Preparation of Waste Oil for Analysis to Determine Hazardous Metals

by A. M. Essling, D. R. Huff, E. A. Huff, I. M. Fox, and D. G. Graczyk

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PREPARATION OF WASTE OIL FOR ANALYSIS TO DETERMINE HAZARDOUS METALS

by

Alice M. Essling, Doris R. Huff, Edmund A. Huff, Irene M. Fox, and Donald G. Graczyk

Analytical Chemistry Laboratory
Chemical Technology Division

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ABSTRACT

Two methods for preparing waste-oil samples to permit measurement of their metals content were evaluated. For this evaluation, metals-in-oil standard reference materials were prepared by each method and the resulting solutions were analyzed for 20 metals, including those (As, Ba, Cd, Cr, Pb, Hg, Se, and Ag) regulated as hazardous under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. One preparation method involved combustion of the waste oil under oxygen at 25 atm pressure, as described in the American Society for Testing and Materials test method E926-88. As we applied it, this method gave recoveries well under 90% for most of the metals that we examined and, hence, proved unsatisfactory for routine application to waste-oil analysis. With the other method, nitric acid decomposition in a sealed vessel heated with microwave energy (analogous to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Method 3051), recoveries of all 20 metal contaminants were within 90 to 110% of the certified values. This microwave digestion procedure was also more efficient since it allowed six samples to be prepared together, whereas the oxygen combustion approach allowed processing of only one sample at a time.
I. INTRODUCTION

Many research and development programs at Department of Energy laboratories depend on vacuum pumps, hydraulic systems, or lubricated machines, which contain oil that needs changing and, ultimately, disposal. Proper disposal of oil requires a determination as to whether it is contaminated with metals (e.g., As, Ba, Cd, Cr, Hg, Pb, Se, Ag) that are regulated as hazardous under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and/or radionuclides. Because commonly used techniques for measuring metal contaminants perform best with aqueous samples, we undertook a study of methods for decomposing oils in order to identify a method that would provide a single aqueous solution compatible with the most frequently used techniques, including inductively coupled plasma-atomic emission spectrometry (ICP-AES), graphite furnace atomic absorption spectrophotometry (GFAA), and cold vapor atomic absorption spectrophotometry (CVAA). Such a solution might also have advantages for radiological measurements including those by liquid scintillation or by proportional counting to determine gross alpha or beta radioactivity.

In evaluating the performance of a sample-preparation technique, we considered the following qualities to be important: (1) thorough sample decomposition, (2) retention of volatile analytes, (3) acceptable analyte recovery, (4) minimal contamination from the environment or the digestion vessel, (5) low reagent blanks, and (6) speed. We investigated two preparation techniques with respect to these criteria. One involved combustion of the waste oil under oxygen at 25 atm pressure, as described in the ASTM test method E926-88 [1]. The other was nitric acid decomposition of the oil in a sealed vessel heated with microwave energy, in a manner analogous to that of U.S. EPA Method 3051 [2]. Equipment for both preparation methods of preparation was available in the Analytical Chemistry Laboratory (ACL) at Argonne National Laboratory (ANL).
This report describes the results of applying these methods to oil reference materials containing metal analytes of general interest. The accuracy of each method is evaluated by comparing the amount of each analyte recovered to the amount of analyte expected. After sample preparation, metals other than mercury were determined using ICP-AES or GFAA. Mercury was determined in the same solution by CVAA. No oil standard containing radionuclides was available for this study. However, we anticipate that many radionuclides will exhibit dissolution behavior similar to that of metals we studied, and that any preparative technique that performs well for metal determinations will also be useful for radiological measurements.
II. EXPERIMENTAL

A. Apparatus

1. Parr Oxygen Bomb
   a. Parr Oxygen Bomb unit, Model 101A or equivalent (Parr Instrument Co., Moline, IL)
   b. Parr Oxygen Bomb ignition unit
   c. Parr Oxygen Bomb platinum fuse wire (0.005" dia)
   d. Parr Oxygen Bomb quartz liner and sample cup

