

Analytical Results of MOX Colemanite Concrete Sample Poured July 25, 2012 — Cured 28 Days

D.R. Best
A.D. Cozzi
M.M. Reigel

September 2012

Savannah River National Laboratory
Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC
Aiken, SC 29808

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REVIEWS AND APPROVALS

AUTHORS:

D.R. Best, Engineering Process Development Date

A.D. Cozzi, Engineering Process Development Date

M.M. Reigel, Engineering Process Development Date

TECHNICAL REVIEW:

B.R. Pickenheim, Engineering Process Development Date

APPROVAL:

K.M. Fox, Manager Date
Engineering Process Development

S.L. Marra, Manager Date
E&CPT Research Programs

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility (MFFF) will use Colemanite bearing concrete neutron absorber panels credited with attenuating neutron flux in the criticality design analyses and shielding operators from radiation. The Savannah River National Laboratory is tasked with measuring the total density, partial hydrogen density, and partial boron density of the colemanite concrete.

Samples 8.1.2, 8.2.2, 8.3.2, and 8.4.2 were received on 8/1/2012 and analyzed after curing for 28 days. The average total density measured by the ASTM method C 642 was 2.09 g/cm^3 , within the lower bound of 1.88 g/cm^3 . The average partial hydrogen density was $7.48\text{E-}02 \text{ g/cm}^3$ as measured using method ASTM E 1311 and met the lower bound of $6.04\text{E-}02 \text{ g/cm}^3$. The average measured partial boron density was $1.71\text{E-}01 \text{ g/cm}^3$ which met the lower bound of $1.65\text{E-}01 \text{ g/cm}^3$ measured by the ASTM C 1301 method.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

DSC	Differential Scanning Calorimetry
ICP	Inductively Coupled Plasma
MFFF	Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility
OES	Optical Emission Spectrometer
PSAL	Process Science Analytical Laboratory
SRNL	Savannah River National Laboratory
TGA	Thermal Gravimetric Analysis

1.0 Introduction

The Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility (MFFF) will use Colemanite bearing concrete neutron absorber panels credited with attenuating neutron flux in the criticality design analyses and shielding the operator from radiation¹. Table 1 is an excerpt from Table 2.1.2.3 in Reference 1.

Table 1. Acceptable Material Neutron Absorber Characteristics.

Material Type	Total Density Lower Bound (g/cm ³)	Hydrogen Partial Density Lower Bound (g/cm ³)	Boron Partial Density Lower Bound (g/cm ³)
Borated Concrete (Colemanite)	1.88	6.04E-02	1.65E-01

The Savannah River National Laboratory is tasked with measuring the properties of the colemanite concrete identified in Table 1².

2.0 Experimental Results

Samples 8.1.2, 8.2.2, 8.3.2, and 8.4.2 were received on 8/1/2012. The samples consisted of four 2-inch cubes cast on 7/25/2012. The samples were analyzed after 28 days of curing. A duplicate set of samples were analyzed after 7 days of curing³.

2.1 Total Density

The total density of the sample was determined by the ASTM method for density in hardened concrete⁴. Subsamples of each of the cubes were crushed for the density determination.

The ASTM method was followed with the exception of sample size. Section 4.1 of the ASTM procedure specifies a sample size of approximately 800 grams. As each subsample weighed between 133 to 138 grams, a reduced sample size was used. Duplicate subsamples of each cube were analyzed. Mass measurements were taken after each treatment with the masses being designated A through D, where;

A = mass of oven-dried sample in air between 100 to 110 °C, g

B = mass of surface-dry sample in air after immersion, g

C = mass of surface-dry sample in air after immersion and boiling, g

D = apparent mass of sample in water after immersion and boiling, g, Table 2.

Table 2. Mass Measurements of Subsamples After Each Treatment.

