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# Research and Development

## Total Organic Halide
## Method 450.1 - Interim

## Prepared for

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1. Scope and Application

   1.1 This method is to be used for the determination of Total Organic Halides as $Cl^-$ by carbon adsorption, and requires that all samples be run in duplicate. Under conditions of duplicate analysis, the reliable limit of sensitivity is 5 µg/L. Organic halides as used in this method are defined as all organic species containing chlorine, bromine and iodine that are adsorbed by granular activated carbon under the conditions of the method. Fluorine containing species are not determined by this method.

   1.2 This is a microcoulometric-titration detection method applicable to the determination of the compound class listed above in drinking and ground waters, as provided under 40 CFR 265.92.

   1.3 Any modification of this method, beyond those expressly permitted, shall be considered as major modifications subject to application and approval of alternate test procedures under 40 CFR 260.21.

   1.4 This method is restricted to use by, or under the supervision of, analysts experienced in the operation of a pyrolysis/microcolumeter and in the interpretation of the results.

2. Summary of Method

   2.1 A sample of water that has been protected against the loss of volatiles by the elimination of headspace in the sampling container, and is free of undissolved solids, is passed through a column containing 40 mg of activated carbon. The column is washed

to remove any trapped inorganic halides, and is then pyrolyzed to convert the adsorbed organohalides to a titratable species that can be measured by a microcoulometric detector.

3. Interferences

3.1 Method interferences may be caused by contaminants, reagents, glassware, and other sample processing hardware. All of these materials must be routinely demonstrated to be free from interferences under the conditions of the analysis by running method blanks.

3.1.1 Glassware must be scrupulously cleaned. Clean all glassware as soon as possible after use by treating with chromate cleaning solution. This should be followed by detergent washing in hot water. Rinse with tap water and distilled water, drain dry, and heat in a muffle furnace at 400°C for 15 to 30 minutes. Volumetric ware should not be heated in a muffle furnace. Glassware should be sealed and stored in a clean environment after drying and cooling, to prevent any accumulation of dust or other contaminants.

3.1.2 The use of high purity reagents and gases help to minimize interference problems.

3.2 Purity of the activated carbon must be verified before use. Only carbon samples which register less than 1000 ng/40 mg should be used. The stock of activated carbon should be stored in its granular form in a glass container with a Teflon seal. Exposure to the air must be minimized, especially during and after milling and sieving the activated carbon. No more than a two-week supply

should be prepared in advance. Protect carbon at all times from all sources of halogenated organic vapors. Store prepared carbon and packed columns in glass containers with Teflon seals.

3.3 This method is applicable to samples whose inorganic-halide concentration does not exceed the organic-halide concentration by more than 20,000 times.

4. Safety

The toxicity or carcinogenicity of each reagent in this method has not been precisely defined; however, each chemical compound should be treated as a potential health hazard. From this viewpoint, exposure to these chemicals must be reduced to the lowest possible level by whatever means available. The laboratory is responsible for maintaining a current-awareness file of OSHA regulations regarding the safe handling of the chemicals specified in this method. A reference file of material-handling data sheets should also be made available to all personnel involved in the chemical analysis.

5. Apparatus and Materials (All specifications are suggested. Catalog numbers are included for illustration only).

5.1 Sampling equipment, for discrete or composite sampling

5.1.1 Grab-sample bottle - Amber glass, 250-mL, fitted with Teflon-lined caps. Foil may be substituted for Teflon if the sample is not corrosive. If amber bottles are not available, protect samples from light. The container must be washed and muffled at 400°C before use, to minimize contamination.

5.2 Adsorption System

5.2.1 Dohrmann Adsorption Module (AD-2), or equivalent, pressurized, sample and nitrate-wash reservoirs.

5.2.2 Adsorption columns - pyrex, 5 cm long X 6-mm OD X 2-mm ID.

5.2.3 Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) - Filtrasorb-400, Calgon-APC, or equivalent, ground or milled, and screened to a 100/200 mesh range. Upon combustion of 40 mg of GAC, the apparent-halide background should be 1000-mg $Cl^-$ equivalent or less.