2. Oxygen tank with two-stage regulator to deliver gas to 25 atm

3. Laboratory thermometer - nonmercury type. A range of 0 to 50 degrees Celsius is sufficient.

4. Water bath

5. Microwave System
   a. Microwave Oven - 950 watt or 630 watt, pressure-controlled, programmable. Model CEM MDS2100 (CEM Corp., Matthews, NC) or equivalent.
   b. Vessels - Teflon-lined digestion vessels with one control vessel for pressure feedback control (CEM Corp., Part No. 323010, now replaced by Advanced Composite Vessel/Sleeve Assemblies, Part No. 327011). The outer body and cap consist of microwave-transparent Ultem polyetherimide. The removable liner, the liner cover, and safety rupture membrane are of Teflon PFA. A plastic vent stem allows the vessel to be vented to remove residual gas pressure. Gases escape through the exhaust port if the safety rupture membrane ruptures or if the vessel is hand
vented. The liner cover of the control vessel is equipped with a Teflon PFA adaptor to allow for a pressure-tubing connection for pressure measurements. These vessel assemblies are rated for use at pressures up to 200 psig and temperatures to 250°C.

6. Analytical balances

7. Volumetric flasks - usually 50-mL and 100-mL capacity

B. Reagents and Standards

1. Nitric Acid (HNO₃) - concentrated and 10% solution. Instra-Analyzed acid (Baker Chemical Co.) was used throughout this study.

2. Standard Reference Materials (SRM)
   a. Wear-Metals in Lubricating Oil (National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD)
      SRM 1083 - Base Oil standard
      SRM 1084a - Nominally 100 µg analyte per g of oil; certified levels of Al, Ag, Cr, Cu, Fe, Mg, Mo, Ni, Pb, Sn, Ti, V, S, Si
      SRM 1085a - Nominally 300 µg analyte/g; same metals as SRM 1084a
   b. Metallo-Organic Standards (Conostan Division, Conoco Specialty Products Inc., Ponca City, OK)
      Conostan S-21 - Nominally 900 ppm by weight of Al, Ag, B, Ba, Be, Cd, Cr, Cu, Fe, Mg, Mn, Mo, P, Na, Ni, Pb, Si, Sn, Ti, V, Zn
      Conostan As - nominally 100 ppm As
      Conostan Se - nominally 100 ppm Se
      Conostan Hg - nominally 100 ppm Hg
III. SAMPLE PREPARATION AND ANALYSIS

A. Parr Oxygen Bomb Combustion - Preparation Method and Analysis Results

The organic matter of samples may be destroyed in an oxygen combustion bomb. The oxidized form of metals are absorbed (trapped) in an acid solution, which can then be analyzed for the metals of interest.

The procedure for the Parr Oxygen Bomb combustion was as follows [3].

- Weigh up to 1-g of an oil into a quartz combustion cup.
- Place the combustion cup in the vessel holder.
- Thread a 10-cm platinum fuse wire so that the loop of the wire is positioned slightly above, or just barely touching the surface of the oil.
- Add about 10 mL of a 10% HNO₃ solution to the quartz liner of the cylinder bomb jacket.
- Assemble the bomb, seal, and fill with oxygen to 25 (+1) atm. The bomb must NOT be overcharged.

NOTE: The oxygen filling system shall include a pressure regulator or other automatic device to prevent overcharging beyond the maximum allowable pressure specified in ASTM Method E926-88. There must be no oil or other combustibles in the regulator system. The bomb must NOT be fired if an overcharge of oxygen should be accidentally admitted. Care must be taken not to upset or disturb the sample during the assembly process.

- Place the bomb in the water bath, a larger vessel filled with distilled water at approximately ambient temperature. Check for evidence of gas leakage.

NOTE: The bomb must be completely submerged in the water during the firing and the charge must NOT be ignited if there is any evidence of gas leakage.
• Attach the Parr ignition unit electrodes by plugging into the channels located at the top of the unit.

• Place a nonmercury thermometer in contact with the top of the bomb unit while it is submerged in the water bath. Note the temperature.

• Initiate the combustion process by depressing the switch on the Parr ignition unit.

  **NOTE:** The Parr ignition unit draws the ignition current from a step-down transformer, using the lowest practical voltage recommended by the manufacturer. The circuit is controlled by a double-pole push switch that can be closed only when the operator presses the ignition button. Alternative ignition units must incorporate these features.

• After a few minutes, observe any rise in the temperature of the water bath. A temperature increase is an indication that the bomb has fired.

