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ANALYTICAL METHOD FOR THE QUANTIFICATION  
OF SODIUM BY INDUCTIVELY COUPLED PLASMA  
OPTICAL EMISSION SPECTROMETRY (ICP-OES)  
IN SODIUM DECANOATE

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. PURPOSE: .....	3
2. SCOPE: .....	3
3. RESPONSIBILITIES: .....	3
4. REFERENCES: .....	3
5. MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT: .....	3
TABLE 1: REFERENCE STANDARDS .....	3
6. PROCEDURE: .....	4
TABLE 2: CALIBRATION STANDARDS .....	4
TABLE 3: TEMPERATURE CONTROLLED MICROWAVE DIGESTION PROGRAM .....	5
7. INSTRUMENT PROCEDURE: .....	6
TABLE 4: EXAMPLE SAMPLE ANALYSIS SEQUENCE.....	6
8. INSTRUMENT SETUP AND PARAMETERS:.....	7
TABLE 5: ICP-OES PARAMETERS .....	7
TABLE 6: LINEAR RANGE AND CORRESPONDING MODE .....	7
9. REPORTING:.....	7

**1. PURPOSE:**

- 1.1. To provide a procedure for the quantification of sodium via the Avio 500 S/N 081S1905062 ICP-OES. This procedure was assessed as a full quantitative procedure as per validation report BSI-RPT-0884 v1.1 and follows the validation parameters for quantitation procedures as outlined in Analytical Method Validation Plan.

**2. SCOPE:**

- 2.1. Applies to Sodium Decanoate and related products manufactured at BioSpectra.
- 2.2. Applies to the Avio 500 S/N 081S1905062 ICP-OES located in the Quality Control (QC) Laboratory at the BioSpectra Bangor, PA facility.

**3. RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- 3.1. QC management or other qualified designated individual, is responsible for the control, implementation, training, and maintenance of this method.
- 3.2. The QC Staff is responsible for complying with the requirements of this procedure
- 3.3. If any abnormalities are determined during routine use of the ICP-OES or during calibration, the QC Managers shall be promptly notified. If necessary, the ICP-OES will be serviced and recalibrated by Perkin Elmer before being approved for use.

**4. REFERENCES:**

- 4.1. BSI-PRL-0467, Sodium Quantification Method Validation Protocol
- 4.2. BSI-RPT-0884, Sodium Quantification Method Validation Report
- 4.3. BSI-SOP-0362, Avio 500 ICP-OES SOP
- 4.4. BSI-SOP-0436, Analytical Method Validation Master Plan
- 4.5. USP <730> Plasma Spectrochemistry
- 4.6. USP <1730> Plasma Spectrochemistry—Theory and Practice

**5. MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT:**

- 5.1. Equipment
  - 5.1.1. Analytical Balance
  - 5.1.2. Avio 500 ICP-OES S/N 081S1905062
  - 5.1.3. CEM Mars 6 Digestion Microwave S/N MY2255
  - 5.1.4. Micropipettes, Rainin and Eppendorf
- 5.2. Reagents
  - 5.2.1. Nitric Acid, Trace metals grade or equivalent
  - 5.2.2. Sulfuric acid, Trace metals grade or equivalent
  - 5.2.3. Deionized (DI) water (Type 1 Ultrapure)
- 5.3. Consumable Supplies
  - 5.3.1. SCP Digitubes® 15 mL, 50 mL and 100 mL
  - 5.3.2. Pipette Tips of various sizes

**TABLE 1: REFERENCE STANDARDS**

Identification*	Manufacturer	Concentrations / Elements
Manganese Stock Standard	Perkin Elmer	Mn (1,000 µg/mL)
Scandium Stock Standard	Perkin Elmer	Sc (1,000 µg/mL)
Sodium Stock Standard	SCP Science	Na (10,000 µg/mL)
Yttrium Stock Standard	Perkin Elmer	Y (1,000 µg/mL)

\* Additional standards/custom standards can be used as long as the concentration remains the same in final preparations.

