



# National Institute of Standards & Technology

## Certificate of Analysis

### Standard Reference Material<sup>®</sup> 3078

#### Aroclor 1248 in Transformer Oil

This Standard Reference Material (SRM) is a solution of Aroclor 1248 (Chemical Abstracts Registry Number 12672-29-6) in transformer oil. This SRM is intended primarily for calibrating chromatographic instrumentation and methods of analysis used for the determination of Aroclor 1248 and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in transformer oil. A unit of SRM 3078 consists of five 2 mL ampoules, each containing approximately 1.2 mL of transformer oil.

**Certified Concentration of Aroclor 1248:** The certified concentration [1,2] given below is based on results obtained from the gravimetric preparation of this solution and from the analytical results determined using gas chromatography. A NIST certified value is a value for which NIST has the highest confidence in its accuracy in that all known or suspected sources of bias have been investigated or taken into account.

Aroclor 1248: 3658 mg/kg  $\pm$  161 mg/kg or 3260 mg/L  $\pm$  146 mg/L

The result is expressed as the certified value  $\pm$  the expanded uncertainty. The certified value is the unweighted average of the concentrations determined by gravimetric and gas chromatographic measurements. The expanded uncertainty, at the 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 value of  $u_c$  includes an allowance for differences between the concentration determined by gas chromatographic measurements for various sources of Aroclors and gravimetric preparation. The concentration expressed in mg/L was obtained by multiplying the certified value, expressed as a mass fraction, by the measured density (22 °C) of the SRM solution, 0.8912 g/mL  $\pm$  0.0205 g/mL, where 0.0205 represents one standard deviation (1s) and is incorporated in the uncertainty associated with the concentration expressed in mg/L.

**Expiration of Certification:** The certification of **SRM 3078** is valid, within the measurement uncertainty specified, until **31 July 2030**, provided the SRM is handled and stored in accordance with the instructions given in this certificate (see "Instructions for Handling, Storage, and Use"). However, the certification is nullified if the SRM is damaged, contaminated, or otherwise modified.

**Maintenance of SRM Certification:** NIST will monitor this SRM over the period of its certification. If substantive changes occur that affect the certification before the expiration of this certificate, NIST will notify the purchaser. Registration (see attached sheet) will facilitate notification.

The coordination of the technical measurements leading to the certification was under the direction of D.L. Poster and M.M. Schantz of the NIST Analytical Chemistry Division. Analytical measurements of the SRM were performed by D.L. Poster.

Partial support for the preparation and certification of this SRM was provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Water, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, and Office of Research and Development.

Preparation of the SRM was performed by M.P. Cronise of the NIST Measurement Services Division and D.L. Poster.

Stephen A. Wise, Chief  
Analytical Chemistry Division

Robert L. Watters, Jr., Chief  
Measurement Services Division

Statistical consultation on the statistical design of the experimental work and evaluation of the data were provided by S.D. Leigh of the NIST Statistical Engineering Division.

Support aspects involved in the issuance of this SRM were coordinated through the NIST Measurement Services Division.

## NOTICE AND WARNING TO USERS

This material is a solution of a PCB mixture. PCB-containing materials are reported to be toxic. Consult the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS), enclosed with the SRM shipment, for details. Contact your regional EPA office for information regarding proper disposal.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR HANDLING, STORAGE AND USE

**Handling and Storage:** Extreme caution and care should be exercised during the handling of SRM 3078. Sealed ampoules, as received, should be stored in the dark at temperatures lower than 30 °C.

**Use:** Sample aliquots for analysis should be withdrawn at 20 °C to 25 °C **immediately** after opening the ampoules and should be processed without delay for the certified value to be valid within the stated uncertainty. Certified values are not applicable to material stored in ampoules that have been opened for more than 5 minutes, even if they are resealed.