• Allow the water bath to cool to approximately the starting temperature.

• When cooling has occurred, remove the ignition electrodes and the bomb unit from the water bath.

• Dry off the entire unit using paper towels.

• Slowly open the vent at the top of the unit until the pressure has equilibrated to atmospheric.

• Open the bomb unit and quantitatively transfer the nitric acid solution to a volumetric flask. Rinse all surfaces on the inside of the unit with water and add the rinse water to the flask volume.

  **NOTE:** Usually when a 1-g sample is combusted, it is diluted to 100 mL. When the bomb unit is opened, the contents should be inspected to determine whether the combustion was complete. If unreacted sample remains, the contents should be discarded and another sample portion processed.
The diluted solution has an approximate acid concentration of 1% in HNO₃. The sample is now ready for analysis by ICP-AES, GFAA, or CVAA, to determine metals content of the decomposed oil.

The performance of this procedure was tested using SRMs that contained certified concentrations of specified metals in an oil matrix. The SRMs Conostan S-21 contains 21 analytes, including the RCRA metals Ba, Cd, Cr, Pb, and Ag. The other RCRA metals (As, Se, and Hg) were available from individual standard Conostan oils, including Conostan As, Conostan Se, and Conostan Hg. Wear-Metals in Lubricating Oil standards from the National Institute of Standards and Technology were used only in preliminary and early work because they contain only the three RCRA metals (Ag, Cr, and Pb) of most concern in automotive or machine tool applications.

The results of analyses of solutions from the combustion of the standard oils are given in Tables 1 and 2.

B. Microwave Digestion - Preparation Method and Analysis Results

Nitric acid digestion at elevated pressures and temperatures, performed in closed vessels heated by microwave power, rapidly destroys the organic matrix of oil samples [2]. Modern laboratory microwave systems allow controlled, uniform application of microwave power and pressure and/or temperature monitoring, thus providing reproducible conditions while not exceeding the pressure or temperature limitations of the specially designed Teflon sample containers [4,5].
Table 1. Recovery of Metals from Parr Oxygen Bomb Combustion of Conostan Oil S-21, Lot #21250

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recovery, %</th>
<th>Al</th>
<th>Ba</th>
<th>Ca</th>
<th>Cd</th>
<th>Cr</th>
<th>Cu</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Run 1</td>
<td>14.8</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>26.7</td>
<td>88.4</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>24.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Run 2</td>
<td>21.4</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>43.7</td>
<td>92.2</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>42.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recovery, %</th>
<th>Fe</th>
<th>Mg</th>
<th>Mn</th>
<th>Ni</th>
<th>Pb</th>
<th>V</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Run 1</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>21.3</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>48.9</td>
<td>19.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Run 2</td>
<td>13.9</td>
<td>33.1</td>
<td>31.2</td>
<td>13.7</td>
<td>51.0</td>
<td>29.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recovery, %</th>
<th>Zn</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>Mo</th>
<th>Ti</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Run 1</td>
<td>61.1</td>
<td>71.3</td>
<td>35.7</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Run 2</td>
<td>63.9</td>
<td>74.9</td>
<td>50.0</td>
<td>7.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a Standard metal concentrations = 900 µg/g.

b Determined by ICP-AES.

Table 2. Recovery of Mercury from Parr Oxygen Bomb Combustion of Oil Reference Materials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference Material</th>
<th>Standard conc., µg/g</th>
<th>Measured conc., µg/g&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Recovery, %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conostan Hg Oil</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Run 1: 75.9</td>
<td>Run 1: 76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot #13015</td>
<td></td>
<td>Run 2: 83.3</td>
<td>Run 2: 83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conostan Hg Oil</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Run 1: 72.8</td>
<td>Run 1: 73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot #109</td>
<td></td>
<td>Run 2: 78.5</td>
<td>Run 2: 78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NBS 1083 Blank</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>0.11</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<sup>a</sup> Determined by CVAA with uncertainty of ±10%.
Our procedure for preparing standard oils and waste oil samples by microwave-assisted digestion was based on U.S. EPA Method 3051[2]. Our procedure was designed to accommodate handling six vessels at one time. It comprised the following operations:

- Weigh up to 0.5 g of oil into the Teflon liner of a CEM microwave digestion vessel.