**6. PROCEDURE:**

- 6.1. All standards will be prepared volumetrically from stock solutions purchased from certified vendors. If the vendor supplied stock standard is within 2% of the nominal value as per the certificate of analysis, then the nominal value will be used to calculate the concentration of the standard. If the stock standard certificate of analysis value is greater than or less than 2% of the nominal value, then the certificate of analysis value will be used for the stock standard concentration.
- 6.2. Acid Digestion Mix  
*[2:1] Nitric Acid (HNO<sub>3</sub>): Sulfuric Acid (H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) (Prepare same day)*
- 6.2.1. Caution: Combining nitric acid and sulfuric acid generates excessive heat. Never seal cap tightly before solution has completely cooled.
- 6.2.2. To prepare, add 50 mL of nitric acid to a 100 mL Digitube<sup>®</sup> and then slowly add 25 mL of sulfuric acid. Solution can be placed in a cold-water bath to aid cooling.
- 6.2.2.1. Scale as necessary for use (Prepare same day).
- 6.3. Internal Standard Solution
- 6.3.1. Pipette 100 µL of 1,000 µg/mL Scandium Stock Standard and 100 µL of 1,000 µg/mL Yttrium Stock Standard into a 15 mL Digitube<sup>®</sup>.
- 6.3.2. Dilute to a final volume of 10 mL with deionized water and mix well.
- 6.3.3. Scale proportionally as needed for use.
- 6.4. 1,000 µg/mL Sodium Intermediate Standard Preparation
- 6.4.1. Pipette 1.0 mL of Sodium 10,000 µg/mL single source stock standard into a 15 mL Digitube<sup>®</sup>.
- 6.4.2. Dilute to 10 mL using Deionized Water and mix solution thoroughly.
- 6.5. Calibration Standard Preparation
- 6.5.1. Prepare calibration standards as per Table 2 below in 5.0% HNO<sub>3</sub> matrix with Sc and Y internal standards.
- 6.5.2. Add intermediate standard and internal standard to separate 50 mL Digitube<sup>®</sup> followed by addition of approximately 45 mL of deionized water.
- 6.5.3. Add 2.5 mL of Nitric Acid.
- 6.5.4. Dilute to final volume using deionized water. (Standards are stable for 8 days)

**TABLE 2: CALIBRATION STANDARDS**

Identification	Element	Intermediate Standard (mL)	Internal Standard (mL)	Nitric Acid (mL)	Final Volume (mL)	Final Concentration (µg/L)
Cal Blank	Na	0.00	0.100	2.5	50	0.0
1.0 ppm Std		0.050				1.0
2.5 ppm Std		0.125				2.5
5.0 ppm Std		0.250				5.0
10 ppm Std		0.500				10

## 6.6. Method Blank Preparation

- 6.6.1. Pipette 4.0 mL of Acid Digestion Mixture into a clean 20 mL digestion vessel, place a plug on the vessel, and properly torque the vessel cap. Place vessel in the microwave carousel then digest and complete sample preparation according to Section 6.8 below.

## 6.7. Sample Preparation

- 6.7.1. Weigh approximately 100 mg of the sample into a clean 20 mL digestion vessel and add 4.0 mL of Acid Digestion Mixture.
- 6.7.2. Place a plug on the vessels and properly torque vessel cap before placing in the microwave carousel. Digest and complete sample preparation according to Section 6.8 below.

## 6.8. Microwave Digestion Procedure

- 6.8.1. Sample solutions are stable for a total of 8 days.
- 6.8.2. Refer to BSI-SOP-0426 for general usages and guidelines for the Mars 6 Digestion System.
- 6.8.3. Prepare at least one method blank per digestion run. Method blank preparation is prepared in the same manner following microwave digestion as the actual samples without addition of sample
- 6.8.4. Digest the sample using the program listed in Table 3 below.

**TABLE 3: TEMPERATURE CONTROLLED MICROWAVE DIGESTION PROGRAM**

Power (Watts)	Percent Power	Ramp (Minutes)	Temperature (°C)	Hold (Minutes)
1800	100	15:00	150	10:00
1800	100	6:00	175	5:00