5.2.4 Cerafelt (available from Johns-Manville), or equivalent - Form this material into plugs using a 2-mm ID stainless-steel borer with ejection rod (available from Dohrmann) to hold 40 mg of GAC in the adsorption columns. CAUTION: Do not touch this material with your fingers.

5.2.5 Column holders (available from Dohrman).

5.2.6 Volumetric flasks - 100-mL, 50-mL.

A general schematic of the adsorption system is shown in Figure 1.

5.3 Dohrmann microcoulometric-titration system (MCTS-20 or DX-20), or equivalent, containing the following components:

5.3.1 Boat sampler.

5.3.2 Pyrolysis furnace.

5.3.3 Microcoulometer with integrator.

5.3.4 Titration cell.

A general description of the analytical system is shown in Figure 2.

5.4 Strip-Chart Recorder.

6. Reagents

6.1 Sodium sulfite - 0.1 M, ACS reagent grade (12.6 g/L).

6.2 Nitric acid - concentrated.

6.3 Nitrate-Wash Solution (5000 mg $NO_3^-$/L) - Prepare a nitrate-wash solution by transferring approximately 8.2 gm of potassium nitrate into a 1-litre volumetric flask and diluting to volume with reagent water.

6.4 Carbon dioxide - gas, 99.9% purity.

6.5 Oxygen - 99.9% purity.

6.6 Nitrogen - prepurified.

6.7 70% Acetic acid in water - Dilute 7 volumes of acetic acid with 3 volumes of water.

6.8 Trichlorophenol solution, stock (1 µL = 10 µg $Cl^-$) - Prepare a stock solution by weighing accurately 1.856 gm of trichlorophenol into a 100-mL volumetric flask. Dilute to volume with methanol.

6.9 Trichlorophenol solution, calibration (1 µL = 500 ng $Cl^-$) - Dilute 5 mL of the trichlorophenol stock solution to 100 mL with methanol.

6.10 Trichlorophenol standard, instrument-calibration - First, nitrate wash a single column packed with 40 mg of activated carbon as instructed for sample analysis, and then inject the column with 10 µL of the calibration solution.

6.11 Trichlorophenol standard, adsorption-efficiency (100 µg $Cl^-$/L) - Prepare a adsorption-efficiency standard by injecting 10 µL of stock solution into 1 liter of reagent water.

6.12 Reagent water - Reagent water is defined as a water in which an

interferent is not observed at the method detection limit of each parameter of interest.

6.13 Blank standard - The reagent water used to prepare the calibration standard should be used as the blank standard.

7. Calibration

7.1 Check the adsorption efficiency of each newly-prepared batch of carbon by analyzing 100 mL of the adsorption-efficiency standard, in duplicate, along with duplicates of the blank standard. The net recovery should be within 5% of the standard value.

7.2 Nitrate-wash blanks (Method Blanks) - Establish the repeatability of the method background each day by first analyzing several nitrate-wash blanks. Monitor this background by spacing nitrate-wash blanks between each group of eight pyrolysis determinations.

7.2.1 The nitrate-wash blank values are obtained on single columns packed with 40 mg of activated carbon. Wash with the nitrate solution as instructed for sample analysis, and then pyrolyze the carbon.

7.3 Pyrolyze duplicate instrument-calibration standards and the blank standard each day before beginning sample analysis. The net response to the calibration-standard should be within 3% of the calibration-standard value. Repeat analysis of the instrument-calibration standard after each group of eight pyrolysis determinations, and before resuming sample analysis after cleaning or reconditioning the titration cell or pyrolysis system.

8. Sample Preparation

8.1 Special care should be taken in the handling of the sample to

minimize the loss of volatile organohalides. The adsorption procedure should be performed simultaneously on duplicates.

8.2 Reduce residual chlorine by the addition of sulfite (1 mL of 0.1 M per liter of sample). Addition of sulfite should be done at the time of sampling if the analysis is meant to determine the TOX concentration at the time of sampling. It should be recognized that TOX may increase on storage of the sample. Samples should be stored at $4^{o}C$ without headspace.

8.3 Adjust pH of the sample to approximately 2 with concentrated $HNO_3$ just prior to adding the sample to the reservoir.