  **NOTE:** When digesting organic materials with HNO₃ in a closed vessel, considerable pressure is produced by gaseous byproducts, such as CO₂, NO, NO₂, and H₂O. It is, therefore, necessary to limit the amount of sample used.

- Add 10 mL concentrated HNO₃.

  **NOTE:** A total of six vessels was always used. Any that did not contain a sample were included with 10 mL of HNO₃ only. We did not determine whether more or fewer vessels could be safely handled in the microwave system.

- Place each liner in a vessel body. Assemble and close the vessel, hand-tightening the cover and the vent stem. Attach the control vessel cap to the vessel containing the largest amount of sample by weight.

  **NOTE:** Ensure that a new Teflon rupture membrane is in place in the liner cover of each vessel.

- **Optional:** Weigh the entire sealed vessel and record the weight to the nearest 0.02 g. Usually, the weight is approximately 300 g.

- Place the vessels on the microwave turntable, evenly spaced, and attach the pressure line to the control vessel.

- Turn ON the microwave oven following the manufacturer's instructions [4].

- Access the file named OIL from the memory. If not available, enter the microwave heating parameters shown in Table 3.
Table 3. Microwave System Control-Program Variables\(^a\)
(First Heating Cycle)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>File Name: Oil Inorganic Sample Digestion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power, %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pressure, psig</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Run Time, min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time @ P, min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temperature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fan Speed, %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of Vessels: 6
Volume Per Vessel: 10 mL
Sample Weight: 0.5 g
Acid: HNO\(_3\)
60% Power = 295 Watts

\(^a\) Variables were selected using guidance from Ref. 6.
\(^b\) Not applicable.

- Heat according to the scheme in Table 3 to digest the samples.

**NOTE:** Organic matrices require multiple pressure control points to control reaction rates and to avoid runaway digestions.

- Allow the vessels to cool to room temperature in place.
- Wearing vinyl or latex gloves, remove the vessels and carefully vent in a fume hood by slowly opening the vent stem.
- Retighten the vent stem and return the vessels to the microwave oven.
- Heat again, accessing the file name OIL2. If this program is not in the memory, enter the microwave heating parameters shown in Table 4.
Table 4. Microwave System Control-Program Variables
(Second Heating Cycle)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>(1)</th>
<th>(2)</th>
<th>(3)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Power, %</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pressure, psig</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Run Time, min</td>
<td>15:00</td>
<td>15:00</td>
<td>15:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time @ P, min</td>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>20:00</td>
<td>20:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temperature</td>
<td>NA(^a)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fan Speed, %</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

File Name: Oil 2
Inorganic Sample Digestion

Number of Vessels: 6
Volume Per Vessel: 10 mL
Sample Weight: 0.5 g
Acid: HNO\(_3\)
65% Power = 350 Watts

\(^a\) Not applicable.

- At the end of the heating period, allow the vessels to cool to room temperature in place.
- Remove the vessels from the microwave system. **Optional:** Weigh each vessel assembly to the nearest 0.02 grams and record the weights.

**NOTE:** If the weight of the acid plus sample has decreased by more than about 10% from the original weight, determine the reason for the weight loss. Once the source of the loss has been corrected, prepare a new sample.

- Wearing vinyl or latex gloves, carefully vent and uncap each vessel in a fume hood.
• Quantitatively transfer the sample to a volumetric flask (usually 50-mL or 100-mL capacity) using water to rinse the Teflon liner and cap. Dilute to volume.

**NOTE:** On dilution with water, these solutions are slightly cloudy; however, this does not seem to adversely affect the performance of analyses to be done [6].

• The diluted digestate has an approximate acid concentration of 10 - 20% HNO₃. This digestate is now ready to be analyzed for the RCRA metals and any other elements of interest by ICP-AES, GFAA, or CVAA.