- 6.8.5. If fewer than 4 samples are to be digested with the CEM digestion vessels, use extra place holder “dummy” samples to ensure that there are at least 4 microwave vessels placed evenly around the carousel. The extra place holder “dummy samples” can be discarded after the digestion is complete.
- 6.8.6. After digestion, place the digestion vessels in an ice bath and allow the vessels to cool for approximately 40 minutes. Before opening, turn the vessels sideways and slowly rotate in order to collect the condensation on the inside walls of the vessels.
- 6.8.7. Quantitatively transfer the vessel contents into a 50 mL Digitube® containing 5 mL of deionized water. Rinse the bottom of the plug into the same 50 mL Digitube® using deionized water.
- 6.8.8. Rinse the vessel an additional two times with deionized water and transfer each rinse to the 50 mL Digitube®. Dilute to final volume of 50 mL using deionized water and mix well.
- 6.8.9. Perform an additional dilution for each sample by pipetting 1.0 mL of the digested sample into another 50 mL Digitube®.
- 6.8.10. Pipette 100 µL of internal standard and dilute to 45 mL using deionized water.
- 6.8.11. Pipette 2.5 mL of nitric acid then dilute to final volume of 50 mL using deionized water and mix well.

**7. INSTRUMENT PROCEDURE:**

- 7.1. Perform the ICP-OES daily performance check prior to beginning the analytical sequence. Refer to Avio 500 ICP-OES SOP BSI-SOP-0362 for Daily Check procedures.
- 7.2. A calibration curve of no less than two standards and a blank must be used. The calibration correlation coefficient (R) must be  $\geq 0.995$ .
- 7.3. Set up the sequence as per Table 4.
- 7.4. Confirm the calibration by analyzing the 2.5 ppm standard after the calibration. The calibration check must recover  $\pm 10\%$  of the calculated theoretical concentration for single element determinations.
- 7.5. The check standard must be verified after the calibration. A re-analysis of the check standard will be performed a minimum of once every 10 samples and at the end of the analytical run.
- 7.6. The drift between the bracketing standard checks must be NMT 10% for each Target wavelength.
- 7.7. The sample concentration is calculated as:

$$\text{Conc. } (\mu\text{g/g}) = \frac{\text{Solution Conc. } (\mu\text{g/L}) \times \text{Solution vol. (L)} \times \text{Dilution Factor}}{\text{Sample Mass (g)}}$$

**TABLE 4: EXAMPLE SAMPLE ANALYSIS SEQUENCE**

<b>ID</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Level</b>
Cal Blank	Cal Blank	Level 1
1.0 ppm Std	Cal Std	Level 2
2.5 ppm Std	Cal Std	Level 3
5.0 ppm Std	Cal Std	Level 4
10 ppm Std	Cal Std	Level 5
Cal Blank Check	QC Check	N/A
2.5 ppm Check Std 1	QC Check	N/A
Method Blank	Sample	N/A
Sample(s) 10 or less	Sample	N/A
2.5 ppm Check Std 2	QC Check	N/A

**8. INSTRUMENT SETUP AND PARAMETERS:**

- 8.1. Instrument settings are only listed as guidelines. Settings may be changed in order to accommodate changes in sample matrix or hardware configurations.
- 8.2. The instrument method is stored under the Test Method Folder labelled as “Na\_Quant\_Sodium.mth” for quantification of sodium.

**TABLE 5: ICP-OES PARAMETERS**

<b>ICP-OES System</b>	Perkin Elmer Avio 500 Inductively Coupled Plasma Optical Emission Spectrometry (ICP-OES) with Syngistix Software
<b>Points per Peak</b>	3
<b>Replicates</b>	3
<b>Viewing Distance</b>	15.0
<b>Nebulizer Gas</b>	Argon
<b>Shear Gas</b>	Compressed Air + Nitrogen
<b>Sample Rinse</b>	Rinse-1: 30 sec at 1.0 mL/min 5.0% HNO <sub>3</sub> or as applicable to mitigate carry over

**TABLE 6: LINEAR RANGE AND CORRESPONDING MODE**

<b>Element</b>	<b>Mode</b>	<b>Wavelength (nm)</b>	<b>Linear Range (µg/mL)</b>
Na	Axial	588.995	1.0-10
		589.592	

**9. REPORTING:**

- 9.1. The theoretical concentration of sodium in sodium decanoate is approximately 11.84% or 118,400 ppm. Results should fall between 106,500 ppm and 130,200 ppm ( $\pm 10\%$  of the theoretical concentration). Results will be displayed in calibration units (mg/mL) and sample units (ppm). The value to report is the calculated value in ppm from the dilution factor used in the software sample info table. For sodium quantification, the Na 589.592 wavelength will be used for any final results as this is the preferred wavelength.