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Section 5	PESTICIDES	Section 5

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5.1 Introduction

The statutory authority for control of pesticide residues in food began with the Food and Drug Act of 1906 and was strengthened with passage of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C) of 1938. In 1954, the Pesticide Chemical Amendment (Public Law 518) was passed. The amendment provided a new, more effective procedure for controlling residues of pesticide chemicals used on raw agriculture commodities (which include dairy products, eggs, and fish). The Secretary was given authority to establish tolerances in or on commodities and to require petitions from manufacturers requesting the establishment of tolerances. Data required in these petitions include name, composition, and chemical identity of the pesticide and its residues; residue data from actual applications of the pesticide; toxicity studies; and analytical methods for determining residues. Data requirements and a summary of FDA activities in this area can be found in "FDA Papers," Vol. 2, No. 7, September 1968.

In 1970, the function of establishing tolerances for pesticide chemicals was transferred to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). FDA continues to have regulatory responsibility for enforcing the tolerances.

Under the FD&C Act, a raw agricultural commodity is considered adulterated if it bears or contains a pesticide chemical that is "unsafe" within the meaning of section 408. A chemical is "unsafe" unless its quantity is within limits of prescribed tolerances or unless it has been exempted from the tolerance requirement. Tolerances and exemptions, based on usage, stability, and toxicological properties of the residue, are found in 40 CFR Part 180.

The earliest analytical methods were procedures based on classic elemental analysis, spectrophotometric, biochemical, and biological methods. During the 1950s and early 1960s, chromatographic methods, with greater sensitivity and the capability of distinguishing residues within a given class, were introduced. As a result of constantly improving analytical procedures, "negligible residue" tolerances, defined in 40 CFR Part 180.1(1), are now established for selected crops and residues. "Negligible residue" tolerances replaced the prior concept of "zero" tolerance for chemicals of high toxicity.

Analytical procedures, compiled in the FDA Pesticide Analytical Manual (PAM) and the Official Methods of Analysis of the AOAC, demand a high level of analytical skill and technique in order to provide meaningful regulatory results. To develop these skills, the trainee will perform the exercises in this section, which follow sections of PAM, Volume I. In order to demonstrate proficiency in this area, the trainee will analyze both regulatory and fortified samples. The trainer will assign the exercises.

Finally, the trainer will discuss today's revision of ORA-LAB.010, Guidance for the Analysis and Documentation to Support Regulatory Action On Pesticide Residues. This document

presents the minimum provisions for preparation of supportive pesticide regulatory analytical packages. The principles apply not only to pesticides, but also to all regulatory packages submitted to headquarters.

5.2 General Exercises

5.2.1 Equipment, Supplies, and Reagents

A. Objective

To familiarize the trainee with the pesticide residue laboratory and its equipment.

B. Assignment

The trainer will discuss the location, care, and cleaning procedures for equipment found in the residue laboratory and will explain proper procedures to obtain, handle, and store needed reagents and solvents. The general organization of the PAM and its use will be reviewed. Reading and reference materials pertinent to pesticides will be provided.

C. Reference

1. U.S. Food & Drug Administration, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, Office of Plant, Dairy Foods and Beverages. Makovi, C. M. (Ed.), McMahan, B. M. (Ed Emerita). (1994). *Pesticide Analytical Manual-multiresidue methods* (3rd ed., Vol. I, Chaps. 1-Regulatory Operations and 2-General Analytical Operations and Information, updated October 1999). R.O.W. Sciences, Inc.

5.2.2 Standard Solutions

A. Objective

To introduce the subject of pesticide standards: proper procedures for preparation, precautions during preparation and use, and problems associated with degradation.

B. Assignment

The trainer will explain the laboratory standard operating procedure (SOP) for preparing "stock" and "working" standard solutions, including documentation of standard solution preparation and comparison to previous standards. Proper storage of primary and working standards and associated problems, such as degradation or toxicity, will be discussed.

1. Determine the proper handling of toxic compounds.
2. Read the references and answer the questions that follow. Use this procedure for all subsequent assignments. Optional assignments will be completed as needed by the trainee.
3. Determine procedures for ordering standards from EPA.

C. References

1. U.S. Food & Drug Administration, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, Office of Plant, Dairy Foods and Beverages. Makovi, C. M. (Ed.), McMahon, B. M. (Ed Emerita). (1994). *Pesticide Analytical Manual Vol. I, section 205-Reference Standards*, updated October 1999). R.O.W. Sciences, Inc.
2. Laboratory Information Bulletin, LIB No. 633 and LIB No.1386.
3. Hodgson, D. W., Thompson, J. F., Watson, R. R. (1982). *Journal of Association of Official Analytical Chemists*, 65, 89-93; 94-102.

D. Questions

1. Which SOP is used in the laboratory to ensure primary standard purity and reliability?
2. What constitutes a stock solution? A working solution?
3. Which SOP is used to ensure reliability of stock and working solutions?
4. What are the hazards associated with handling and storage of pesticide standards?
5. What class of pesticides is particularly toxic by skin absorption as well as by inhalation and ingestion?
6. Where can information such as chemical structure for EPA standards be found?
7. In general, what would be a good solvent for organochlorine pesticides? For organophosphates? How would someone prepare a mixed standard containing both organochlorine and organophosphate pesticides?

5.3 Gas Chromatography

5.3.1 Instrumentation and Apparatus

A. Objective

To present an overview of basic gas chromatographic apparatus in the laboratory.

B. Assignment

The trainer will introduce basic gas chromatographic apparatus for the various commercial units in the laboratory and explain its use in pesticide analysis. The locations of components, including carrier gas supply injection port, columns, detectors, electrometers, recorders, and data systems will be shown and discussed.

C. Reference

1. U.S. Food & Drug Administration, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, Office of Plant, Dairy Foods and Beverages. Makovi, C. M. (Ed.), McMahon, B. M. (Ed Emerita). (1994). Pesticide analytical manual-*multiresidue methods* (3rd ed., Vol. I, chap. 5-Gas Liquid Chromatography, updated October 1999). R.O.W. Sciences, Inc.