Results of analyses after microwave-assisted digestion of oil reference materials are shown in Tables 5, 6, 7, and 8.
Table 5. Recovery of Metals from Microwave Digestion of Conostan Oil S-21, Lot #21250a

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trial</th>
<th>Al</th>
<th>Ba</th>
<th>Ca</th>
<th>Cd</th>
<th>Cr</th>
<th>Cu</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Run 1</td>
<td>102.4</td>
<td>93.2</td>
<td>103.4</td>
<td>94.3</td>
<td>96.8</td>
<td>96.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Run 2</td>
<td>109.2</td>
<td>95.1</td>
<td>117.8</td>
<td>96.4</td>
<td>98.8</td>
<td>97.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Run 3</td>
<td>104.1</td>
<td>95.2</td>
<td>100.9</td>
<td>96.6</td>
<td>98.4</td>
<td>102.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Run 4</td>
<td>103.3</td>
<td>97.4</td>
<td>102.2</td>
<td>99.0</td>
<td>101.1</td>
<td>99.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Run 5</td>
<td>116.6</td>
<td>97.2</td>
<td>133.7</td>
<td>99.0</td>
<td>101.0</td>
<td>98.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Run 6</td>
<td>105.2</td>
<td>98.4</td>
<td>105.4</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>102.3</td>
<td>100.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Run 7</td>
<td>98.4</td>
<td>91.2</td>
<td>92.1</td>
<td>92.8</td>
<td>94.6</td>
<td>98.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Run 8</td>
<td>101.7</td>
<td>93.7</td>
<td>99.7</td>
<td>94.9</td>
<td>96.9</td>
<td>98.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>105.1</td>
<td>95.2</td>
<td>103.1</td>
<td>96.6</td>
<td>98.7</td>
<td>99.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Std. Dev.</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trial</th>
<th>Fe</th>
<th>Mg</th>
<th>Mn</th>
<th>Ni</th>
<th>Pb</th>
<th>V</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Run 1</td>
<td>93.0</td>
<td>95.9</td>
<td>96.3</td>
<td>93.9</td>
<td>96.6</td>
<td>94.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Run 2</td>
<td>95.1</td>
<td>98.1</td>
<td>98.1</td>
<td>95.8</td>
<td>98.1</td>
<td>95.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Run 3</td>
<td>94.8</td>
<td>98.4</td>
<td>98.4</td>
<td>96.1</td>
<td>98.9</td>
<td>95.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Run 4</td>
<td>97.2</td>
<td>100.6</td>
<td>100.6</td>
<td>98.1</td>
<td>100.9</td>
<td>98.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Run 5</td>
<td>97.0</td>
<td>101.0</td>
<td>100.1</td>
<td>97.7</td>
<td>101.0</td>
<td>97.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Run 6</td>
<td>98.2</td>
<td>101.9</td>
<td>101.4</td>
<td>99.1</td>
<td>102.6</td>
<td>99.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Run 7</td>
<td>91.7</td>
<td>94.8</td>
<td>94.6</td>
<td>92.8</td>
<td>95.7</td>
<td>91.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Run 8</td>
<td>93.7</td>
<td>96.9</td>
<td>96.7</td>
<td>94.7</td>
<td>97.6</td>
<td>94.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>95.1</td>
<td>98.4</td>
<td>98.3</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>98.9</td>
<td>95.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Std. Dev.</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 5. Recovery of Metals from Microwave Digestion of Conostan Oil S-21, Lot #21250\textsuperscript{a} (cont'd.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trial</th>
<th>Zn</th>
<th>Ag</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>Mo</th>
<th>Ti</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Run 1</td>
<td>97.3</td>
<td>102.9</td>
<td>89.3</td>
<td>97.1</td>
<td>94.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Run 2</td>
<td>98.8</td>
<td>103.6</td>
<td>92.0</td>
<td>97.0</td>
<td>95.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Run 3</td>
<td>102.6</td>
<td>104.3</td>
<td>90.4</td>
<td>98.0</td>
<td>92.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Run 4</td>
<td>99.7</td>
<td>104.1</td>
<td>93.2</td>
<td>96.7</td>
<td>94.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Run 5</td>
<td>99.0</td>
<td>103.9</td>
<td>94.4</td>
<td>95.6</td>
<td>94.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Run 6</td>
<td>100.2</td>
<td>104.6</td>
<td>92.9</td>
<td>99.8</td>
<td>94.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Run 7</td>
<td>98.2</td>
<td>104.2</td>
<td>92.7</td>
<td>97.0</td>
<td>96.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Run 8</td>
<td>98.7</td>
<td>100.1</td>
<td>89.9</td>
<td>93.9</td>
<td>95.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>99.3</td>
<td>103.5</td>
<td>92.0</td>
<td>96.9</td>
<td>94.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Std. Dev.</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\textsuperscript{a} Standard metal concentrations = 900 µg/g.
\textsuperscript{b} Determined by ICP-AES using matrix-matched standards calibration.
\textsuperscript{c} Excluded from calculation of mean and standard deviation.

