



National Institute of Standards and Technology

Certificate of Analysis

Standard Reference Material[®] 2900

Ethanol-Water Solution

(Nominal Mass Fraction 95.6 %)

This Standard Reference Material (SRM) is a solution of ethanol (ethyl alcohol - Chemical Abstracts Service [CAS] Registry Number 64-17-5) in water at a nominal concentration of 95.6 % by mass. This SRM is intended primarily for use in the calibration of instruments and techniques used for the determination of ethanol in water-based media. SRM 2900 consists of five 10-milliliter ampoules (nominal concentration of 95.6 % by mass), each containing approximately 10 mL of solution.

Certified Mass Fraction Value of Ethanol: 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 [1]. The certified value given below is based on results obtained from the gravimetric preparation of the solution and from the analytical results determined using gas chromatography.

Ethanol Certified Mass Fraction Value: 95.6 % \pm 1.9 %

The results are expressed as the certified value \pm the expanded uncertainty. Certified values are weighted means of values determined by gravimetric preparation and chromatographic measurements [2]. The uncertainty listed with each value is an expanded uncertainty about the mean, with coverage factor 2 (approximately 95 % confidence), calculated by combining a between-source variance incorporating inter-method bias with a pooled intra-source variance following the ISO/JCGM Guides [3]. The uncertainty includes both correction for estimated purity and allowance for differences among the concentration determined by gravimetric preparation and chromatographic measurements. The measurand is the mass fraction value of ethanol. The certified value is metrologically traceable to the SI unit of mass, expressed as a percent.

Expiration of Certification: The certification of **SRM 2900** is valid, within the measurement uncertainty specified, until **31 December 2030**, provided the SRM is handled and stored in accordance with instructions given in this certificate (see "Instructions for Handling, Storage and Use"). 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 technical changes occur that affect the certification before the expiration of this certificate, NIST will notify the purchaser. Registration (see attached sheet or register online) will facilitate notification.

Coordination of the technical measurements leading to the certification of this SRM was under the direction of L.C. Sander of the NIST Chemical Sciences Division and M.M. Schantz formerly of NIST.

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Preparation and analytical measurements of the SRM were performed by M.M. Schantz and M.P. Cronise, J.T. Fort, and C.N. Fales of the NIST Office of Reference Materials.

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

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Certificate Revision History on Last Page

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Support aspects involved in the issuance of this SRM were coordinated through the NIST Office of Reference Materials.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR HANDLING, STORAGE AND USE

Handling: The solution contains ethanol in water at the stated concentrations. Use proper disposal methods.

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

Use: Sample aliquots for analysis should be withdrawn **immediately** after opening the ampoules and should be processed without delay for the certified concentration value to be valid within the stated uncertainty. Because of the volatility of ethanol, the certified concentration value is not applicable to material stored in ampoules that have been opened for more than 2 minutes, even if they are resealed.

PREPARATION AND ANALYSIS

The solution was prepared at NIST by weighing and mixing known masses of ethanol and organic-free water. The solution was mixed overnight (a minimum of 16 h). The total mass of the solution was measured, and the concentration was calculated from this gravimetric procedure. The gravimetric concentration was adjusted for the purity estimation of the ethanol, which was determined using flame ionization capillary gas chromatography with two stationary phases of different polarities, differential scanning calorimetry, and Karl Fischer analysis for water content. The bulk solution was chilled slightly, and 10 mL aliquots were dispensed into 10-milliliter glass ampoules, which were then flame sealed.

Aliquots from nine ampoules selected using a stratified random sampling scheme were analyzed in duplicate by using capillary gas chromatography with flame ionization detection on a relatively polar DB-wax column, 15 m × 0.45 mm id, 0.85 µm film thickness (Agilent Technologies, Wilmington, DE). The internal standard added to each sample for quantification purposes was 1-propanol. Calibration solutions consisting of weighed amounts of ethanol and the internal standard compound in organic-free water were chromatographically analyzed to determine analyte response factors.

REFERENCES

- [1] May, W.; Parris, R.; Beck II, 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 (2000); available at <http://www.nist.gov/srm/upload/SP260-136.PDF> (accessed Jun 2015).
- [2] Ruhkin, A.L.; Vangel, M.G.; *Estimation of a Common Mean and Weighted Means Statistics*; J. Am. Stat. Assoc., Vol. 93, pp. 303–308 (1998).
- [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 (2008); available at http://www.bipm.org/utis/common/documents/jcgm/JCGM_100_2008_E.pdf (accessed Jun 2015); 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/tn1297/index.cfm> (accessed Jun 2015).

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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; or via the Internet at <http://www.nist.gov/srm>.