## PREPARATION AND ANALYSIS<sup>(1)</sup>

The Aroclor 1248 used in the preparation of this SRM was obtained from U.S. EPA. The SRM was prepared at NIST by weighing and mixing Aroclor 1248 into transformer oil (Univolt 60, Exxon). The Aroclor was added to the transformer oil and mixed until completely dissolved and homogenized. The total mass of this solution was measured and aliquots (1.2 mL) were dispensed into 2 mL amber glass ampoules, which were then flame sealed.

Aliquots from nine ampoules, selected randomly, were analyzed using capillary gas chromatography with electron capture detection and an immobilized non-polar (5 % phenyl methylpolysiloxane) stationary phase column. An internal standard solution containing hexachlorobenzene and mirex was added to each sample for quantification purposes. Prior to gas chromatography, samples were placed on aminopropyl solid phase extraction columns and eluted with hexane. The concentrated eluants were then placed on a semi-preparative aminopropylsilane column using hexane as the mobile phase. Calibration solutions consisting of weighed amounts of Aroclor 1248 and internal standard compounds in transformer oil were chromatographically analyzed to determine response factors for Aroclor 1248 relative to each internal standard. The results for Aroclor 1248 are based on the areas of the dominant Aroclor PCB peaks relative to the two internal standard peaks (Figure 1). This approach is similar to U.S. EPA Method 505 (Analysis of organohalide pesticides and commercial polychlorinated biphenyl products in water by microextraction and gas chromatography, revision 2.0).

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<sup>(1)</sup> Certain commercial equipment, instrumentation or materials are identified in this certificate to adequately specify the experimental procedure. Such identification does not imply recommendation or endorsement by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, nor does it imply that the materials or equipment identified are necessarily the best available for the purpose.

