CHROMIUM, HEXAVALENT (CHELATION/EXTRACTION)

1.0 SCOPE AND APPLICATION

1.1 Method 7197 is approved for determining the concentration of dissolved hexavalent chromium [Cr(VI)] in Extraction Procedure (EP) toxicity characteristic extracts and ground waters. This method may also be applicable to certain domestic and industrial wastes, provided that no interfering substances are present (see Paragraph 3.1).

1.2 Method 7197 may be used to analyze samples containing from 1.0 to 25 ug of Cr(VI) per liter.

2.0 SUMMARY OF METHOD

2.1 Method 7197 is based on the chelation of hexavalent chromium with ammonium pyrrolidine dithiocarbamate (APDC) and extraction with methyl isobutyl ketone (MIBK). The extract is aspirated into the flame of an atomic absorption spectrophotometer.

3.0 INTERFERENCES

3.1 High concentrations of other metals may interfere.

4.0 APPARATUS AND MATERIALS

4.1 Atomic absorption spectrophotometer: Single or dual channel, single- or double-beam instrument, having a grating monochromator, photomultiplier detector, adjustable slits, and provisions for background correction.

4.2 Chromium hollow cathode lamp.

4.3 Strip-chart recorder (optional).

5.0 REAGENTS

5.1 ASTM Type II water (ASTM D1193): Water should be monitored for impurities.

5.2 Ammonium pyrrolidine dithiocarbamate (APDC) solution: Dissolve 1.0 g APDC in Type II water and dilute to 100 mL. Prepare fresh daily.

5.3 Bromphenol blue indicator solution: Dissolve 0.1 g bromphenol blue in 100 mL 50% ethanol.

5.4 Potassium dichromate standard solution I (1.0 mL = 100 ug Cr): Dissolve 0.2829 g pure dried potassium dichromate, $K_2Cr_2O_7$, in Type II water and dilute to 1,000 mL.

5.5 Potassium dichromate standard solution II (1.0 mL = 10.0 ug Cr): Dilute 100 mL chromium standard solution I to 1 liter with Type II water.

5.6 Potassium dichromate standard solution III (1.0 mL = 0.10 ug Cr): Dilute 10.0 mL chromium standard solution II to 1 liter with Type II water.

5.7 Methyl isobutyl ketone (MIBK), analytical reagent grade: Avoid or redistill material that comes in contact with metal or metal-lined caps.

5.8 Sodium hydroxide solution, 1 M: Dissolve to 40 g sodium hydroxide, NaOH (ASC reagent grade), in Type II water and dilute to 1 liter.

5.9 Sulfuric acid, 0.12 M: Slowly add 6.5 mL distilled reagent grade or spectrograde-quality sulfuric acid, H_2SO_4, to Type II water and dilute to 1 liter.

6.0 SAMPLE COLLECTION, PRESERVATION, AND HANDLING

6.1 All samples must have been collected using a sampling plan that addresses the considerations discussed in Chapter Nine of this manual.

6.2 Because the stability of Cr(VI) in EP extracts is not completely understood at this time, the chelation and extraction should be carried out as soon as possible.

6.3 To retard the chemical activity of hexavalent chromium, the samples and extracts should be stored at 4°C until analyzed.

7.0 PROCEDURE

7.1 Pipet a volume of extract containing less than 2.5 ug chromium (100 mL maximum) into a 200-mL volumetric flask and adjust the volume to approximately 100 mL.

7.2 Prepare a blank and sufficient standards and adjust the volume of each to approximately 100 mL.

7.3 Add 2 drops of bromphenol blue indicator solution. (The adjustment of pH to 2.4, Step 7.4, may be made with a pH meter instead of using an indicator.)

7.4 Adjust the pH by addition of 1 M NaOH solution dropwise until a blue color persists. Add 0.12 M H_2SO_4 dropwise until the blue color just disappears in both the standards and sample. Then add 2.0 mL of 0.12 M H_2SO_4 in excess. The pH at this point should be 2.4.

7.5 Add 5.0 mL APDC solution and mix. The pH should then be approximately 2.8.

7.6 Add 10.0 mL MIBK and shake vigorously for 3 min.

7.7 Allow the layers to separate and add Type II water until the ketone layer is completely in the neck of the flask.

7.8 Aspirate the ketone layer and record the scale reading for each sample and standard against the blank. Repeat, and average the duplicate results.

7.9 Determine the mg/liter of Cr(VI) in each sample from a plot of scale readings of standards. A working curve must be prepared with each set of samples.

7.10 Verification:

7.10.1 For every sample matrix analyzed, verification is required to ensure that neither a reducing condition nor chemical interference is affecting chelation. This must be accomplished by analyzing a second 10-mL aliquot of the pH-adjusted filtrate that has been spiked with Cr(VI). The amount of spike added should double the concentration found in the original aliquot. Under no circumstances should the increase be less than 30 ug/L Cr(VI). To verify the absence of an interference, the spike recovery must be between 85% and 115%.