Subsample	A (g)	B (g)	C (g)	D (g)
Treatment	dry	saturated	boil/saturated	suspended
Date	29-Aug-12	4-Sep-12	5-Sep-12	5-Sep-12
8.1.2a	20.778	23.565	23.758	12.488
8.1.2b	13.621	15.481	15.577	8.169
8.2.2a	12.398	14.200	14.266	7.418
8.2.2b	27.060	30.894	31.263	16.373
8.3.2a	9.834	11.231	11.199	5.840
8.3.2b	16.079	18.323	18.306	9.630
8.4.2a	10.849	12.526	12.441	6.463
8.4.2b	17.609	20.213	20.242	10.595

Using the calculations in the ASTM method, the following properties were calculated:

$$\text{Absorption after immersion, \%} = \frac{B-A}{A} \times 100, \quad (1)$$

$$\text{Absorption after immersion and boiling, \%} = \frac{C-A}{A} \times 100, \quad (2)$$

$$\text{Bulk density, dry} = \frac{A}{C-D} \times \rho, \quad (3)$$

$$\text{Bulk density after immersion} = \frac{B}{C-D} \times \rho, \quad (4)$$

$$\text{Bulk density after immersion and boiling} = \frac{C}{C-D} \times \rho, \quad (5)$$

$$\text{Apparent density} = \frac{A}{A-D} \times \rho, \quad (6)$$

$$\text{Volume of permeable pore space} = \frac{C-A}{C-D} \times 100 \quad (7)$$

The density used in these calculations is that of water, ($\sim 1 \text{ g/cm}^3$). The results of the calculations performed with Equations 1-7 are tabulated and averaged in Table 3.

Table 3. Calculated Results of Equations 1-7 for the Colemanite Concrete.

Sample ID	Absorption Eq (1) (%)	Absorption Eq (2) (%)	Bulk Density Eq (3) (g/cm^3)	Bulk Density Eq (4) (g/cm^3)	Bulk Density Eq (5) (g/cm^3)	Apparent Density Eq (6) (g/cm^3)	Permeable void % Eq (7)
8.1.2a	13.41	14.34	1.84	2.09	2.11	2.51	26.44
8.1.2b	13.66	14.36	1.84	2.09	2.10	2.50	26.40
8.1.2 Avg	13.53	14.35	1.84	2.09	2.11	2.50	26.42
8.2.2a	14.53	15.07	1.81	2.07	2.08	2.49	27.28
8.2.2b	14.17	15.53	1.82	2.07	2.10	2.53	28.23
8.2.2 Avg	14.35	15.30	1.81	2.07	2.09	2.51	27.75
8.3.2a	14.21	13.88	1.84	2.10	2.09	2.46	25.47
8.3.2b	13.96	13.85	1.85	2.11	2.11	2.49	25.67
8.3.2 Avg	14.08	13.87	1.84	2.10	2.10	2.48	25.57
8.4.2a	15.46	14.67	1.81	2.10	2.08	2.47	26.63
8.4.2b	14.79	14.95	1.83	2.10	2.10	2.51	27.29
8.4.2 Avg	15.12	14.81	1.82	2.10	2.09	2.49	26.96

Equations (4) and (5) are the most appropriate to represent the density of the Colemanite concrete as the concrete is saturated with water during placement. The average density of the colemanite concrete measured using ASTM C 642 equation (4) was 2.09 g/cm^3 .

2.2 Hydrogen Partial Density

The hydrogen partial density in the colemanite concrete was determined using the ASTM method for determining volatile content using thermogravimetric analysis⁵. ASTM E 1131-08 defines highly volatile matter as components that will volatilize below 200°C and medium volatile matter as components that will degrade or volatilize in the range of $200 - 750^\circ\text{C}$. In an evaluation of the thermal decomposition of colemanite, Waclawska et al. determined that the release of water from colemanite was complete at 600°C and that melting and crystallization of a calcium borate phase occurred above 650°C ⁶. A Netzsch STA 409 Luxx, which couples Differential Scanning Calorimetry (DSC) with Thermal Gravimetric Analysis (TGA), was used for TGA of the colemanite concrete samples. After loading the sample, the chamber was purged with nitrogen at 60 ml/min prior to heating. Triplicate samples from 8.1.2, 8.2.2, 8.3.2, and 8.4.2 were heated at 5°C/min up to 650°C in a flowing nitrogen atmosphere of 60 ml/min , Figure 1. The initial mass loss is associated with the free water from the mix. The second mass loss beginning below 400°C

is due to the thermal decomposition of the colemanite. Table 4 is the mass change for the four samples.