9. Adsorption Procedure

9.1 Connect two columns in series, each containing 40 mg of 100/200-mesh activated carbon.

9.2 Fill the sample reservoir, and pass a metered amount of sample through the activated-carbon columns at a rate of approximately 3 mL/min. NOTE: 100 mL of sample is the preferred volume for concentrations of TOX between 5 and 500 µg/L; 50 mL for 501 to 1000 µg/L, and 25 mL for 1001 to 2000 µg/L.

9.3 Wash the columns-in-series with 2 mL of the 5000-mg/L nitrate solution at a rate of approximately 2 mL/min to displace inorganic chloride ions.

10. Pyrolysis Procedure

10.1 The contents of each column is pyrolyzed separately. After rinsing with the nitrate solution, the columns should be protected from the atmosphere and other sources of contamination until ready for further analysis.

10.2 Pyrolysis of the sample is accomplished in two stages. The volatile components are pyrolyzed in a $CO_2$-rich atmosphere at a low temperature to assure the conversion of brominated trihalomethanes to a titratable species. The less volatile components are then pyrolyzed at a high temperature in an $O_2$-rich atmosphere.

NOTE: The quartz sampling boat should have been previously muffled at 800°C for at least 2 to 4 minutes as in a previous analysis, and should be cleaned of any residue by vacuuming.

10.3 Transfer the contents of each column to the quartz boat for individual analysis.

10.4 If the Dohrmann MC-1 is used for pyrolysis, manual instructions are followed for gas flow regulation. If the MCT-20 is used, the information on the diagram in Figure 3 is used for gas flow regulation.

10.5 Position the sample for 2 minutes in the 200°C zone of the pyrolysis tube. For the MCTS-20, the boat is positioned just outside the furnace entrance.

10.6 After 2 minutes, advance the boat into the 800°C zone (center) of the pyrolysis furnace. This second and final stage of pyrolysis may require from 6 to 10 minutes to complete.

11. Detection

The effluent gases are directly analyzed in the microcoulometric-titration cell. Carefully follow manual instructions for optimizing cell performance.

12. Breakthrough

Because the background bias can be of such an unpredictable nature, it can be especially difficult to recognize the extent of breakthrough of organohalides from one column to another. All second-column measurements for a properly operating system should not exceed 10-percent of the two-column total measurement. If the 10-percent figure is exceeded, one of three events can have happened. Either the first column was overloaded and a legitimate measure of breakthrough was obtained - in which case taking a smaller sample may be necessary; or channeling or some other failure occurred - in which case the sample may need to be rerun; or a high, random, bias occurred and the result should be rejected and the sample rerun. Because knowing which event has occurred may not be possible, a sample analysis should be repeated often enough to gain confidence in results. As a general rule, any analyses that is rejected should be repeated whenever sample is available. In the event that the second-column measurement is equal to or less than the nitrate-wash blank value, the second-column value should be disregarded.

13. Quality Control

13.1 Before performing any analyses. the analyst must demonstrate the ability to generate acceptable accuracy and precision with this procedure by the analysis of appropriate quality-control check samples.

13.2 The laboratory must develop and maintain a statement of method accuracy for their laboratory. The laboratory should update the accuracy statement regularly as new recovery measurements are made.

13.3 It is recommended that the laboratory adopt additional quality-assurance practices for use with this method. The specific practices that would be most productive will depend upon the needs of the laboratory and the nature of the samples. Field duplicates may be analyzed to monitor the precision of the sampling technique. Whenever possible, the laboratory should perform analysis of standard reference materials and participate in relevant performance-evaluation studies.

14. Calculations

OX as $Cl^-$ is calculated using the following formula:

$$\frac{(C_1 - C_3) + (C_2 - C_3)}{V} = \mu g/L \text{ Total Organic Halide}$$

where:

$C_1$ = µg $Cl^-$ on the first column in series

$C_2$ = µg $Cl^-$ on the second column in series

$C_3$ = predetermined, daily, average, method-blank value (nitrate-wash blank for a 40-mg carbon column)

V = the sample volume in L

15. Accuracy and Precision

These procedures have been applied to a large number of drinking-water samples. The results of these analysis are summarized in Tables I and II.

16. Reference

Dressman, R., Najar, G., Redzikowski, R., paper presented at the Proceedings of the American Water Works Association Water Quality Technology Conference, Philadelphia, Dec. 1979.