Table 6. Recovery of Arsenic from Microwave Digestion of Conostan Oil Arsenic, Lot #15312\textsuperscript{a}

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trial</th>
<th>ICP-AES\textsuperscript{b}</th>
<th>GFAA\textsuperscript{c}</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Run 1</td>
<td>96.2</td>
<td>93.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Run 2</td>
<td>97.6</td>
<td>91.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Run 3</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>97.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>99.3</td>
<td>94.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Std. Dev.</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\textsuperscript{a} Standard arsenic concentrations = 100 µg/g.
\textsuperscript{b} Determined with ICP-AES using matrix-matched standards calibration.
\textsuperscript{c} Determined with GFAA.
Table 7. Recovery of Mercury from Microwave Digestion of Oil Reference Materials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference Material</th>
<th>Mercury</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Standard conc., µg/g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conostan Hg Oil, Lot #13015</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Std. Dev.</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NBS 1083 (Blank) + Hg Spike</td>
<td>48.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NBS 1083 (Blank)</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<sup>a</sup> Determined by CVAA with uncertainty of ±10%.

Table 8. Recovery of Selenium from Microwave Digestion of Conostan Oil Selenium, Lot #12013<sup>a</sup>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trial</th>
<th>Selenium Recovery, %&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Run 1</td>
<td>83.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Run 2</td>
<td>90.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Run 3</td>
<td>93.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Run 4</td>
<td>95.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>90.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Std. Dev.</td>
<td>5.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<sup>a</sup> Standard selenium concentration = 100 µg/g.
<sup>b</sup> Determined with ICP-AES using a matrix-matched standard for calibration.
IV. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The Parr Oxygen Bomb preparations gave disappointing low results when the metal concentrations in solution were compared with the expected values from the reference oils that were processed. The oxygen bomb digestion was thought to be sufficient to completely decompose each oil and absorb the decomposition products in dilute nitric acid, but the data obtained from this system were not satisfactory in that many metals gave recoveries well below 90%. In addition, results were not consistently reproducible. It is possible that, by using different conditions to dissolve the combustion residues, this preparation technique could be optimized [7]. However, because microwave-oven digestates of the same reference materials gave promising results, we did not pursue improvement of the Parr Oxygen Bomb preparations.

The microwave digestion procedure was more effective than the Parr Oxygen Bomb in recovering metals, giving >90% recovery for every metal tested. It was also more efficient, since it allowed six samples to be prepared together, whereas oxygen combustion allowed preparation of only one sample at a time. A fiber-optic probe is available for the microwave system to monitor the temperature throughout the digestion [4,5,6]. (According to the U.S. EPA Method [3], digestion is complete when the temperature has reached 175°C and has been held between 170-180°C for approximately 5 minutes [2].) The temperature was not monitored during this study.

Unexpectedly, the microwave digestates exhibited large intensity enhancements in the ICP-AES signals for many metals. When the instrument was calibrated with aqueous standards that did not contain the oil decomposition products, these enhanced intensities produced apparent overrecoveries for the affected metals. By using matrix-matched standards, we were able to eliminate the enhancement interference. After microwave decomposition, the recoveries of all 20 elements (Al, As, B, Ba, Ca, Cd, Cr, Cu, Fe, Hg, Mg, Mn, Mo, Ni, Pb, Se, Ag, Ti, V, Zn)
were within +/- 10% of the certified values. Because no oil reference material containing certified quantities of radionuclides was available, we were not able to evaluate the suitability of the two sample-preparation methods for radiochemical measurements. However, we anticipate that dissolution behavior of most common radionuclides will be similar to that of the metals we studied, and that reliable radiochemical measurements could be made by using a portion of the solution prepared by microwave digestion. The availability of this method in ACL will help provide reliable, cost-effective waste oil characterization to Argonne's programs.
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REFERENCES


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