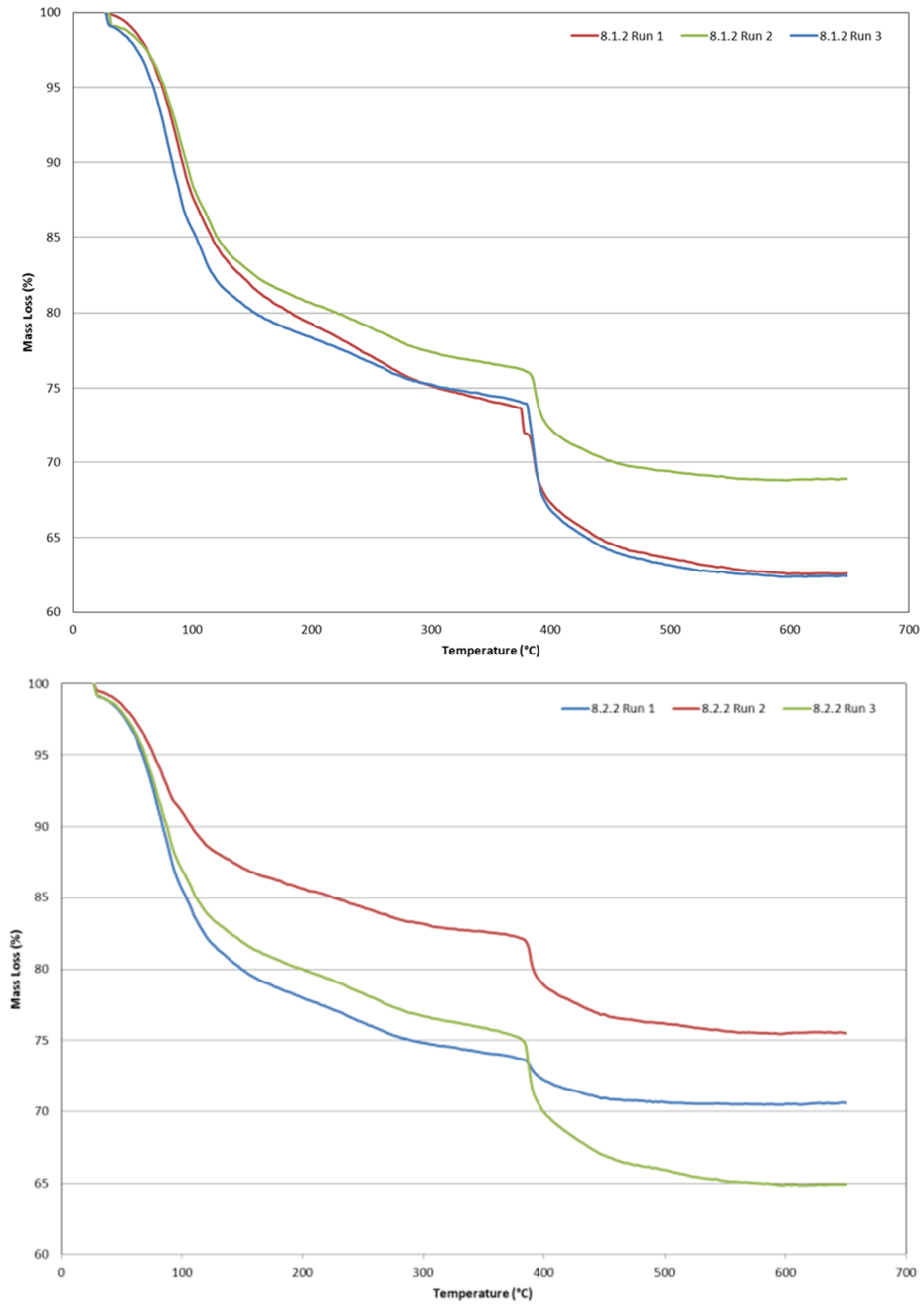


Figure 1. TGA Curves Showing Mass Loss of Samples Heated at 5 °C/min Under Flowing Nitrogen--continued.

