

METHOD STATEMENT



Determinand:

Characterisation of Mineral Oil Contamination
(Not UKAS Accredited)

Matrix:

Mineral oils, wastewater and mineral oil-wastewater mixtures

Principle of Method:

Any mineral oil present is dissolved into pentane. The pentane solution is analysed by capillary gas chromatography with mass spectrometric detection (GCMS). The chromatogram obtained is visually compared with chromatograms of known oil types obtained under the same gas chromatographic conditions.

Sampling and Sample Preparation:

All samples are stored in the cold room at $3 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ and are analysed as soon as possible after receipt.

Interferences:

Any co-extracted material which has a retention time in the range of C6 to C40 and which elicits a detector response will interfere.

Performance of Method:

This is a qualitative method and therefore no performance characteristics are available.

References:

Singer, M E & Finnerty, W R - "Microbial Metabolism of Straight-Chain and Branched Alkanes", Petroleum Microbiology, R. Atlas (ED) pp 1-60 (1984).