7.10.2 If addition of the spike extends the concentration beyond the calibration curve, the analysis solution should be diluted with blank solution and the calculated results adjusted accordingly.

7.10.3 If the result of verification indicates a suppressive interference, the sample should be diluted and reanalyzed.

7.10.4 If the interference persists after sample dilution, an alternative method (Method 7195, Coprecipitation, or Method 7196, Colorimetric) should be used.

7.11 Acidic extracts that yield recoveries of less than 85% should be retested to determine if the low spike recovery is due to the presence of residual reducing agent. This determination shall be performed by first making an aliquot of the extract alkaline (pH 8.0-8.5) using 1 N sodium hydroxide and then respiking and analyzing. If a spike recovery of 85-115% is obtained in the alkaline aliquot of an acidic extract that initially was found to contain less than 5 mg/L Cr(VI), one can conclude that the analytical method has been verified.

8.0 QUALITY CONTROL

8.1 All quality control data should be maintained and available for easy reference or inspection.

8.2 Calibration curves must be composed of a minimum of a blank and three standards. A calibration curve should be made for every hour of continuous sample analysis.

8.3 Dilute samples if they are more concentrated than the highest standard or if they fall on the plateau of a calibration curve.

8.4 Employ a minimum of one blank per sample batch to determine if contamination or any memory effects are occurring.

8.5 Verify calibration with an independently prepared check standard every 15 samples.

8.6 Run one spike duplicate sample for every 10 samples. A duplicate sample is a sample brought through the whole sample preparation and analytical process.

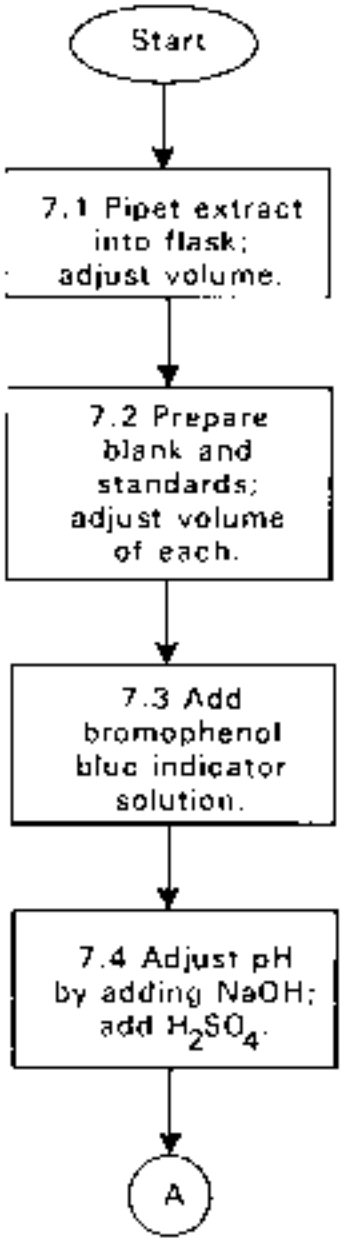
8.7 The method of standard additions (see Method 7000, Section 8.7) shall be used for the analysis of all EP extracts, on all analyses submitted as part of a delisting petition, and whenever a new sample matrix is being analyzed.