D. Instruction

Using a block diagram, illustrate the basic GC apparatus needed for pesticide analysis.

5.3.2 Injection Techniques

A. Objective

To develop a reproducible and precise manual injection technique.

B. Assignment

The trainer will demonstrate acceptable injection techniques. The training will include proper syringe handling and cleaning, and a discussion of injection volume.

Inject a standard in triplicate using each demonstrated technique. Make 10 injections and determine the coefficient of variation of the peak heights.

C. Reference

1. U.S. Food & Drug Administration, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, Office

of Plant, Dairy Foods and Beverages. Makovi, C. M. (Ed.), McMahon, B. M. (Ed Emerita). (1994). Pesticide analytical manual-*multiresidue methods* (3rd ed., Vol. I, section 501-General Information, updated October 1999). R.O.W. Sciences, Inc.

D. Questions

1. What is the major consideration in using the "solvent flush" technique for GC injections?
2. Generally, what causes bubbles or non-smooth draw up of solvent into a syringe?
3. For acceptable practice, what are the practical volumes to inject using a 10 uL syringe? What is the desirable percentage relative standard deviation for repeated injections?
4. What effects can be expected from a leaky septum?
5. Explain the "blow-by" phenomenon.
6. How is a syringe checked for "blow-by?"
7. Explain available automated injection techniques e.g. split, split/splitless, on-column, and temperature programming.

5.3.3 Columns

A. Objectives

1. To introduce some representative gas-liquid chromatography (GC) columns commonly used in pesticide residue analysis.
2. To present techniques and precautions for preparing columns; utilization of capillary columns and injection systems.
3. To evaluate the separation characteristics of the commonly used pesticide columns.
4. To obtain an understanding of performance criteria for acceptable GC columns.

B. Assignment

The trainee will inject laboratory standard solutions onto different columns used for pesticide residue analysis. Evaluate peak efficiency, resolution, and symmetry for each compound. Compare the compound elution order from each column.

C. References

1. U.S. Food & Drug Administration, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, Office of Plant, Dairy Foods and Beverages. Makovi, C. M. (Ed.), McMahon, B. M. (Ed Emerita). (1994). Pesticide analytical manual-*multiresidue methods* (3rd ed., Vol. I, chap. 5-Gas Liquid Chromatograph, updated October 1999). R.O.W. Sciences, Inc.
2. U.S. Food & Drug Administration, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, Office of Plant, Dairy Foods and Beverages. Makovi, C. M. (Ed.), McMahon, B. M. (Ed Emerita). (1994). Pesticide Analytical Manual Vol. I, section 302-*Multiclass multiresidue methods*, updated October 1999). R.O.W. Sciences, Inc.
3. Internal laboratory GC methods and SOPs.

D. Questions and Instructions

1. How are retention times measured?
2. What GC parameter has the greatest effect on relative retention times?
3. Why are relative retention times used rather than absolute retention times?
4. What GC conditions are required for acceptable performance using the DG-1 system for chlorinated compounds?
5. Why is chlorpyrifos used as the reference pesticide for determining relative retention times?
6. What are some of the indicators of a deteriorating column?
7. Describe the effect of pesticide polarity on chromatography and on column selection. Describe how columns are conditioned to achieve linear response.

5.4 Gas Chromatography, Selective Detectors

5.4.1 Electron-Capture Detector

A. Objective

To train in proper instrument startup, and to introduce the fundamental principles, uses, and safe

handling of the electron-capture detector (ECD).

B. Assignment

Following trainer demonstration, start up a designated GC-ECD system and inject chlorinated pesticide standard mixture.

C. Reference

1. U.S. Food & Drug Administration, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, Office of Plant, Dairy Foods and Beverages. Makovi, C. M. (Ed.), McMahon, B. M. (Ed. Emerita). (1994). *Pesticides analytical manual-multiresidue methods* (3rd ed., Vol. I, section 503 B-Detectors, updated October 1999). R.O.W. Sciences, Inc.

D. Questions and Instructions

1. Briefly describe the principles of the ECD.
2. What are the advantages and disadvantages of the ECD?
3. What is the maximum operating temperature for the ^{63}Ni detector?
4. What class of pesticides is generally determined using the ECD? What other types of chemicals respond to an ECD?
5. Name at least four factors that can affect detector response.

5.4.2 Nitrogen/Phosphorus Thermionic Detector

OPTIONAL training per laboratory discretion.

A. Objective

To train in proper instrument operation, and to introduce the fundamental principles and uses of the nitrogen/phosphorus thermionic detector (N/P-TD).

B. Assignment

The trainer will demonstrate the proper startup procedure for a gas chromatograph equipped with an N/P-TD. Inject an organonitrogen standard mixture.

C. References

1. U.S. Food & Drug Administration, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, Office of Plant, Dairy Foods and Beverages. Makovi, C. M. (Ed.), McMahon, B. M. (Ed. Emerita). (1994). *Pesticides analytical manual-multiresidue methods* (3rd ed., Vol. I, sections 503 E- Detectors, updated October 1999). R.O.W. Sciences, Inc.
2. Kalb, B. and Beschoff, J. J. (1974). *Chromatography Science*, 12, 625-629.
3. Laboratory Information Bulletin, LIB No. 1904.

D. Questions

1. Briefly describe the principles of the N/P-TD.
2. What type of compound is detected by the N/P-TD under normal operating conditions?
3. How does increasing H₂ flow affect response of the N/P-TD?
4. What hazards are associated with H₂?
5. Describe the modes of operation of the N/P-TD.
6. What is the approximate difference in response between nitrogen and phosphorus with the N/P-TD?

5.4.3 Flame Photometric Detector

OPTIONAL training per laboratory discretion.

A. Objectives

To train in proper instrument startup, and to introduce the fundamental principles and uses of the flame photometric detector (FPD).