TABLE I

PRECISION AND ACCURACY DATA FOR MODEL COMPOUNDS

| Model Compound | Dose µg/L | Dose as µg/L Cl | Average % Recovery | Standard Deviation | No. of Replicates |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| $CHCl_3$ | 98 | 88 | 89 | 14 | 10 |
| $CHBrCl_2$ | 160 | 106 | 98 | 9 | 11 |
| $CHBr_2Cl$ | 155 | 79 | 86 | 11 | 13 |
| $CHBr_3$ | 160 | 67 | 111 | 8 | 11 |
| Pentachlorophenol | 120 | 80 | 93 | 9 | 7 |

TABLE II

PRECISION DATA ON TAP WATER ANALYSIS

| Sample | Avg. halide ug Cl/L | Standard Deviation | No. of Replicates |
|---|---|---|---|
| A | 71 | 4.3 | 8 |
| B | 94 | 7.0 | 6 |
| C | 191 | 6.1 | 4 |

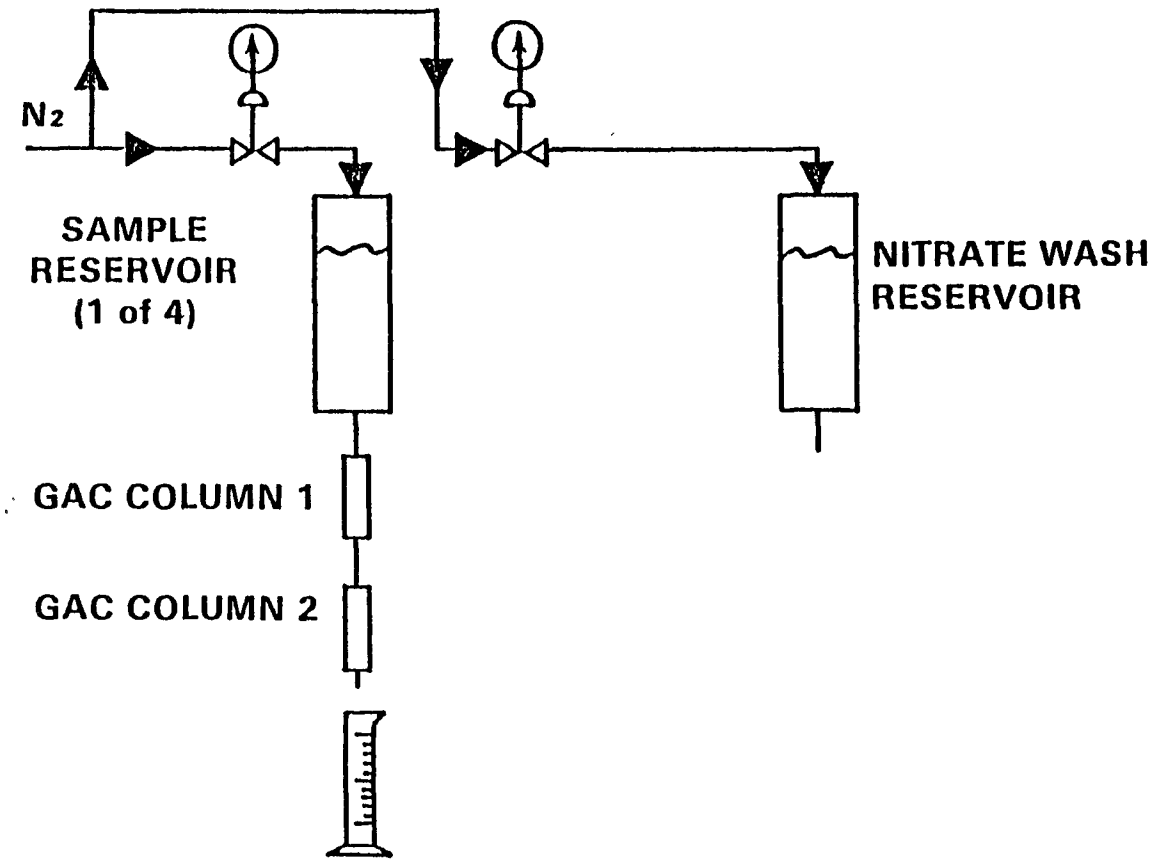


Figure 1. Adsorption Schematic

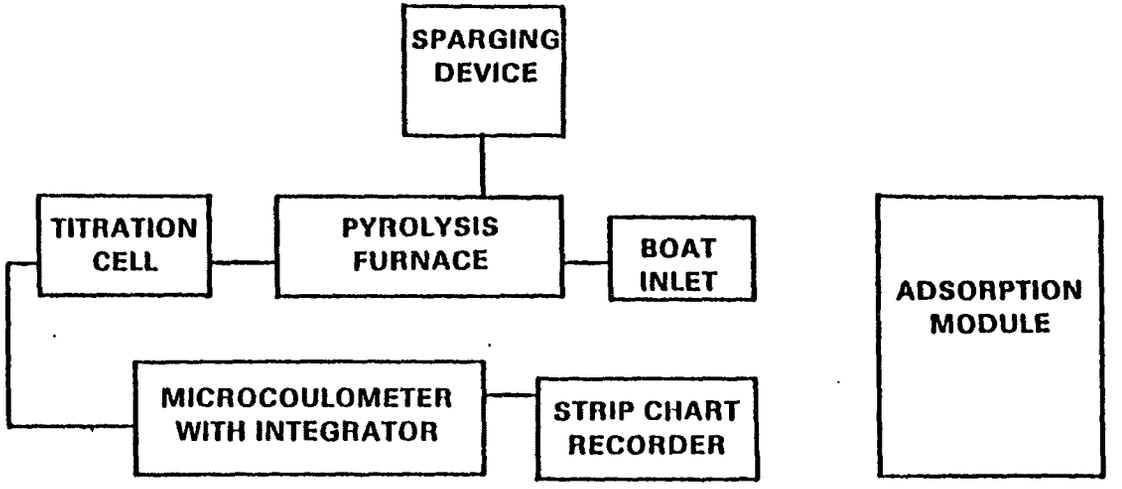


**Figure 2. CAOX Analysis System Schematic**

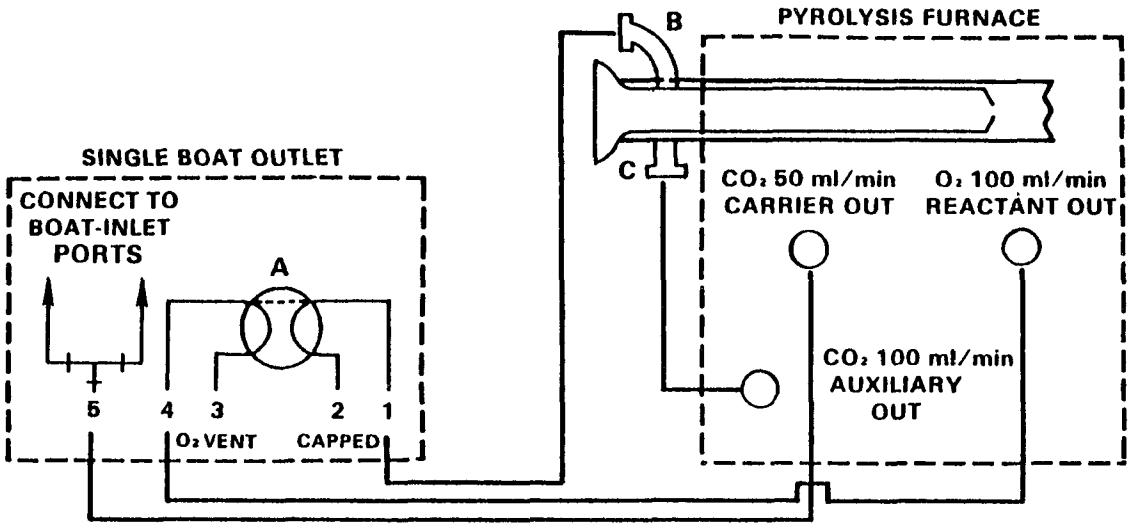


Figure 3. Rear view plumbing schematic for MCTS-20 system. Valve A is set for first-stage combustion, $O_2$ venting (push/pull valve out). Port B enters inner combustion tube; Port C enters outer combustion tube.