National Institute of Standards & Technology

Certificate

Standard Reference Material® 4404L

Thallium-201 Radioactivity Standard

Lot Number 39

Ampoule 7

This Standard Reference Material (SRM) consists of a solution of a standardized and certified quantity of radioactive thallium-201 in a suitably stable and homogeneous matrix. It is intended primarily for the calibration of instruments that are used to measure radioactivity and for the monitoring of radiochemical procedures. A unit of SRM 4404L consists of approximately 5 mL of a solution, whose composition is specified in Tables 1 and 2, contained in a flame-sealed borosilicate-glass ampoule [1].

The certified **thallium-201** massic activity value, at a **Reference Time of 1300 EST, 8 November 2016**, is:

(8.861 ± 0.115) MBq•g^{-1}

A NIST certified value, as used within the context of this certificate, is a value for which NIST has the highest confidence in its uncertainty assessment. It is a "measurement result" [2] obtained directly or indirectly from a "primary reference measurement procedure" [3]. The certified value is traceable to the derived SI unit, the becquerel (Bq)

Additional physical, chemical, and radiological properties for this SRM, as well as details on the standardization method, are given in Tables 1 and 2. Uncertainties for the certified quantities are expanded ($k = 2$). The uncertainties are calculated according to the ISO and NIST Guides [4,5]. Table 3 contains a specification of the components that comprise the uncertainty analyses.

Expiration of Certification: The certification of **SRM 4404L** is valid, within the measurement uncertainty specified, within its half-life-dependent useful lifetime, provided the SRM is handled in accordance with instructions given in this certificate (see "Instructions for Handling and Storage"). The certification is nullified if the SRM is damaged, contaminated, or otherwise modified.

Maintenance of Certification: NIST will monitor this SRM over the period of its certification. If substantive technical changes occur that affect the certification, NIST will notify the purchaser.

Radiological and Chemical Hazard: Consult the Safety Data Sheet (SDS), enclosed with the SRM shipment, for radiological and chemical hazard information.

This SRM was prepared in the Physical Measurement Laboratory, Radiation Physics Division, Radioactivity Group, M.P. Unterweger, Group Leader. The overall production, technical direction and physical measurement leading to certification were provided by K.A. Neal and W. Regits, Guest Researchers from NRMAP, Incorporated.

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

Lisa R. Karam, Chief
Radiation Physics Division

Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899
March 2017

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

Table 1. Certified Massic Activity of SRM 4404L, Lot 39, Ampoule 7

Radionuclide	**Thallium-201**
Reference time	**1300 EST, 8 November 2016**
Massic activity of the solution	**8.861 MBq•g^{-1}**
Relative expanded uncertainty (k = 2)	**1.3 %**[(a)]

[(a)]The uncertainties on certified values are expanded uncertainties, $U = ku_c$. The quantity u_c is the combined standard uncertainty calculated according to the ISO and NIST Guides [4,5]. The combined standard uncertainty is multiplied by a coverage factor of k = 2 and was chosen to obtain an approximate 95 % level of confidence.

Table 2. Uncertified Information of SRM 4404L, Lot 39, Ampoule 7

Source description	Liquid in a flame-sealed 5-mL NIST borosilicate ampoule [1]
Solution composition	1.2 mol•L^{-1} HNO_3 with 49 μg Tl^+ per gram of solution (as $TlNO_3$)
Solution density	(1.036 ± 0.002) g•mL^{-1} at 20.0 °C[(a)]
Solution mass	(5.1758 ± 0.0003) g[(a)]
Photon-emitting impurities (at reference time)	^{200}Tl: (6 ± 1) kBq•g^{-1} [(a,b)] ^{202}Tl: (19 ± 3) kBq•g^{-1}
Half lives used	^{201}Tl: (3.0421 ± 0.0017) d[(c)] ^{200}Tl: (26.1 ± 0.1) h[(d)] ^{202}Tl: (12.31 ± 0.08) d[(e)]
Calibration method (and instruments)	Measurements of ionization current ratios relative to radium-226 reference sources using NIST pressurized "4π"γ ionization chamber "B" calibrated using a thallium-201 solution whose activity was determined by the 4π(e+X)-γ live-timed anticoincidence efficiency-extrapolation technique.

[(a)]The stated uncertainty is two times the standard uncertainty.
[(b)]The estimated lower limits of detection for photon-emitting impurities, expressed as massic photon emission rates, as of 15 November 2016 were:

2×10^4 s^{-1}•g^{-1} for energies between 35 keV and 85 keV,
7×10^3 s^{-1}•g^{-1} for energies between 90 keV and 95 keV,
3×10^3 s^{-1}•g^{-1} for energies between 100 keV and 150 keV,
5×10^3 s^{-1}•g^{-1} for energies between 155 keV and 180 keV,
7×10^2 s^{-1}•g^{-1} for energies between 185 keV and 420 keV,
2×10^3 s^{-1}•g^{-1} for energies between 430 keV and 450 keV,
3×10^2 s^{-1}•g^{-1} for energies between 460 keV and 1440 keV,
4×10^2 s^{-1}•g^{-1} for energies between 1450 keV and 1480 keV, and
3×10^2 s^{-1}•g^{-1} for energies between 1490 keV and 2000 keV,

provided that any impurity photons are separated by four keV or more from photons emitted in the decay of thallium-201.