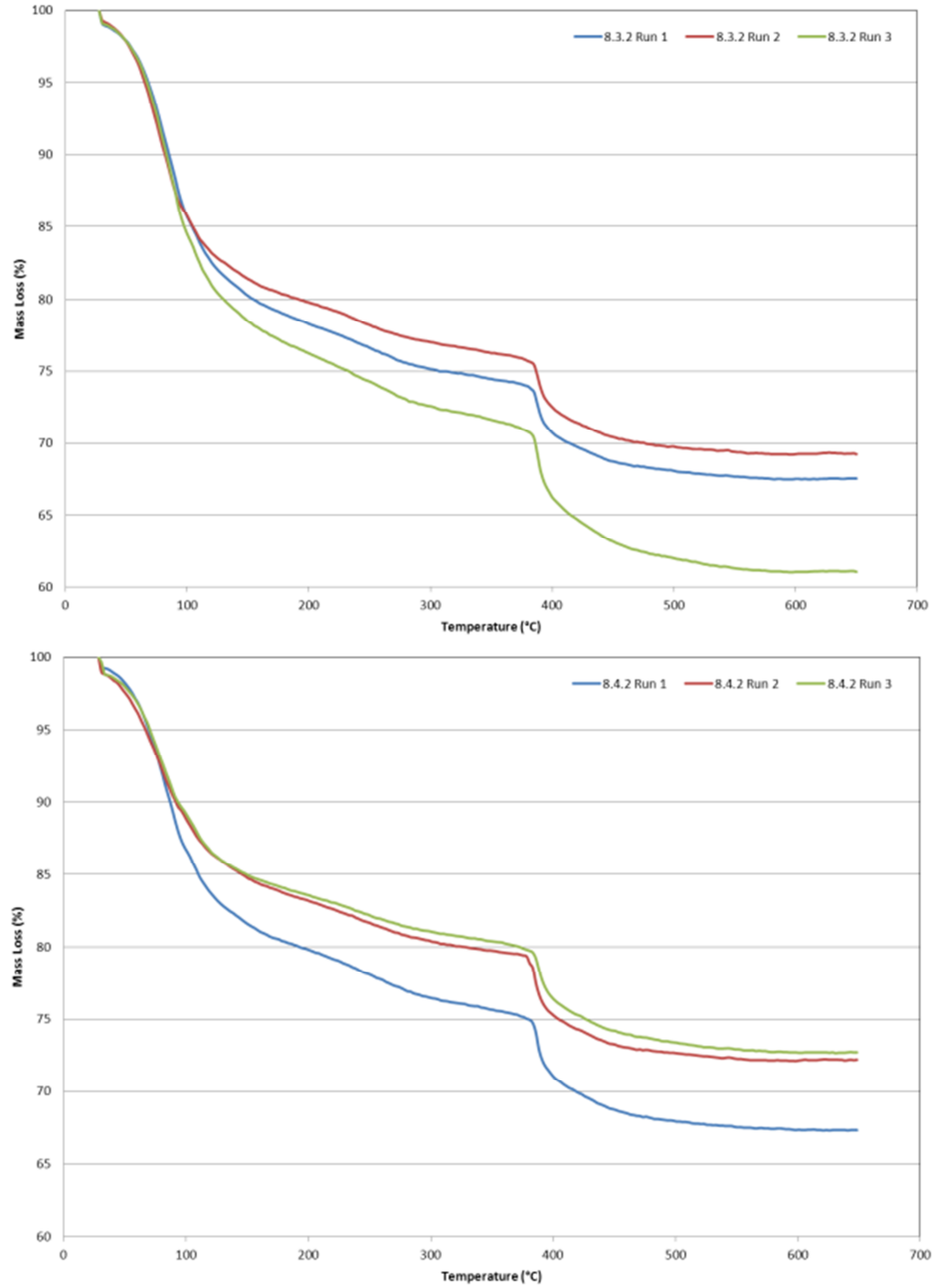


Figure 1. TGA Curves Showing Mass Loss of Samples Heated at 5 °C/min Under Flowing Nitrogen.