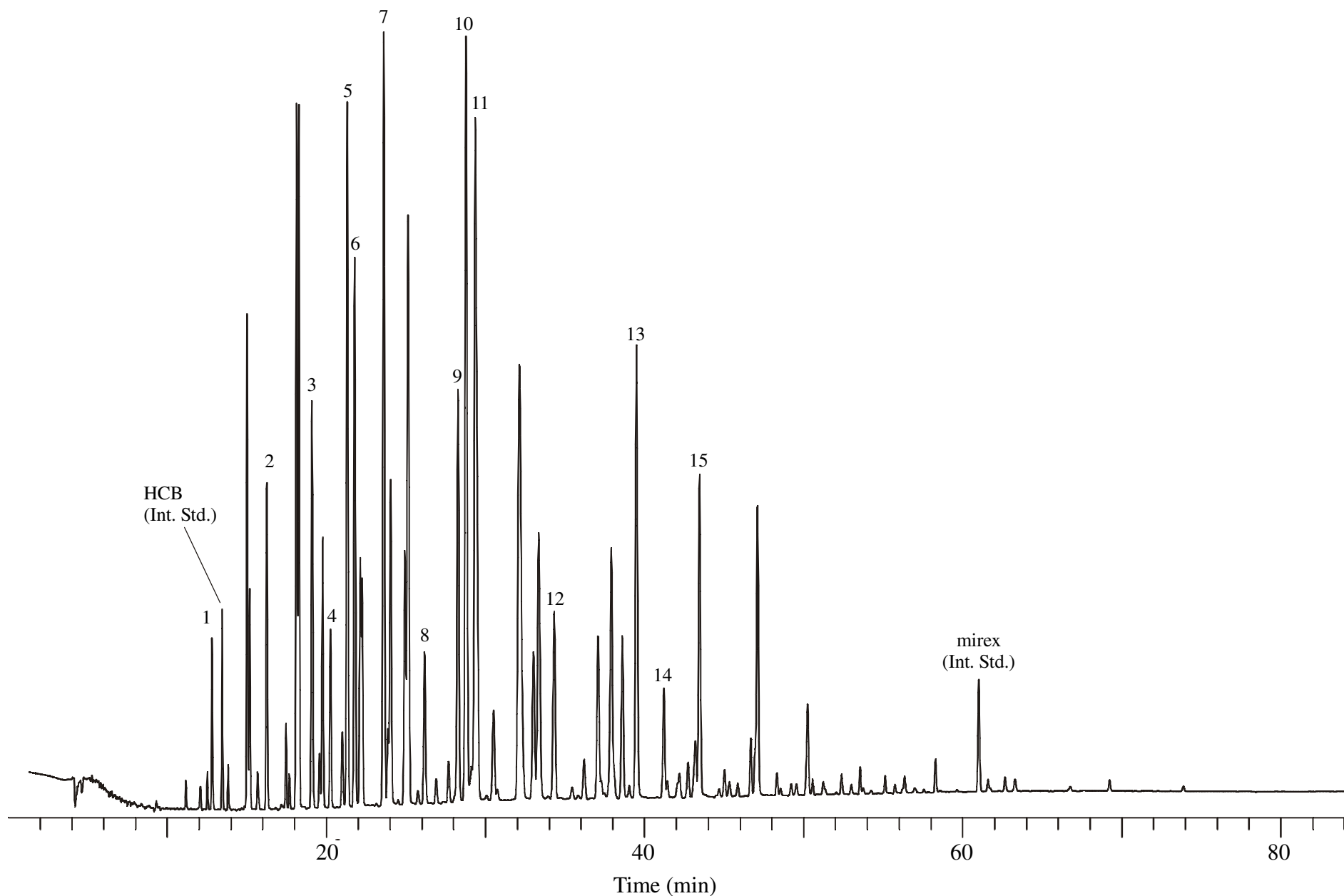


Figure 1. Gas chromatogram of SRM 3078 (Aroclor 1248 in Transformer Oil) with a 5% phenyl methylpolysiloxane column. The peaks used for quantification of the Aroclor mass in transformer oil are shown. (Int. Std.) = internal standard

## REFERENCES

- [1] May, W.; Parris, R.; Beck, C.; Fassett, J.; Greenberg, R.; Guenther, F.; Kramer, G.; Wise, S.; Gills, T.; Colbert, J.; Gettings, R.; MacDonald, B.; *Definition of Terms and Modes Used at NIST for Value-Assignment of Reference Materials for Chemical Measurements*; NIST Special Publication 260-136; U.S. Government Printing Office: Washington, DC (2000); available at <http://www.nist.gov/srm/upload/SP260-136.PDF> (accessed June 2012).
- [2] Thompson, A.; Taylor, B.N.; *Guide for the Use of the International System of Units (SI)*; NIST Special Publication 811; U.S. Government Printing Office: Washington, DC (2008); available at <http://www.nist.gov/pml/pubs/sp811/indexfull.cfm> (accessed June 2012).
- [3] JCGM 100:2008; *Evaluation of Measurement Data - Guide to the Expression of Uncertainty in Measurement*; (ISO GUM 1995 with Minor Corrections), Joint Committee for Guides in Metrology (JCGM) (2008); available at [http://www.bipm.org/utls/common/documents/jcgm/JCGM\\_100\\_2008\\_E.pdf](http://www.bipm.org/utls/common/documents/jcgm/JCGM_100_2008_E.pdf) (accessed June 2012); see also Taylor, B.N.; 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://www.nist.gov/pml/pubs/index.cfm> (accessed June 2012).

<b>Certificate Revision History:</b> <b>20 June 2012</b> (Extension of certification period; editorial changes); <b>27 July 2005</b> (This technical revision clarifies the determination of the certified value expressed in mg/L); <b>23 May 2003</b> (Original certificate date).
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*Users of this SRM should ensure that the Certificate of Analysis in their possession is current. This can be accomplished by contacting the SRM Program: telephone (301) 975-2200; fax (301) 948-3730; e-mail [srminfo@nist.gov](mailto:srminfo@nist.gov); or via the Internet at <http://www.nist.gov/srm>.*