B. Assignment

The trainer will demonstrate the proper startup and shutdown procedures for FPD instrumentation. Inject an organophosphorus standard mixture.

C. Reference

1. U.S. Food & Drug Administration, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, Office of Plant, Dairy Foods and Beverages. Makovi, C. M. (Ed.), McMahon, B. M. (Ed. Emerita). (1994). Pesticide Analytical Manual-*multiresidue methods* (3rd ed., Vol. I, section 503 C-Detector, updated October 1999). R.O.W. Sciences, Inc.

D. Questions and Instructions

1. What are the differences between the FPD and the N/P-TD?
2. Assuming optimum flame conditions, what FPD component is the next most likely to affect sensitivity?
3. Which detector is placed first in a dual detection system containing an ECD and FPD in series? Why?
4. Why is the ignition button depressed and hydrogen slowly introduced when igniting the FPD?

5.4.4 Hall Electrolytic Conductivity Detector

OPTIONAL training per laboratory discretion.

A. Objectives

To train in proper instrument startup, and to introduce the fundamental principles and uses for the Hall electrolytic conductivity detector (HECD).

B. Assignment

Under the direction of the trainer, inject a known standard solution using the proper operation mode.

C. References

1. U.S. Food & Drug Administration, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, Office of Plant, Dairy Foods and Beverages. Makovi, C. M. (Ed.), McMahon, B. M. (Ed. Emerita). (1994). Pesticide analytical manual-*multiresidue methods* (3rd ed., Vol. I, section 503 D-Detector, updated October 1999). R.O.W. Sciences, Inc.
2. Laboratory Information Bulletin, LIB No. 2473, and LIB No. 2473A.

D. Questions

1. Briefly describe the principles of the HECD in the halogen mode.
2. What are two major advantages of the HECD over an ECD?
3. Are there any advantages of the HECD (sulfur mode) over the FPD?
4. Explain the steps to prepare the HECD for operation in the halogen mode.

5.4.5 Mass Selective Detector

A. Objectives

To demonstrate the proper instrument setup, vacuum system operation, leak detection, tuning, and operation of the Mass Selective Detector and use of the Chemstation software

B. Assignment

4. The trainer will demonstrate the following:
5. Starting up and shutting down the MSD including the pump down and venting procedures.
6. Vacuum integrity using the Air and Water Check procedure.
7. Tuning the MSD using the manual and autotune procedures.
8. Operating the MSD in the full Scan Mode.
9. Identifying compounds using the Library Search routines.
10. Operating in the Selected Ion Monitoring (SIM) mode, including selection of ions to be monitored, dwell times and retention time windows.
11. Preparing a GC/MSD analytical sequence for a SIM Method.
12. Analyzing data generated by a SIM analytical run, including verifying the identification of compounds, and quantization of detected compounds.

C. References

1. Laboratory Information Bulletin Number, No. 4304.
2. Laboratory Information Bulletin Number, No. 4308.

D. Questions

1. Why should a MSD with a diffusion pump be cooled below 100° C before venting?
2. What can we learn from the ratio of air to water ions in the Air and Water Check?
3. What is the highest electron multiplier voltage setting?
4. In the full scan mode, what is the mass to charge range available?
5. Describe the libraries available using the data system.
6. What are the trade offs between the following: dwell time, number of ions monitored in a SIM Method and the shape of the chromatographic peak?
7. Why is the start operation of the MSD delayed? (i.e. a few minutes after the sample is injected).

5.4.6 Halogen Specific Detector

A. Objectives

To train in proper instrument startup, and to introduce the fundamental principles and use for the Halogen Specific Detector (XSD).

B. Assignments

After the trainer's demonstration the trainee will inject a known organochloride standard solution using the proper instrument setup. The chromatographic results obtained will be discussed thoroughly.

C. References

1. Model 5360 Halogen Specific Detector (XSD™) Operator's manual. Revision 2.0, May 1995, from O.I Analytical Corp, 151 Graham Road, P.O. Box 9010, College Station,

D. Questions

1. What gases are necessary for the operation of the Halogen specific detector (XSD)? Explain the purpose of each gas.
2. What classes of compounds can be determined using the Halogen specific detector (XSD)?
3. Why is the Halogen specific detector (XSD) operated at elevated temperatures?
4. What are the advantages of the Halogen Specific detector (XSD) over other halogen selective detectors?
5. Describe briefly the Principle of Operation of the Halogen Specific Detector (XSD).

5.5 Quantification

A. Objective

1. Using the PAM section 504, introduce general concepts for measuring gas chromatographic peaks used in routine quantification of pesticide analytes.
2. Using the PAM section 504, introduce the strategy for quantification of complex mixtures or multicomponent compounds.

B. Assignment

1. Under a trainer's guidance, make standard and sample injections of various analytes, including mixtures, perform the appropriate calculations and discuss the results completely.

C. References

1. U.S. Food & Drug Administration, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, Office of Plant, Dairy Foods and Beverages. Makovi, C. M. (Ed.), McMahan, B. M. (Ed. Emerita). (1994). Pesticide analytical manual-*multiresidue methods* (3rd ed., Vol. I,

section 504- Quantitation, (updated 10/99) R.O.W. Sciences, Inc.

D. Questions

1. What are the two types of manual quantitation discussed in the PAM Section 504?
2. When is peak height the measurement technique of choice?
3. What can be a major pitfall with using electronic integration techniques?
4. Explain the purpose of “peak width” and “peak threshold” settings in electronic integration.
5. According to PAM Section 504, explain briefly a strategy that gives good quantitation of PCB.

5.6 Sample Analysis

5.6.1 Sensitivity Levels for Pesticide Residue Determination

A. Objective

To acquaint the trainee with the approximate sensitivity levels in multiresidue analysis.

B. Assignment

Read the reference and become familiar with its contents.