Table 4. Mass change Over Temperature Ranges for Samples made on July 25, 2012.

Sample ID	Run #	Mass Loss (%) 25 - 175 °C	Mass Loss (%) 300 - 600 °C	Total Mass Loss (%)	Average Mass Loss (%)	Hydrogen Partial Density (g/cm ³)
8.1.2	1	19.80	12.57	37.65	35.32	8.26E-02
	2	18.53	8.50	31.13		
	3	20.40	12.85	37.17		
8.2.2	1	20.81	4.26	29.06	29.55	6.86E-02
	2	13.64	7.64	24.47		
	3	19.22	11.81	35.11		
8.3.2	1	20.84	7.61	32.45	33.96	7.99E-02
	2	19.22	7.79	30.45		
	3	22.81	11.53	38.97		
8.4.2	1	19.25	9.14	32.47	29.04	6.81E-02
	2	15.58	8.23	27.32		
	3	15.81	8.33	27.33		

Attributing the weight loss in Table 4 to water results in an average of 31.97 wt% water, and using a measured colemanite concrete density from Table 3, the average partial hydrogen density is calculated to be 7.48E-02 g/cm³. For example, the hydrogen density of sample 8.1.1 in Reference 3 is calculated using the equations:

$$\text{Moles } H_2O \text{ in } 100 \text{ g concrete} = \frac{\text{mass fraction } H_2O}{MW H_2O} = \frac{31.41 \frac{g H_2O}{g \text{ concrete}}}{18.015 \text{ g mol } H_2O} = 1.74 \text{ mol } H_2O, \quad (8)$$

$$\frac{g H}{\text{Mole } H_2O} = 2.016 \text{ g H}, \quad (9)$$

$$g H \text{ in } 100 \text{ g concrete} = 1.74 \text{ mol } H_2O \times 2.016 \text{ g H} = 3.51 \text{ g H}, \quad (10)$$

$$\text{Volume concrete} = \frac{\text{mass concrete}}{\text{density concrete}} = \frac{100 \text{ g concrete}}{2.11 \frac{g}{ml}} = 47.33 \text{ ml concrete}, \quad (11)$$

$$H \text{ density } \frac{g}{ml} = \frac{\text{mass H}}{\text{volume concrete}} = \frac{3.51 \text{ g H}}{47.33 \text{ ml concrete}} = 7.43E - 02 \frac{g H}{ml \text{ Concrete}}. \quad (12)$$

2.3 Boron Partial Density

Subsamples of 8.1.2, 8.2.2, 8.3.2, and 8.4.2 cubes were crushed, dried in an oven to remove moisture, and digested in triplicate using the ASTM method for trace metals analysis in limestone⁷. Three aliquots of sample were weighed in separate beakers and then 10 ml of HCl and 4 ml of HNO₃ were added. The acid mixture was heated at 85 °C for 60 minutes on a hotplate, with the sample covered with a watch glass. After heating was complete, the sample cooled for an additional 60 minutes to ensure complete boron dissolution. The sample was then diluted up to a final volume of 100 ml with deionized water. The samples were analyzed on the Agilent 730 Inductively Coupled Plasma-Optical Emission Spectrometer (ICP-OES). Boron was calibrated using a High Purity NIST traceable standard (Lot 1204016), Appendix A: Boron Certificate of Analysis. An internal standard (Yttrium) was used to compensate for matrix effects. The dissolution method prescribed in the ASTM method resulted in complete dissolution of the samples. Table 5 is the analytical results of the dissolution of colemanite concrete using the prescribed ASTM method.

Table 5. Boron Results of Colemanite Concrete Analyzed using ASTM C 1301.

