



# National Institute of Standards & Technology

## Certificate of Analysis

### Standard Reference Material 3181

#### Anion Standard Solution

#### Sulfate

Batch Code 492111

This Standard Reference Material (SRM) is intended for use in anion ion chromatography, or any other analytical technique that requires aqueous standard solutions for calibration or as control samples. SRM 3181 is a single component solution prepared gravimetrically to contain a nominal 1000 mg/kg of sulfate dissolved in filtered (0.22  $\mu\text{m}$ ) 18 megohm water. The potassium sulfate used was from a lot of material reserved for ion chromatographic use, which had been previously intercompared with coulometrically standardized sulfuric acid and found to be at least 99.7% pure. The density of the solution at 22 °C is 0.999 g/mL.

Component	Concentration (mg/kg)	Source
Sulfate	998 $\pm$ 3	K <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>

The certified value (V) is based on the mass of high-purity salt dissolved and diluted to known volume. The value has been adjusted upward by 0.1% relative, based on estimated transpiration losses of solvent through the container walls of 0.2% relative per year. The value was confirmed by ion chromatography.

The uncertainty in the certified value is calculated as

$$U = (2u_c + 0.001V) \text{ mg/kg}$$

where  $u_c$  is the "combined uncertainty" calculated according to the ISO Guide [1]. The value of  $u_c$  is intended to represent, at the level of one standard deviation, the combined effect of uncertainty components associated with volumetric and gravimetric factors, as well as the purity of the sulfate salt. The additional quantity, 0.001V, is an allowance for transpiration of the solution through the container walls, which is estimated to be  $\pm 0.1\%$  of the certified value during the one-year period of validity of the certification.

The combined uncertainty consists of Type B components due to uncertainties in material purity, balance reading, material handling, and dilution.

SRM 3181 was prepared by T.A. Butler and analyzed by J. Smeller, both of the NIST Analytical Chemistry Division.

The support aspects involved in the preparation, certification, and issuance of this SRM were coordinated through the Standard Reference Materials Program by J.S. Kane.

Gaithersburg, MD 20899  
January 24, 1995

Thomas E. Gills, Chief  
Standard Reference Materials Program

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## Procedures for Use

**Stability:** This certification is valid for one-year from the shipping date, provided the solution is kept tightly capped and stored under normal laboratory conditions. NIST will monitor the stability of representative solutions from this SRM lot, and if any changes occur that invalidate this certification, NIST will notify purchasers.

**Preparation of Working Standard Solutions:** Solutions should be brought to  $22 \pm 1$  °C before use and all glass or plastic surfaces coming into contact with the standard must have been previously cleaned. A working standard solution can be prepared from the SRM solution by serial dilution. Dilutions should be made with certified volumetric class A flasks and 5 or 10 mL class A pipets. All volumetric transfers of solutions should be performed using a proven analytical technique. Each dilution should be acidified with an appropriate high-purity acid and diluted to calibrated volume using high-purity water. The stability of the working standard solution will depend on the final acid concentration; therefore, care should be exercised to ensure that the final acid concentration of the dilution closely approximates that of the SRM. To achieve the highest accuracy, the analyst should prepare daily working solutions from 100 µg/mL dilutions of the original SRM solution.

## REFERENCE

- [1] *"Guide to the Expression of Uncertainty in Measurement"*, ISBN 92-67-10188-9, 1st Ed. ISO, Geneva, Switzerland, 1993.