C. Reference

1. U.S. Food & Drug Administration, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, Office of Plant, Dairy Foods and Beverages. Makovi, C. M. (Ed.), McMahon, B. M. (Ed. Emerita). (1994). Pesticide analytical manual-*multiresidue methods* (3rd ed., Vol. I, section 105-Analytical Limits of Quantitation, updated October 1999). R.O.W. Sciences, Inc.

D. Questions

1. What criteria are required before considering a peak of 10% FSD as a trace or non-significant peak?
2. What is the identity and quantity of each pesticide injected in establishing detector response for chlorinated, organophosphorus, and early-eluting residue determinations?
3. For an organophosphorus compound, what is the trace level (ng) that gives 75% FSD for 7.5 ng, assuming correct setup?

5.6.2 Sample Preparation and Compositing

A. Objective

To familiarize the trainee with PAM methods for sample preparation and compositing.

B. Assignment

The trainer will explain how to prepare the following samples and how to select a representative portion to be held by the laboratory:

- A case of apples and a case of peaches
- Smelt sample consisting of 20 fish, less than 2 lb total
- Salmon sample of 20 fish, about 5 lb each
- Milk concentrate and low-fat dairy product
- Coarse dry animal feed n 20 lb of bananas

As assigned, prepare samples for laboratory analysis.

C. References

1. U.S. Food & Drug Administration, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, Office of Plant, Dairy Foods and Beverages. Makovi, C. M. (Ed.), McMahan, B. M. (Ed. Emerita). (1994). *Pesticide Analytical Manual-multiresidue methods* (3rd ed., Vol. I, section 102-Preparation of Analytical Samples, updated October 1999). R.O.W. Sciences, Inc.
2. U.S. Food & Drug Administration, Office of Regulatory Affairs, (current edition). *Investigations operations manual (IOM)* (chap. 4, Sample Schedule Chart 3 for Pesticides, pp. 196-199).

C. Questions

1. How would one prepare a sample of 20 melons submitted to the laboratory?
2. How would one prepare a sample of six 1-gallon cartons of milk?
3. How would one prepare a sample of 20 lb of wheat?
4. How would one prepare a sample of slightly decomposed heads of lettuce? Very decomposed heads of lettuce?
5. What are the major considerations for a laboratory sample in regard to the sample received by the laboratory and storage of reserve portions?

5.6.3 Nonfatty Foods-Multiresidue Determination

A. Objective

To acquaint the trainee with methods used to prepare, extract, and clean up samples of nonfatty foods for analysis of organochlorine and organophosphorus residues.

B. Assignment

1. Under the observation of an experienced analyst, prepare, extract, and clean up routine samples, including a fortified (spiked) sample and a reagent blank. The fortified sample should contain a chlorinated and an organophosphorus compound.
2. Store all sample extracts for GC determination until completion of the next section on fatty foods.

C. Reference

1. U.S. Food & Drug Administration, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, Office of Plant, Dairy Foods and Beverages. Makovi, C. M. (Ed.), McMahon, B. M. (Ed. Emerita). (1994). Pesticide analytical manual-*multiresidue methods* (3rd ed., Vol. I, sections 302-Method I for Nonfatty Foods and 303-Method II for nonfatty Foods, updated October 1999). R.O.W. Sciences, Inc.

D. Questions and Instructions

1. Briefly describe the extraction and cleanup principles involved in this assignment.
2. What three types of samples call for the following blending techniques: acetonitrile, 35% water-acetonitrile, heated acetonitrile-additional water?

3. What extraction procedure would be recommended to obtain complete extraction?
4. Where are the sample extracts from assignment (2), above, stored?

5.6.4 Fatty Foods-Multiresidue Determination

A. Objective

To acquaint the trainee with methods used to prepare, extract, and clean up samples of fatty foods for analysis of organochlorine and organophosphorus residue compounds.

B. Assignment

Under the observation of an experienced analyst, prepare, extract, and clean up several routine samples, a reagent blank, and a fortified sample (milk or cheese is suggested).

C. Reference

1. U.S. Food & Drug Administration, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, Office of Plant, Dairy Foods and Beverages. Makovi, C. M. (Ed.), McMahon, B. M. (Ed. Emerita). (1994). Pesticide analytical manual-*multiresidue methods* (3rd ed., Vol. I, section 304-Method for Fatty Foods, updated October 1999). R.O.W. Sciences, Inc.

D. Questions

1. Briefly describe the extraction and cleanup principles involved in the assignment.

5.7 Sample Results, Evaluation, and Reporting

A. Objective

To evaluate gas chromatograms and identify pesticide residues.

B. Assignment

1. Under the trainer's observation, put the correct GC instrumentation into operation for multiresidue determination of the previously prepared samples.
2. Submit daily chromatograms demonstrating proper analyte separation and instrumentation sensitivity, according to laboratory SOP.

3. Inject the correct volumes of the prepared samples. With trainer assistance, evaluate, identify, and quantify residues, and report results.

C. References

1. U.S. Food & Drug Administration, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, Office of Plant, Dairy Foods and Beverages. Makovi, C. M. (Ed.), McMahon, B. M. (Ed. Emerita). (1994). Pesticide analytical manual-*multiresidue methods* (3rd ed., Vol. I, Appendix I, PESTDATA, updated October 1999). R.O.W. Sciences, Inc.
2. FACTS reporting manual.
3. Pesticide Glossary.

5.8 Pesticide Residue Confirmation

A. Objective

To provide training for the identification and quantification of pesticide residues in FDA regulated commodities. In addition, this training is designed to provide detailed information required to properly assemble a data package capable of supporting regulatory action

B. Assignment

Read ORA-LAB.010, Guidance for the Analysis and Documentation to Support Regulatory Action On Pesticide Residues. Read all referenced PAM sections. The trainer will then review in detail all of the required elements to generate an analytical package.