Sample ID	Average Boron Content	Partial Boron Density (g/cm ³)
8.1.2	8.12 wt%	1.70E-01
8.2.2	8.14 wt%	1.69E-01
8.3.2	8.37 wt%	1.76E-01
8.4.2	8.07 wt%	1.69E-01

Using the calculated colemanite concrete density of 2.09 g/cm³, the average partial boron density is calculated to be 1.71E-01 g/cm³. For example, the boron density of sample 8.1.1 in Reference 3 is calculated using the equations:

$$\text{Mass } B \text{ in } 100 \text{ g concrete from Table 5} = 8.27 \text{ g} \quad (13)$$

$$\text{Volume concrete} = \frac{\text{mass concrete}}{\text{density concrete}} = \frac{100 \text{ g concrete}}{2.11 \frac{\text{g}}{\text{ml}}} = 47.33 \text{ ml concrete} \quad (14)$$

$$B \text{ density } \frac{\text{g}}{\text{ml}} = \frac{\text{mass } B}{\text{volume concrete}} = \frac{8.27 \text{ g } B}{47.33 \text{ ml concrete}} = 1.75E - 01 \frac{\text{g } B}{\text{ml Concrete}} \quad (15)$$

3.0 Conclusions

The lower limits and measured values for the total density, hydrogen partial density, and boron partial density are presented in Table 6. The total density, the hydrogen partial density, and the boron partial density exceeded the lower bounds specified in Reference 1.

Table 6. Lower Bounds and Average Measured Values for the Total Density, Hydrogen Partial Density, and Boron Partial Density for the Colemanite Concrete Samples Received 01 August 2012.

Material Type	Total Density Lower Bound (g/cm ³)		Hydrogen Partial Density Lower Bound (g/cm ³)		Boron Partial Density Lower Bound (g/cm ³)	
	Limit	Measured	Limit	Measured	Limit	Measured
Borated Concrete (Colemanite)	1.88	2.09	6.04E-02	7.48E-02	1.65E-01	1.71E-01

4.0 References

- ¹ Wead, R., "Radiation Shielding and Fixed Neutron Absorber Panel Material and Inspection Requirements," DCS01-ZMJ-DS-SPE-M-19109-2, Revision 2, (2007).
- ² "Equipment Calibration Services / Material Testing," WTA-040-8b, Section 9 (q), 4/13/2012.
- ³ Best, D.R., Cozzi, A.D., and Reigel, M.M., "Analytical Results of MOX Colemanite Concrete Sample Poured July 25, 2012 — Cured 7 Days," SRNL-STI-2012-00510, (2012).
- ⁴ "Standard Test Method for Density, Absorption, and Voids in Hardened Concrete," ASTM C 642-06.
- ⁵ "Standard Test Method for Compositional Analysis by Thermogravimetry," ASTM E 1131-08.
- ⁶ Waclawska, I, Stoch, L, Paulik, J., and Paulik, F., "Thermal Decomposition of Colemanite," Thermochemica Acta, pp. 307-318, [126] (1988).
- ⁷ "Major and Trace Elements in Limestone and Lime by Inductively Coupled Plasma-Atomic Emission Spectroscopy (ICP) and Atomic Absorption (AA)," ASTM C 1301-95 (Reapproved 2009).

Appendix A. Boron Certificate of Analysis

Certificate of Analysis

Product Description:

Name:	Boron	Source Material:	Boric Acid
Part Number:	1000 7-4	Material Purity:	99.999%
Lot Number:	1204016	Matrix:	H ₂ O

Certified Value: 1000 µg/mL ± 3 µg/mL

The Certified value is based on gravimetric and volumetric preparation, and confirmed against SRM 3107 (lot number 070514) by inductively coupled plasma optical emission spectrometry (ICP-OES) using an internal laboratory-developed method. The uncertainty in the certified value is calculated for a 95% confidence interval and coverage factor *k* is about 2.

Density: 1.000 g/mL ± 0.002 g/mL @ 22.8°C

Uncertified Values:

Titration Value: 994.97 µg/mL

Trace Metal Impurity Scan: The data reported are based upon a scan of this specific lot at 1000 µg/mL via ICP analysis. The values are reported in µg/L.

