

Application Note - Digestion of Plastic CRM

Introduction:

This study evaluated the effectiveness of the **MiniWAVE** microwave digestion system for the digestion of polyethylene samples.

Sample Type:

Polyethylene CRM BCR-680 and BCR-681

- Sample weight: 0.1 g
- 4 Replicates

Supplies and Reagents:

- 1) Microwave digestion system, **MiniWAVE** Model*
- 2) Quartz Vessels, 75 ml*
- 3) Fluoropolymer Caps and Safety Pressure Release Caps*
- 4) **PlasmaPURE** HNO₃ (70%), 10 ml
- 5) **PlasmaPURE** H₂O₂ (30%), 1 ml
- 6) ICP-MS Spectrometer, ELAN 6100, Perkin-Elmer
- 7) Crossflow Nebulizer, Mini-X-Flow*
- 8) Alumina torch injector, 1.2 mm*
- 9) Cyclonic Spray Chamber, Baffled*

* Manufactured by **SCP SCIENCE**

Sample Preparation Procedure:

The samples were weighed on a 4 place analytical balance directly in the quartz vessel. After adding 10 ml of HNO₃ and 1 ml of H₂O₂ the samples were allowed to sit at room temperature for 5-10 minutes. They were placed in the rack and digested following the heating profile. After cooling down to room temperature, the samples were vented, diluted and analyzed on the ICP-MS.

Heating Program:

STAGE	RAMP TIME (MINUTES)	PRESSURE (PSI-LIMIT)	TEMPERATURE (°C)	HOLD TIME (MINUTES)
1	15	435	200	20

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Results:

BCR-680

ELEMENT	AMU	MiniWAVE (PPM)	RSD (%)	BCR-680 (PPM)	RECOVERY (%)
As	75	31.4	2.2	30.9	101
Cd	111	137.7	1.5	140.8	98
Cr	52	125.7	1.1	114.6	109
Hg	202	23.3	2.0	25.3	92
Pb	206	109.3	1.1	107.6	101

BCR-681

ELEMENT	AMU	MiniWAVE (PPM)	RSD (%)	BCR-680 (PPM)	RECOVERY (%)
As	75	31.51	2.7	3.93	90
Cd	111	20.2	2.6	21.7	93
Cr	52	19.2	1.3	17.7	108
Hg	202	4.71	2.2	4.5	105
Pb	206	15.0	1.6	13.8	109

Conclusion:

The **MiniWAVE** is suitable for the digestion of polyethylene samples. Good recoveries are achieved in an efficient amount of time.

References:

Certificate of Analysis SC9261560 from **SCP SCIENCE**

Certificate of Analysis NIST CRM 1059c

USCPSC-CH-E1001-08 method

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