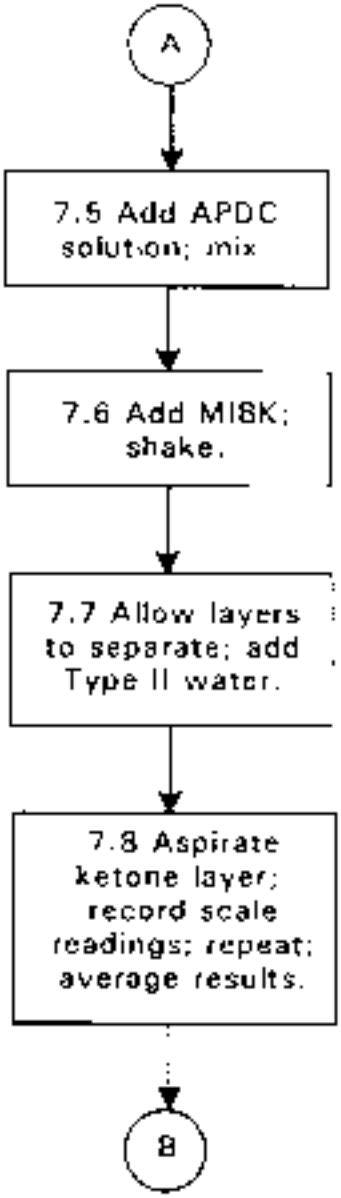
9.0 METHOD PERFORMANCE

9.1 Precision and accuracy data are available in Method 218.4 of Methods for Chemical Analysis of Water and Wastes.

10.0 REFERENCES

1. Methods for Chemical Analysis of Water and Wastes, EPA-600/4-82-055, December 1982, Method 218.4.


Start
7.1 Pipet extract into flask; adjust volume.
7.2 Prepare blank and standards; adjust volume of each.
7.3 Add bromophenol blue indicator solution.
7.4 Adjust pH by adding NaOH; add H_2SO_4.
A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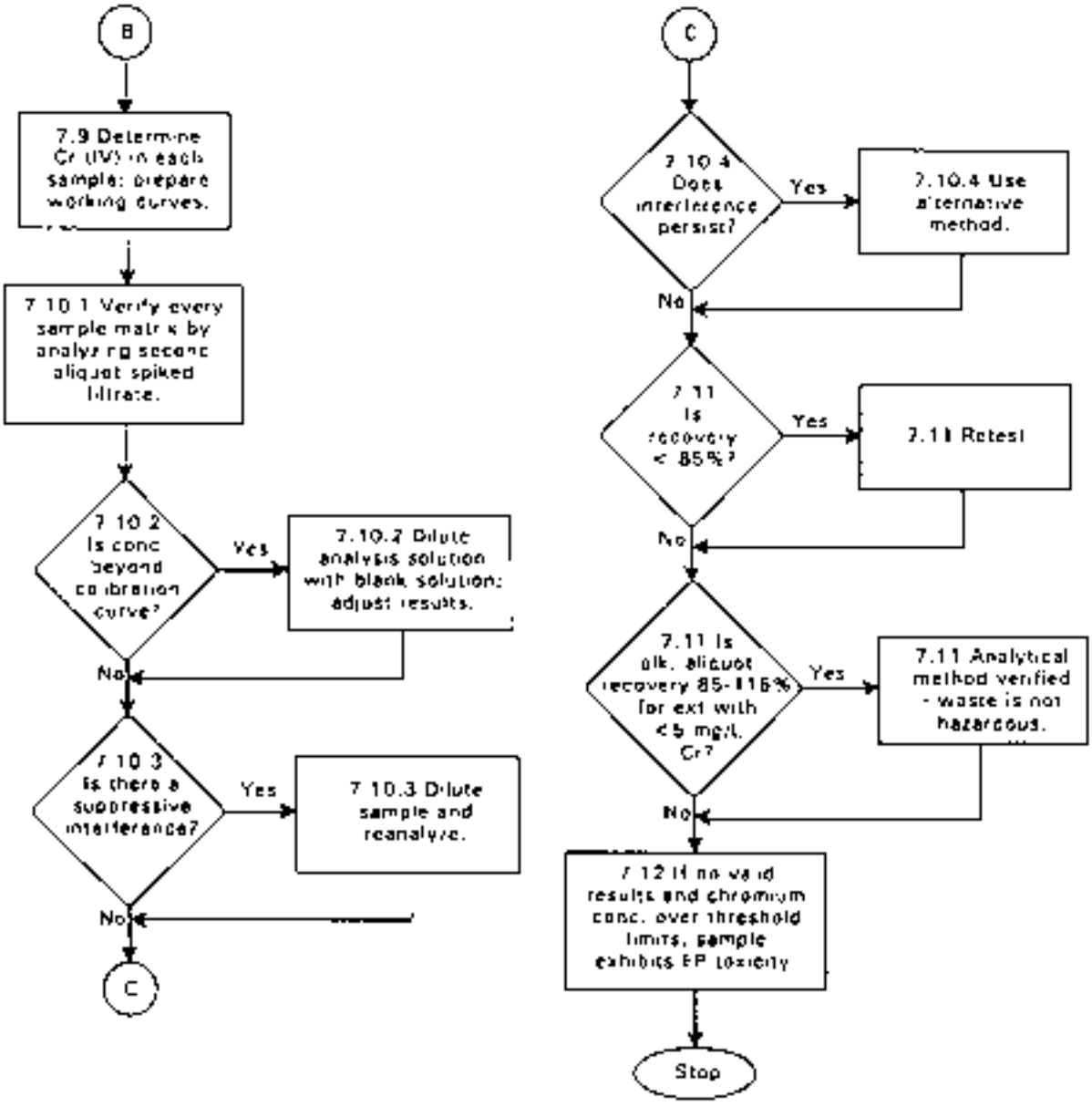
7.5 Add APDC solution; mix
7.6 Add MIBK; shake.
7.7 Allow layers to separate; add Type II water.
7.8 Aspirate ketone layer; record scale readings; repeat; average results.
B


B
7.9 Determine Cr (IV) in each sample; prepare working curves.
7.10.1 Verify every sample matrix by analyzing second aliquot spiked filtrate.
7.10.2 Is conc beyond calibration curve?
Yes
7.10.2 Dilute analysis solution with blank solution; adjust results.
No
7.10.3 Is there a suppressive interference?
Yes
7.10.3 Dilute sample and reanalyze.
No
C
C
7.10.4 Does interference persist?
Yes
7.10.4 Use alternative method.
No
7.11 Is recovery < 85%?
Yes
7.11 Retest
No
7.11 Is blk. aliquot recovery 85-115% for ext with < 5 mg/L Cr?
Yes
7.11 Analytical method verified - waste is not hazardous.
No
7.12 If no valid results and chromium conc. over threshold limits, sample exhibits EP toxicity
Stop