Ag < 0.02	Cu < 0.1	Li < 1	Rb < 0.02	Th < 0.02
Al < 0.1	Dy < 0.02	Lu < 0.02	Re < 0.02	Ti < 0.02
As < 0.05	Er < 0.02	Mg < 0.5	Rh < 0.02	Tl < 0.02
Au < 0.02	Eu < 0.02	Mn < 0.5	Ru < 0.02	Tm < 0.02
B M	Fe < 5	Mo < 0.02	Sb < 0.02	U < 0.1
Ba < 0.1	Ga < 0.02	Na < 10	Sc < 0.02	V < 0.05
Be < 0.02	Gd < 0.02	Nb < 0.02	Se < 0.1	W < 0.02
Bi < 0.02	Ge < 0.02	Nd < 0.02	Si < 5	Y < 0.02
Ca < 5	Hf < 0.02	Ni < 0.02	Sm < 0.02	Yb < 0.02
Cd < 0.02	Ho < 0.02	Os < 0.02	Sr < 1	Zn < 0.1
Ce < 0.02	In < 0.02	Pb < 0.05	Ta < 0.02	Zr < 0.02
Co < 0.05	Ir < 0.02	Pd < 0.02	Tb < 0.02	
Cr < 0.1	K < 1	Pr < 0.02	Te < 0.02	
Cs < 0.02	La < 0.02	Pt < 0.02		

Preparation Information:

The standard solution is prepared using high purity materials and assayed by analytical methods for conformity prior to use. This standard was prepared using the methods developed at NIST for SRM Spectrometric Standard Solutions under appropriate laboratory conditions.

The matrix is 18 megaohm deionized water.

Stability of this product is based upon rigorous short term and long term testing of the solution for the certified value. This testing includes, but is not limited to, the effect of temperature and packaging on the product.

Intended Use:

This Certified Reference Material (CRM) is intended for use as a calibration standard for the quantitative determination of boron, calibration of instruments such as ICPOES, ICPMS, AAS and XRF, and validation of analytical methods. It also can be used in EPA, ASTM and other methods.

Traceability Information:

The traceability of this standard is maintained through an unbroken chain of comparisons to appropriate standards with suitable procedure and measurement uncertainties. The maintenance of the base and derived units of International System of Units (SI) with traceability of measurement results (contemporary metrology) to SI ensures their comparability over time as follows.

a. **Standard Weight and Analytical Balance**

The standard weights (NBS weights Inventory No 20231A) are calibrated every two years by South Carolina Metrology Laboratory that is a participant in "NIST Weights and Measures Measurement Assurance Program" with a certificate of measurement traceability to NIST primary standards.

The balances are calibrated yearly by the ISO 17025 accredited metrology service, and are verified weekly by an in-house method using standard weights.

b. **Volumetric Device**

The calibration of volumetric vessels is checked annually using the NBS 602 method.

c. **Thermometer**

The standard thermometers are calibrated every year by the ISO 17025 accredited metrology service. The thermometers used in-house are verified against the standard thermometers yearly.

d. **Calibration Standards:**

The Calibration Standard is directly traceable to SRM 3100 Series Spectrometric Standard Solutions.

Packaging and Storage Conditions:

The standard is packaged in a pre-cleaned polyethylene bottle. To maintain the integrity of this product, the solution should be kept tightly capped and stored under normal laboratory conditions.

Refer to Material Safety Datasheet (MSDS) for hazardous information.

Expiration Information:

The expiry date is guaranteed to be valid for eighteen months from the shipping date provided. For this reason, standards from the same lot may have different expiration dates.

Preparation Date: February 9, 2012
Shipped Date: MAR 09 2012
Expiration Date: SEP 09 2013
Certificate Issue Date: February 29, 2012

Quality Information:



ISO/IEC 17025:2005 Accreditation
Certificate Number AT-1529



ISO Guide 34:2009 (RMP) Accreditation
Certificate Number AR-1436

Vanny T. Yib,
Inorganic Laboratory Manager

Kim-Phuong Tran
Quality Manager

Theodore Rains, PhD
President

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