C. References

1. ORA-LAB.010, Guidance for the Analysis and Documentation to Support Regulatory Action On Pesticide Residues..
2. U.S. Food & Drug Administration, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, Office of Plant, Dairy Foods and Beverages. Makovi, C. M. (Ed.), McMahon, B. M. (Ed. Emerita). (1994). Pesticide analytical manual-*multiresidue methods* (3rd ed., Vol. I, (updated October 1999). R.O.W. Sciences, Inc.

D. Questions

1. Where do you find the official tolerances for residues listed?

2. When the level of a residue exceeds an official tolerance, what type of analysis is performed? How close must this agree with the original analysis?
3. If there is no tolerance for a residue, what value must the analyte level exceed?
4. In the identification of residues, what is required to “Confirm” the identity of an analyte?
5. When is recovery information required?
6. When is the calculation of the Lq (Limit of Quantitation) required?

5.9 Appendix - Answer Key

5.2.2 Standard Solutions

1. **Which SOP is used in the laboratory to ensure primary standard purity and reliability?** (Quote local laboratory pesticide standard SOP.) PAM I section 205 addresses pesticide reference standards.
2. **What constitutes a stock solution? A working solution?** A stock solution is the initial solution from which other diluted solutions are prepared. Working solutions are prepared from the stock solutions and further diluted for use in quantitation. (PAM I, 205-3)
3. **Which SOP is used to ensure reliability of stock and working solutions?** (Quote local laboratory pesticide standard SOP.) PAM I section 205 addresses pesticide reference standards.
4. **What are the hazards associated with handling and storage of pesticide standards?** All pesticides are toxic, but the relative degree of toxicity varies greatly. Some are readily absorbed through the skin, especially the liquids. Skin absorption is enhanced by dilution in solvents when preparing standard solutions. Gloves should be used when handling and preparing pesticide standards. Another entry route is inhalation, therefore pesticide standards should be handled inside a safety hood. Studies with rats indicate that pregnant women have increased susceptibility to pesticide poisoning, therefore should not handle pesticide standards. The Material Safety Data Sheet supplied with each reference standard contains information about the toxicity, hazards, and safe handling of the compound. (LIB 663)
5. **What class of pesticides is particularly toxic by skin absorption as well as by inhalation and ingestion?** Organophosphate pesticides such as parathion are particularly toxic and absorb through the skin rapidly. (LIB 663)

- 6. Where can information such as chemical structure for EPA standards be found?** Structural information for pesticides can be found in several resources including the Merck Index, Farm Chemicals Handbook, Agrochemicals Handbook, FDA Surveillance Index, Menzie's Metabolism of Pesticides, various chemical vendor catalogues, and via internet search.
- 7. In general, what would be the correct solvent for organochlorine pesticides? For organophosphates? How would one prepare a mixed standard containing both organochlorine and organophosphate pesticides?** For organochlorine pesticides iso-octane is most commonly used, for organophosphates acetone is used. For a mixture dissolve the pesticides in 1-2 mL of acetone and dilute to volume with iso-octane. (PAM I, 205-4)

5.3.2 Injection Techniques

- 1. What is the major consideration in using the "solvent flush" technique for GC injections?** This technique when performed manually is the most reproducible among analysts because the actual sample volume injected is measured and completely delivered regardless of individual differences. Another consideration is the amount of solvent used to flush the sample volume. Excessive solvent flush can distort the chromatography of the analytes, especially the earlier eluters. This effect can be eliminated using temperature programming to concentrate the analytes on the front of the column until the solvent is evaporated out of the injection port.
- 2. Generally, what causes bubbles or non-smooth draw up of solvent into a syringe?** A vacuum is created in the syringe when the plunger is withdrawn too quickly.
- 3. For acceptable practice, what are the practical volumes to inject using a 10 uL syringe? What is the desirable percent relative standard deviation for repeated injections?** For a 10 uL syringe, the practical injection volume is 3-8 uL. The relative standard deviation (RSD) of five injections of a 1 ppm standard should be 2 % or less. Greater RSD values can be expected for injections of lower concentrations.
- 4. What effects can be expected from a leaky septum?** Leaky septa cause inaccuracies in quantitation, problems with chromatography, and exposure of the system to air. (PAM I, 502-18)
- 5. Explain the "blow-by" phenomenon.** If a syringe plunger does not seal against the syringe body properly the carrier gas of a GC can "blow by" the plunger out the back of the syringe.
- 6. How is a syringe checked for "blow-by?"** Draw up 50 % of the syringe volume followed

by a small volume of air, then insert the syringe into a GC, holding steadily and not allowing the plunger to move. If the air bubble moves toward the back of the syringe, the integrity of the syringe is compromised and the syringe should be repaired or replaced.

7. **Explain automated injection techniques e.g. split, split/splitless, on-column, and temperature programming.** For split injections, the flow of the carrier gas is split at the injection port between the column and waste. The split ratio of column/waste is set with a valve in the injection port. This procedure is used for injections of highly concentrated analytes. Split/splitless injection ports are simply split injection ports with the ability to close the split so that the whole injection is introduced onto the column. For on-column injections, the injection needle is inserted into the column during injection. This technique calls for very low volume injections (1-2 uL) or temperature programming to prevent injection losses during rapid expansion of the sample solvent to vapor. Temperature programming allows the analyst to program the temperature of the injection port. The primary advantage of this technique is the solvent can be evaporated out of the injection port before the analytes are introduced onto the column eliminating undesirable solvent broadening effects.