[(c)]The stated uncertainty is the standard uncertainty. See reference 6.
[(d)]The stated uncertainty is the standard uncertainty. See reference 7.
[(e)]The stated uncertainty is the standard uncertainty. See reference 8.

Table 3. Uncertainty Evaluation for the Massic Activity of SRM 4404L, Lot 39

	Uncertainty component	Assessment Type[(a)]	Relative standard uncertainty contribution on massic activity of thallium-201 (%)
1	Ionization-chamber measurement precision on this solution; standard deviation of the mean for five sets of measurements on ten ampoules	A	0.19
2	"4π"γ ionization-chamber calibration factor	B	0.60
3	Correction for photon-emitting impurities in this solution	B	0.05
4	Decay correction for radium-226 reference source to correct the calibration factor (for half-life uncertainty of 0.44 %)	B	0.001
5	Radium-226 reference source ratio	B	0.04
6	Radium reference source positioning	B	0.05
7	Electrometer response linearity	B	0.10
8	Gravimetric mass measurements	B	0.05
9	Decay correction for thallium-201 (for half-life uncertainty of 0.056 %)	B	0.001
10	Detection limits for photon-emitting impurities	B	0.05
Relative combined standard uncertainty			**0.65**
Relative expanded uncertainty (k = 2)			**1.3**

[(a)]Type A denotes evaluation by statistical methods; Type B denotes evaluation by other methods.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR HANDLING AND STORAGE

Handling: If the ampoule is transported, it should be packed, marked, labeled, and shipped in accordance with the applicable national, international, and carrier regulations. The solution in the ampoule is a dangerous good (hazardous material) because of both the radioactivity and the strong acid. The ampoule should be opened only by persons qualified to handle both radioactive material and alkaline and/or acidic solutions. Appropriate shielding and/or distance should be used to minimize personnel exposure. Refer to the SDS for further information.

Storage: SRM 4404L should be stored and used at a temperature between 5 °C and 65 °C. The ampoule (or any subsequent container) should always be clearly marked as containing radioactive material.

REFERENCES

[1] NIST Physical Measurement Laboratory; *Storage and Handling of Radioactive Standard Reference Materials, Ampoule Specifications and Opening Procedure*; available at http://www.nist.gov/pml/div682/grp04/srm.cfm.

[2] JCGM 200:2012; *International Vocabulary of Metrology - Basic and General Concepts and Associated Terms (VIM)* (2008 version with Minor Corrections), 3rd edition; Joint Committee for Guides in Metrology: BIPM, Sèvres Cedex, France; p. 19 (2012); available at http://www.bipm.org/utils/common/documents/jcgm/JCGM_200_2012.pdf.

[3] JCGM 200:2012; *International Vocabulary of Metrology - Basic and General Concepts and Associated Terms (VIM)* (2008 version with Minor Corrections), 3rd edition; Joint Committee for Guides in Metrology: BIPM, Sèvres Cedex, France; p. 18 (2012); available at http://www.bipm.org/utils/common/documents/jcgm/JCGM_200_2012.pdf.

[4] JCGM 100:2008; *Guide to the Expression of Uncertainty in Measurement*; (ISO GUM 1995 with Minor Corrections), Joint Committee for Guides in Metrology: BIPM, Sèvres Cedex, France (2008); available at http://www.bipm.org/utils/common/documents/jcgm/JCGM_100_2008_E.pdf.

[5] 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 https://www.nist.gov/pml/nist-technical-note-1297.

[6] Laboratoire National Henri Becquerel; *Table of Radionuclides, Recommended Data* (updated 15 June 2005); available at http://www.nucleide.org/DDEP_WG/DDEPdata.htm (accessed August 2016).

[7] The Evaluated Nuclear Structure Data File (ENSDF), National Nuclear Data Center, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, New York, full evaluation 2006, Nuclear Data Sheets 108, 1471 (2007); available at http://www.nndc.bnl.gov/ensdf/index.jsp (accessed August 2016).

[8] The Evaluated Nuclear Structure Data File (ENSDF), National Nuclear Data Center, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, New York, full evaluation 2007, Nuclear Data Sheets 109, 699 (2008); available at http://www.nndc.bnl.gov/ensdf/index.jsp (accessed August 2016).

Users of this SRM should ensure that the Certificate 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.