I choose a Method Reactive VOC Measurement

### Case by Case Basis

- Does it react when cooled with the gas matrix during sampling?
  - ✓ Manual collection – stabilization/derivatization
    - Isocyanates
  - ✓ Direct hot wet measurement
    - Method 320?



# Summary of Tools VOC Measurement Tools

- ❑ Manual Generic VOC Methods  
Regulatory Methods
  - Method 18 (GC with other Detectors)
    - ✓ Bags, Sorbents, Direct
  - Method 320 (FTIR)
  
- ❑ Manual Target Specific Compound Regulatory Methods
  - Method 207
  - Method 308
  - Method 323

- ❑ Other EPA Resources
  - ORCR HWI Methods (e.g.)
    - ✓ Method 0031/8260 VOC – Sorbent – GC/MS
    - ✓ Method 0010/8270 (Semivolatile)
  
- ❑ State Resources
  - CARB Methods
  - South Coast ARB Methods
  
- ❑ Industry Methods
  - NCASI
  - NIOSH
  - OSHA



# Questions

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