5.3.3 Columns

1. **How are retention times measured?** The time of an unretained analyte (solvent) is subtracted from the time of the peak maximum response. (PAM I, 502-4)
2. **What GC parameter has the greatest effect on relative retention times?** Column temperature has the greatest effect on relative retention time. (PAM I, 502-4)
3. **Why are relative retention times used rather than absolute retention times?** For the same (or equivalent) liquid phase, relative retention time of an analyte is independent of column type (packed vs. capillary), liquid load, column length, and carrier gas flow. (PAM I, 502-4)
4. **What GC conditions are to be met for acceptable performance using the DG-1 system for chlorinated compounds?** Adjust column temperature (about 200 °C isothermal) so that relative retention time of pp'-DDT is 3.10 ± 0.06 when chlorpyrifos elution is fixed at 4.0 ± 0.5 minutes. Set detector response for a 0.15 ng injection of chlorpyrifos to 50 % full scale deflection. Set injection port temperature to 220-250 °C. (PAM I, 302-33)
5. **Why is chlorpyrifos used as the reference pesticide for determining relative retention times?** Chlorpyrifos is used because it chromatographs well and contains all the heteroatoms to which selective GC detectors respond. (PAM I, 502-4)
6. **What are some of the indicators of a deteriorating column?** Peak broadening, tailing,

reduced theoretical plates and capacity factors, and diminished resolution between adjacent analyte peaks are all signs of a deteriorating column. (PAM I, 502-4)

7. **Describe the effect of pesticide polarity on chromatography and on column selection. Describe how columns are conditioned to achieve linear response.** Polar pesticides tend to react with active silanol sites in the injection port and column causing peak broadening, tailing, and even splitting. Polar compounds chromatograph best on polar columns. Capillary columns are conditioned after installation, with carrier gas flow thoroughly purging and then set at a designated level, followed by setting the column temperature 20-30 °C higher than the highest operating temperature for 1 hour but below its upper temperature limit. (PAM I, 502-21)

5.4.1 Electron-Capture Detector

1. **Briefly describe the principles of the ECD.** High-energy beta particles (electrons) emitted by a ⁶³Ni source collide with carrier gas molecules to create low energy electrons. These electrons are collected at the cell anode generating a baseline current that is monitored continuously. When electrophilic molecules enter they absorb the low energy electrons. The drop in baseline current is proportional to the quantity of electrophilic molecules in the detector. (PAM I 503-3)
2. **What are the advantages and disadvantages of the ECD?** The ECD is extremely sensitive to most electrophilic molecules; responses to 1-10 pg of analyte are normal. Organohalogens are generally excellent candidates for ECD. The major disadvantage is that compounds containing oxygen, a weaker electrophile, also respond very strong, generating considerable interfering co-extractant responses. (PAM 503-5)
3. **What is the maximum operating temperature for the ⁶³Ni detector?** The maximum operating temperature is 400 °C. (PAM I 503-7)
4. **What class of pesticides is generally determined using the ECD? What other types of chemicals respond to an ECD?** The ECD is generally used for the analysis of organohalogens. (PAM 503-5)
5. **Name at least factors that can affect detector response.** Sensitivity varies for each compound. Lack of selectivity can result from interfering co-extractant responses, especially at low levels. The detector has a dynamic range of response over five orders of magnitude, however, it is not linear over the entire range so standard and sample response matching of ± 25 % is needed. Other factor include cell volume, carrier gas flow, type of carrier gas used, amount of sample injected, the cleanliness of the source, temperature of the cell, solvent used, and cleanup of the sample.

5.4.2 Nitrogen/Phosphorus Thermionic Detector

1. **Briefly describe the principles of the N/P-TD.** GC column effluent impinges onto the surface of an electrically heated and polarized alkali source in the presence of an air/hydrogen plasma; ionization occurs and the flow of ions between plasma and ion collector is amplified and recorded. Detector response to analytes results from the increased ionization that occurs when compounds containing nitrogen or phosphorous elute from the column. (PAM I 503-27)
2. **What type of compound is detected by the N/P-TD under normal operating conditions?** Organonitrogen and organophosphorous compounds are detected. (PAM I 503-27)
3. **How does increasing H₂ flow affect response of the N/P-TD?** N/P-TD response decreases with increased H₂ flow. (PAM I 503-29)
4. **What hazards are associated with H₂?** Hydrogen is extremely reactive with oxygen in the air.
5. **Describe the modes of operation of the N/P-TD.** The detector can be configured to detect organonitrogens and organophosphates or just organophosphates alone. (LIB 1904 and *J. Chrom. Sci.*, Vol. 12., pp. 625-9).
6. **What is the approximate difference in response between nitrogen and phosphorus with the N/P-TD?** Phosphorous response is approximately 5 times greater than nitrogen response. (PAM I, 503-29)

5.4.3 Flame Photometric Detector

1. **What are the differences between the FPD and the N/P-TD?** The FPD uses a hydrogen/air flame to raise atomic energy levels, then emission is filtered for phosphorous or sulfur and photomultiplied. The detector is designed for the optical filter used with the emission. The N/P-TD detector uses a heated alkali bead with hydrogen/oxygen plasma to ionize nitrogen and phosphorous containing compounds. The N/P-TD is selective for those compounds. (PAM I, 503-09)
2. **Assuming optimum flame conditions, what FPD component is the next most likely to affect sensitivity?** Detector sensitivity is greatly affected by the condition of the photomultiplier tube. Also, light leaking into the photomultiplier will greatly increase detector noise and decrease sensitivity. (PAM I, 503-10)
3. **Which detector is to be placed first in a dual detection system containing an ECD and**

FPD in series? Why? The analyte structure is consumed by combustion in a FPD detector; therefore the ECD is placed first. (PAM I, 503-10)

4. **Why is the ignition button depressed and hydrogen slowly introduced when igniting the FPD?** In some older FPD models the flame is lit by turning on the oxygen flow and depressing the ignition button, then slowly introducing hydrogen until the flame ignites. If the hydrogen flow is increased too quickly, the hydrogen/oxygen mixture reacts too violently (explodes) inside the detector.

