National Institute of Standards & Technology

Certificate

Standard Reference Material 4927F

Hydrogen-3 Radioactivity Standard

This Standard Reference Material (SRM) consists of tritiated water, having a standardized and certified quantity of radioactive hydrogen-3. It is intended primarily for the calibration of instruments that are used to measure radioactivity and for the monitoring of radiochemical procedures. The solution, whose composition is specified in Table 1, is contained in a flame-sealed, 5 mL, NIST, borosilicate-glass ampoule (see Note 1)*.

The certified **hydrogen-3** massic activity value, at a **Reference Time of 1200 EST, 3 September 1998**, is:

(634.7 ± 4.6) kBq•g^{-1}

Additional physical, chemical, and radiological properties for the SRM, as well as details on the standardization method, are given in Table 1. Uncertainty intervals for certified quantities are expanded (k = 2) uncertainties calculated according to the ISO and NIST Guidelines (see Note 2). Table 2 contains a specification of the components that comprise the uncertainty analyses.

The certification of this SRM, within the measurement uncertainties specified, is valid for at least five (5) years after receipt. The solution matrix, in an unopened ampoule, is believed to be indefinitely homogeneous and stable, within its half-life-dependent, useful lifetime. NIST will monitor this material and will report any substantive changes in certification to the purchaser. Should any of the certified values change, purchasers of this SRM will be notified of the change by NIST.

This SRM may represent a radiological hazard. Hydrogen-3 decays by beta particle emission. None of the beta particles escape from the SRM vial. During the decay process no photons are emitted. The SRM should be stored and used at a temperature between 5 and 35 ºC. See Note 1

This Standard Reference Material was prepared in the Physics Laboratory, Ionizing Radiation Division, Radioactivity Group, Dr. M.P Unterweger, Acting Group Leader. The overall technical direction and physical measurements leading to certification were provided by Drs. L.L. Lucas and M.P Unterweger of the Radioactivity Group. The support aspects involved in the preparation, certification, and issuance of this SRM were coordinated through the Standard Reference Materials Program.

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See Certificate Revision History on Last Page

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Table 1. Properties of SRM 4927F

Certified values

Radionuclide	**Hydrogen-3**
Reference time	**1200 EST, 3 September 1998**
Massic activity of the solution	**634.7 kBq•g^{-1}**
Relative expanded uncertainty (k = 2)	**0.72 %** (see Note 2)*

Uncertified information

Source description	Liquid in flame-sealed, 5 mL NIST borosilicate ampoule (see Note 1)
Solution composition	Distilled water
Solution density	(0.998 ± 0.002) g•mL^{-1} at 20 °C (see Note 3)
Solution mass	Approximately 5.0 g
Radionuclidic impurities	None detected (see Note 4)
Half-lifes used	^{3}H: (4500 ± 8) d (see Note 5)
Calibration method (and instruments)	The certified massic activity for ^{3}H was obtained by 4πβ gas counting of SRM 4927E using the NIST length-compensated internal gas proportional counters and intercomparison of SRMs 4927E/4927F using two 4πβ liquid-scintillation (LS) counting systems (see Note 6)

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Table 2. Uncertainty evaluation for the massic activity for SRM 4927F

Uncertainty component		Assessment Type †	Relative standard uncertainty contribution on massic activity of ^{3}H (%)
1	Massic count rate of SRM 4927E, corrected for background and decay; standard deviation of the mean for 23 sets of gas counting measurements (see Note 6)	A	0.18
2	LS intercomparison of SRM 4927F and SRM 4927E; standard deviation of the mean for 7 sets of LS measurements	A	0.06
3	Decay corrections for ^{3}H; (for half-life uncertainty of 0.18%)	A	0.002
4	Gram-mole determinations based on pressure, volume and temperature measurements	B	0.20
5	Livetime determinations	B	0.10
6	Extrapolation of count-rate-versus-energy to zero energy	B	0.20
7	Limit for radionuclidic impurities	B	0.05
Relative combined standard uncertainty			**0.36**
Relative expanded uncertainty (*k* = 2)			**0.72**

† = (A) denotes evaluation by statistical methods; (B) denotes evaluation by other methods.

NOTES

Note 1. Refer to http://physics.nist.gov/Divisions/Div846/srm.html for the standardized ampoule dimensions and for assistance and instructions on how to properly open an ampoule. Information on additional storage and handling requirements is also included in the website.

Note 2. 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 (see references [1] and [2]). The combined standard uncertainty is multiplied by a coverage factor of $k = 2$ and was chosen to obtain an approximate 95 % level of confidence.

Note 3. The stated uncertainty is two times the standard uncertainty. See reference [2]

Note 4. The estimated lower limit of detection for radionuclidic impurities is 300 $Bq \bullet g^{-1}$

Note 5. The stated uncertainty is the standard uncertainty. See reference [2] and [3].

Note 6. Extensive gas-counting measurements were made on the SRM 4927E solution during 1998 and 1999. The SRM 4927F solution was intercompared with the SRM 4927E using LS counting.

REFERENCES

[1] International Organization for Standardization (ISO), *Guide to the Expression of Uncertainty in Measurement*, 1993 (corrected and reprinted, 1995). Available from Global Engineering Documents, 12 Inverness Way East, Englewood, CO 80112, U.S.A. Telephone 1-800-854-7179.

[2] B. N. Taylor and C. E. Kuyatt, *Guidelines for Evaluating and Expressing the Uncertainty of NIST Measurement Results*, NIST Technical Note 1297, 1994. Available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20407, U.S.A.

[3] L.L Lucas and M.P. Unterweger, *Comprehensive Review and Critical Evaluation of the Half-Life of Tritium*, J. Res. Natl. Inst. Stand. Technol. **105**, 541-549 (2000)

Certificate Revision History: May 2008 (Text revised); February 2007 (Text revised and expiration date extended); October 2000 (Half-life and text revised); June 1999 (Original certificate date).