



National Institute of Standards & Technology

# Certificate of Analysis

Standard Reference Material<sup>®</sup> 3005

p-Xylene in Methanol

(Nominal Mass Fraction, 0.01 g/g)

Standard Reference Material (SRM) 3005 is intended primarily for the calibration of instrumentation and validation of methods for volatile organic compound (VOC) determinations. Because of its miscibility with water, this SRM can also be used to fortify aqueous samples with known amounts of the VOC. One unit of SRM 3005 consists of two 5 mL sealed borosilicate glass ampoules of a gravimetrically prepared single compound solution in methanol. Approximately 2.5 mL of this SRM mixture is supplied in each 5 mL glass ampoule.

**Certified Value:** The certified concentration value [1,2] for p-xylene, reported as a mass fraction, is given below.

p-Xylene (mass fraction): 0.00977 g/g  $\pm$  0.00011 g/g

The certified value is the unweighted average of the concentration determined by gravimetric and chromatographic methods. The expanded uncertainty, at a 95 % level of confidence, is calculated as  $U = k u_c$ , where  $u_c$  is a combined standard uncertainty calculated according to the ISO Guide [3] and  $k = 2$  is the coverage factor. The quantity  $u_c$  represents, at the level of one standard deviation, the combined effects of the uncertainty due to purity assessment and an allowance for differences between the concentration determined by gravimetric preparation and chromatographic measurements.

**Reference Value:** A reference value [1] for density is provided for the calculation of volume to assist in the transfer of material during gravimetric dilutions of the SRM.

Density of the SRM solution: 0.79043 g/mL  $\pm$  0.00001 g/mL at 22 °C

**Information Value:** Information values [1] for selected impurities, based on supplementary analytical results obtained during the course of certification of this SRM, are provided in Table 1. These noncertified values are given for informational purposes only with no uncertainty reported, as there is insufficient information to make an assessment of the uncertainty.

Table 1. Information Values for Selected Impurities

Compound	Concentration
Toluene	0.0000010 g/g
Ethylbenzene	0.0000090 g/g
m-Xylene	0.0000065 g/g
o-Xylene	0.0000029 g/g

**Expiration of Certification:** The certification of this SRM is valid, within the measurement uncertainties specified, until **01 May 2004** provided the SRM is handled and stored in accordance with the instructions given in this certificate (see Instructions for Use). This certification is nullified if the SRM is contaminated or otherwise modified.

**Maintenance of SRM Certification:** NIST will monitor this SRM over the period of its certification. If substantive changes occur that effect the certification before the expiration of this certificate, NIST will notify the purchaser. Return of the attached registration card will facilitate notification.

The support aspects involved in the preparation, certification, and issuance of this SRM were coordinated through the NIST Standard Reference Materials Program by B.S. MacDonald.

Willie E. May, Chief  
Analytical Chemistry Division

Gaithersburg, MD 20899  
Certificate Issue Date: 18 June 2001

John Rumble, Jr., Acting Chief  
Standard Reference Materials Program

The analytical measurements leading to the certification of this SRM were performed by T.L. Green, F.R. Guenther, and C.R. Mack of the NIST Analytical Chemistry Division.

Statistical consultation was provided by S.D. Leigh of the NIST Statistical Engineering Division.

The overall coordination and direction of the technical work required for this SRM certification were performed by F.R. Guenther of the NIST Analytical Chemistry Division.

**SRM Preparation:** This SRM was prepared by NIST using precise gravimetric mass determinations. Chemicals used in the preparation were received from commercial sources and were assessed for purity at NIST using differential scanning calorimetry (DSC), gas chromatography with flame ionization detection (GC/FID), and gas chromatography with mass selective detection (GC/MSD).

**p-Xylene Concentration Value Assignment:** The certified value for p-xylene is based on the gravimetric preparation of the SRM and analysis by GC/FID of randomly selected ampoules from the lot. The analytical method was calibrated using four calibration standards independently prepared by gravimetry.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

**Storage:** Sealed ampoules should be stored in the dark at temperatures between 10 °C and 30 °C.

**Opening of Ampoule:** Open ampoules carefully to prevent contamination and injury. The ampoules are pre-scored and should **NOT** be opened using a file. It is recommended that aliquots be withdrawn at temperatures between 20 °C and 25 °C. Each ampouled solution must be opened in a clean, dry environment and processed without delay. Each ampouled solution of the SRM is intended for use immediately after opening and may **NOT** be reused, even if resealed.

**Preparation of Working Standard Solutions by Mass:** Great care must be used in handling this SRM. Dilution of this SRM should be made gravimetrically (weighed) and **NOT** by volumetric means (volume may be calculated for transfer purposes only). It is recommended that the SRM material be transferred in a gas-tight syringe to a septum sealed container containing the diluent. It is critical that the SRM be injected slowly beneath the surface of the diluent. The syringe should be weighed before injecting the material and weighed again after solution transfer. This allows subtraction of the mass of the syringe and any SRM material that remains in the syringe. The amount of p-xylene added to the diluent can then be determined from the mass added and the certified value.

## REFERENCES

- [1] May, W.E. et al., "Definition of Terms and Modes Used at NIST for Value-Assessment of Reference Materials for Chemical Measurements," NIST Special Publication 260-136, (2000).
- [2] Taylor, B.N., "Guide for the Use of the International System of Units (SI)," NIST Special Publication 811, 1995 Ed., (1995).
- [3] *Guide to the Expression of Uncertainty in Measurement*, ISBN 92-67-10188-9, 1st Ed., ISO, Geneva, Switzerland, (1993); see also Taylor, B.N. and Kuyatt, C.E., "Guidelines for Evaluating and Expressing the Uncertainty of NIST Measurement Results," NIST Technical Note 1297, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC, (1994); available at <http://physics.nist.gov/Pubs/>.

*Users of this SRM should ensure that the certificate in their possession is current. This can be accomplished by contacting the SRM Program at: telephone (301) 975-6776; fax (301) 926-4751; e-mail [srminfo@nist.gov](mailto:srminfo@nist.gov); or via the Internet <http://www.nist.gov/srm>.*