5.4.4 Hall Electrolytic Conductivity

1. **Briefly describe the principles of the HECD in the halogen mode.** GC column effluent is pyrolyzed in a nickel reaction tube at 900 °C in the presence of hydrogen gas. Halogen heteroatoms (X) react with the hydrogen to form HX gas [Nickel is a catalyst for the formation of HX] that is dissolved in a scrubbed conductivity solvent circulating through a conductivity cell. In the conductivity cell, electrolyte conductivity is constantly monitored. The HX reaction products increase the conductivity inside the cell, which is converted to a signal. To prevent neutralization of the acid formed in the reaction tube, the pH of the electrolyte is slightly acidic, so the electrolyte is continuously scrubbed through an ion exchange resin. (PAM I, 503-16)
2. **What are two major advantages of the HECD over an ECD?** When the HECD is running properly, it is much more selective to halogen than ECD. Because the ECD uses a radioactive ⁶³Ni foil the restrictions and requirements of the Nuclear Regulatory Agency must be observed. (PAM I, 503-14)
3. **Are there any advantages of the HECD (sulfur mode) over the FPD?** HECD in the sulfur mode is seldom used; however it does have an advantage over FPD in the sulfur mode (FPD-S) because it is more linear.
4. **Explain the steps to prepare the HECD for operation in the halogen mode.** Use N-propanol as the conductivity solvent with the halogen mode scrubbing resin. Use hydrogen as the reactant gas with a nickel reactor tube. Set flows and other instrument parameters as directed by the instrument manufacturer. (PAM I 503-21)

5.4.5 Mass Selective Detector

1. **Why should a MSD with a diffusion pump be cooled below 100° C before venting?** The system can become contaminated if it is not cooled before venting.

2. **What can we learn from the ratio of air to water ions in the Air and Water Check?**
When a system is initially pumped down the air pumped out more quickly than water; water tends to stick to the stainless steel. If the air is still high after a period of time, there may be a leak.
3. **What is the highest electron multiplier voltage setting?** Most electron multipliers have a limit of 3000 volts. They are normally operated in 1100 – 2500 volts range, with the voltage increasing during its lifetime to achieve good sensitivity. At higher voltages, system noise rises, limiting sensitivity.
4. **In the full scan mode, what mass to charge range (M/Z) is available?** The M/Z range can vary from instrument to instrument but is usually two to 800 atomic mass units (amu). It is useful to limit the scan range of a full scan to above 40 amu (to avoid ions of argon in the system) and below the largest molecular weight expected to be encountered (for pesticides, below 500 amu).
5. **Describe the libraries available using the data system.** The NIST Spectral Library is usually purchased with the instrument. Other spectral libraries, such as a pesticide library, are available from vendors. Become familiar with all the libraries on your system.
6. **What are the trade offs between the following: dwell time, number of ions monitored in a SIM Method and the shape of the chromatographic peak?** Long dwell times or a large number of ions monitored will result in fewer data points taken across the GC eluting peak. This may result in misshapen peaks which can give poor quantization areas.
7. **Why is the start operation of the MSD delayed? (i.e. a few minutes after the sample is injected).** This will prevent the filament from burning out.

5.4.6 Halogen Specific Detector

1. **What gases are necessary for the operation of the Halogen specific detector? Explain the purpose of each gas.** There are two gases required for the proper operation of the Halogen Specific Detector. Oxygen or Air and Helium. Oxygen is required for the complete pyrolysis of the analytes. Helium is used as the carrier gas.
2. **What classes of compounds can be determined using the Halogen specific detector?** The Halogen Specific Detector (XSD) is selective for halogen containing analytes, predominantly the chloride atom. The detector is 10,000 times more sensitive to chloride containing compounds than to hydrocarbons.
3. **Why is the Halogen Specific Detector operated at elevated temperatures?** The detector is

operated at these high temperatures to insure the rapid and complete pyrolysis of the sample including the analytes of interest.

- 4. What are the advantages of the Halogen Specific (XSD) detector over other halogen selective detectors?** The *simplicity* of the Halogen Specific detector provides enhanced reliability and reproducibility. There are numerous maintenance issues related to the ECD and the ELCD detectors. In addition, the *selectivity* of the Halogen Specific Detector is greater than the ECD. The ECD which is very sensitive to halogens is also capable of detecting other classes of compounds such as those containing nitro and carbonyl groups. This lack of specificity can be problematic in the qualitative determination of organochloride pesticides using ECD. The XSD detector will not detect the nitro and carbonyl compounds thus making identification of organochloride analytes much easier.
- 5. Describe briefly the Principle of Operation of the Halogen Specific Detector (XSD).** The detector is operated in the oxidative mode using oxygen (air) and high temperature to completely pyrolyze the effluent from a GC column. This process oxidizes the compounds to their oxidative by products releasing free halogen atoms. These free halogen atoms are then adsorbed onto an alkali sensitized cathode. This reaction at the cathode surface generates a current which is measured by the electrometer and converted to a 0-1 volt signal. This signal is compatible with most chromatographic data stations.

5.5 Quantification

- 1. What are the two types of manual Quantitation discussed in the PAM-504?** The two type of manual quantitation are peak height and triangulation.
- 2. When is peak height the measurement technique of choice?** When measuring early eluting peaks that are very small, peak height is often the peak measurement method of choice. This avoids potential problems some integrators have in the accurate measurement of extremely small area responses.
- 3. What can be a major pitfall with electronic integration techniques?** A major pitfall with electronic integration can be the uncritical acceptance of results. It is crucial that competent analysts continually examine the integration results. Often if a peak is poorly shaped or incompletely resolved, the integration algorithm may not accurately measure the peak. This can give inaccurate results.
- 4. Explain the purpose of “peak width” and “peak threshold” settings in electronic integration.** Peak width is an integration parameter used to aid the integration process. Generally, smaller numerical values are appropriate for narrow peaks while larger values are

appropriate for larger wider peaks. Peak threshold or slope sensitivity is a parameter used by the integrator to indicate the slope at which the integrator starts and stops the peak measurement process. Low values of threshold are used for small peaks. Higher values may be used for large analyte responses. If set too low, the baseline may be integrated along with peaks. If set too high, the peak may not integrate at all. A balance of peak width and peak threshold values is determined for each analysis.

