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DISCUSSION ON SECOND WORLDWIDE UNEP INTERLABORATORY STUDY ON POPS

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Possible mistakes in OCP Analysis

- Separation! HCHs, chlordanes
- Adsorption dieldrin, endrin
- Degradation DDT , dieldrin
- Fractionation: DDE, chlordanes
- Internal standards
- Linearity: Low concentration range ECD is not linear
- Quality standards? Ampouled?





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Memory Effects

- Contamination in Gass Lines
- Contamination in GC Tubing or Regulators
- Contamination from Septa
- Dirty Liner
- Glass Wool in Liner?
- Too High Concentrations in Previous Injection
- Cross Contamination from Injection Needle



Injection Parameters

- Volume: 1-2 μ l; smaller volumes save column and avoid front-tailing due to overloading; adjust liner to injection volume (approx. ID 4 mm for 1-2 μ l)
- Always inject at same speed (Autosampler!)
- Solvent: Boiling point ca. 100 °C: iso-octane, heptane, nonane (pentane and hexane may evaporate from the autosampler vial)
- Splitless injection: optimise temperature and splitless time (discrimination effect)
- Liner: Straight or tapered: ensure optimum transfer
- Pressure pulse: ensures rapid transfer of analytes to column (may require straight liner)



Composition of Sample Series



- 1) One Solvent Injection (to 'activate' EC detector)
- 2) Procedure Blank
- 3-22) At random: 5-6 Standards (multi-level) and ca. 12 Samples, and Recovery Standard
- Eventually: One of the Samples in Duplicate
- Syringe Standard Added to All (Except Solvent Inj.) before Injection
- Recovery Control Standard: Added to All (Except Solvent Inj.) before Extraction
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Detector Maintainance

- Negative peaks following analyte peaks → signal of dirty detector, cleaning will be necessary
- Avoid oxygen entering the detector
- Hydrogen as a carrier gas keeps the detector clean
- Optimum temperature approx. 300 °C or higher
- Be very careful with radioactivity: check for leakages annually



ECD: Linear Range





PCBs on CP Sil 8 Column





Possible mistakes PCB Analysis

- Separation? Column length
- Standards?
- Internal standards?

General mistakes

- Calculation errors
- Weight/volume miscalculation
- Fat content
- Multi-level calibration

Test Materials and Target Compounds

Test material	Compound class
Standard solution	OCP, dI and ndI-PCB, PCDD/Fs, PBDE/PBB, PFAS
Sediment, Netherlands	OCP, dI and ndI-PCB, PCDD/Fs, PBDE/PBB, PFAS
Pike perch fillet, Netherlands	OCP, dl and ndl-PCB, PCDD/Fs, PBDE/PBB, PFAS
Human milk, Sweden	OCP, dl and ndl-PCB, PCDD/Fs, PBDE/PBB, PFAS
Human serum, skiwax technicians, Sweden	PFAS
Air, PUF extract incinerator Sweden	dl and ndl-PCB, PCDD/Fs, PBDE/PBB, PFAS
Water, Amsterdam harbour	PFAS
Transformer oil diluted Aroclor 1254 in toluene	ndI-PCB