5. According to PAM Section 504, briefly explain a strategy that gives good quantitation of PCB.

- Use an extraction technique that removes the PCBs from other co-extractives.
- Select a GLC system that separates the peaks as completely as possible.
- Select the reference standard Aroclor mixture that most closely matches the sample chromatogram. (The responses and retention times of peaks in the reference standard matches closely those of the sample.)
- Quantitate the PCB by adding all of the standard responses together. Do the same for the sample responses. Use only the peaks in the sample that match exactly the peaks in the standards.

5.6.1 Sensitivity Levels for Pesticide Residue Determination

1. **What criteria is to be met before considering a peak of 10% FSD as a trace or non-significant peak?** The correct analytical procedure specified by PAM is used and documented. The sensitivity of the determinative step is established as specified by the PAM. The sample weight equivalence specified by the procedure is examined by the determinative step. (PAM I, 105-1)
2. **What is the identity and quantity of each pesticide injected in establishing detector response for chlorinated, organophosphorus, and early-eluter residue determinations?** For chlorinated, organophosphorous, and early-eluter compounds set detector response so 1.5 ng chlorpyrifos produces a 50 % full-scale deflection (FSD). (PAM I 105-4)
3. **What is the trace level (ng) for an organophosphorus compound that gives 75% FSD for 7.5 ng, assuming correct setup?** $Lq = 7.5 \text{ ng} / 75 \% \text{ FSD} \times 10 \% \text{ FSD} = 1 \text{ ng}$ (PAM 105-2)

5.6.2 Sample Preparation and Compositing

1. **How would someone prepare a sample of 20 melons submitted to the laboratory?** Remove and discard stems and composite whole melons using food processor. For smaller food processors equal portions of the each melon may be used for compositing. (PAM I, 102-2, 203-3)

2. **How would someone prepare a sample of six 1-gallon cartons of milk?** Composite by handmixing equal portions from each carton. (PAM I, 102-4)
3. **How would someone prepare a sample of 20 lb of wheat?** Mix sample thoroughly. Mill about 4 qts through 1-3 mm sieve. (PAM I, 102-3, 203-4)
4. **How would someone prepare a sample of slightly decomposed heads of lettuce? Very decomposed heads of lettuce?** Cut out decomposed portion of lettuce heads and composite remaining lettuce using food processor. Do not analyze very decomposed product. (PAM I, 102-2)
5. **What are the major considerations for a laboratory sample in regard to the sample received by the laboratory and storage of reserve portions?** Sample integrity is to be maintained by storing the sample in locked cabinets or refrigerator/freezers. Composites are stored under conditions to preserve the residues and commodity as much as possible. (PAM I, 102-6)

5.6.3 Nonfatty Foods-Multiresidue Determination

1. **Briefly describe the extraction and cleanup principles involved in this assignment.** See PAM I, 302 & 303.
2. **What three types of samples call for the following blending techniques: acetonitrile, 35% water-acetonitrile, heated acetonitrile-additional water?** Acetonitrile is used to extract high moisture low-fat products such as fruits and vegetables. A mixture of 35 % water in acetonitrile is used to extract low moisture low-fat products such as grains. A heated mixture of acetonitrile and water is used to extract low-fat very high sugar items such as honey. (PAM I, 303-1)
3. **What extraction procedure would be recommended to obtain complete extraction?** The Soxhlet exhaustive extraction is used for obtaining complete extraction when the nature and importance of the sample and residue warrant the time and effort needed for this procedure. (PAM I, 301-6)
4. **Where are the sample extracts from assignment (2), above, stored?** Sample extracts should be stored in a refrigerator/freezer to minimize concentration through evaporation.

5.6.4 Fatty Foods-Multiresidue Determination

1. **Briefly describe the extraction and cleanup principles involved in the assignment.** For the analysis of cheese use PAM I 304 E4/C6 (Cheese method). Sample is liquefied and

denatured with alcohol and oxalate. Sample solids are separated using centrifugation. Fat and residues are partitioned from the supernatant using petroleum and ethyl ethers. The ether extract is washed with water to remove polar co-extractants. (For the analysis of ground oilseeds, high fat feeds or feed materials, grains, or nuts use PAM I 304 E5. Fats and residues are removed by dissolving in petroleum ether and ethyl ether, followed by ethyl alcohol. The organic extract is washed with large quantities of water to remove co-extractives.) Gel permeation chromatography uses size exclusion to remove fat from the extracts. The larger fat molecules are discarded and the smaller residues are collected. Using Florisil chromatography very polar co-extractants are removed by irreversible binding to the very polar Florisil adsorbent and the remaining residues in sample extract are fractionated by polarity.

5.8 Pesticide Residue Confirmation

1. **Where do you find listed the official tolerances for pesticide residues.** Official residue tolerances can be found in the 40 CFR 180.
2. **When the level of a residue exceeds an official tolerance, what type of analysis is performed? How close must this agree with the original analysis?** A check analysis must be performed and the quantification values from the original and the check must agree within 30%.
3. **If there is no tolerance for a residue, what value must the residue level exceed?** The analytical level must exceed the Lq or Limit of Quantitation.
4. **In the identification of residues, what is required to “Confirm” the identity of the residue?** Normally, there must be retention data on two different column types to confirm a residue. However if a GC-mass spectrometer is used for the identification, only one column is required.
5. **When is recovery information required?** Recovery information for the food commodity and the residue is required in cases where a tolerance exists and has been exceeded.
6. **Is quantification always required on Original and Check analyses?** No, if there is no tolerance for the residue, then the check analysis can be confirmatory only, indicating that the residue has been confirmed in a second test portion of the commodity.

5.10 Document History

Version 1.3 Revision Approved: 02-13-14 Author: LMEB Approver: LMEB

Version 1.2 changes:

Sections 5.4.5, 5.4.6, 5.5, 5.7, 5.8, 5.10 added.

Version 1.3 changes:

Header – Division of Field Science changed to Office of Regulatory Science

5.1, 6th paragraph – revised to ORA-LAB.010

5.6.2. C. – removed Division name

5.8 B. and C, – revised to ORA-LAB.010