



National Institute of Standards & Technology

Certificate of Analysis

Standard Reference Material[®] 3104a

Barium (Ba) Standard Solution

Lot No. 070222

This Standard Reference Material (SRM) is intended for use as a primary calibration standard for the quantitative determination of barium. One unit of SRM 3104a consists of 50 mL of a single element solution in a high density polyethylene bottle sealed in an aluminized bag. The solution is prepared gravimetrically to contain a known mass fraction of barium. The solution contains nitric acid at a volume fraction of approximately 10 %.

Certified Value of Barium: 10.014 mg/g \pm 0.036 mg/g

The certified value is based on (1) gravimetric preparation using high-purity barium carbonate and (2) inductively coupled plasma optical emission spectrometry (ICP-OES) using four independently prepared primary standards. *No correction has been applied for transpiration that will occur after the SRM bottle unit has been removed from the sealed bag.* See "Instructions for Storage, Handling, and Use" for more information regarding transpiration.

The uncertainty in the certified value is calculated as

$$U = ku_c$$

where $k = 2.57$ is the coverage factor for a 95 % confidence interval. The quantity u_c is the combined standard uncertainty calculated according to the ISO and NIST Guides [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 the gravimetric preparation, the ICP-OES determination, and method bias [2].

Expiration of Certification: The certification of **SRM 3104a Lot No. 070222** is valid, within the measurement uncertainty specified, until **22 February 2015**, provided the SRM is handled in accordance with instructions given in this certificate (see "Instructions for Storage, Handling, and Use"). This certification is nullified if the SRM is damaged, contaminated, or otherwise modified.

Maintenance of Certification: NIST will monitor this SRM over the period of its certification. If substantive changes occur that affect the certification before the expiration of this certificate, NIST will notify the purchaser. Registration (see attached sheet) will facilitate notification.

Coordination of the technical measurements leading to the certification of SRM 3104a was provided by M.R. Winchester of the NIST Analytical Chemistry Division.

This SRM was prepared by T.A. Butler of the NIST Analytical Chemistry Division. The ICP-OES analysis was performed by M.R. Winchester and T.A. Butler of the NIST Analytical Chemistry Division. Primary standards for ICP-OES calibration were prepared by B.R. Norman and T.A. Butler of the NIST Analytical Chemistry Division.

Statistical consultation was provided by S.D. Leigh of the NIST Statistical Engineering Division.

The support aspects involved in the issuance of this SRM were coordinated through the NIST Measurement Services Division.

Stephen A. Wise, Chief
Analytical Chemistry Division

Gaithersburg, MD 20899
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Robert L. Watters, Jr., Chief
Measurement Services Division

METROLOGICAL TRACEABILITY

Metrological traceability of measurement results to a given reference must be established through an unbroken chain of calibrations and/or comparisons, each having stated uncertainties [3], using measurement standards that are appropriate for the physical or chemical property being measured. Comparisons may include validation measurements using various spectroscopic, chromatographic, or classical methods of analysis. Gravimetric or volumetric dilution is also a method of comparison, where the mass or volume of a solution before and after dilution is measured.

This SRM can be used to establish traceability of the results of barium measurements to NIST measurement results and standards. One approach is to calibrate analytical instruments or procedures for the determination of barium using standards, the values of which are traceable to the certified value of barium in this SRM. When the traceable values of such standards are assigned using this SRM for calibration, the uncertainties assigned to those values must include the uncertainty of the certified value of this SRM, appropriately combined with the uncertainties of all calibration measurements.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR STORAGE, HANDLING, AND USE

CAUTION: This SRM is a solution containing nitric acid. All appropriate safety precautions, including use of gloves during handling, should be taken.

This SRM can be used to prepare working standard solutions in the range of 10 mg/kg to 100 mg/kg, from which more dilute standards can be prepared. The user should establish internal laboratory procedures that specify a maximum shelf-life for a working standard solution. Two procedures for the preparation of working standard solutions follow.

Preparation of Working Standard Solutions by Mass: Each working standard solution should be prepared by transferring an aliquot of the SRM into an empty, dry, pre-weighed polyethylene bottle and then re-weighing the bottle. An appropriate dilute acid must be added by mass to bring the solution to the desired dilution. The dilution need not be exact since the mass of the empty bottle, mass of the bottle plus SRM aliquot, and the final diluted mass of the solution will permit calculation of the exact mass fraction (i.e., mass of barium per mass of solution) of the working standard solution. Dilutions prepared gravimetrically as described will need no correction for temperature and no further correction for true mass fraction in vacuum. Volumetric dilutions are **NOT** recommended due to uncertainties in volume calibrations and variations in density. However, for user convenience, a procedure for volumetric preparation that will minimize the major sources of error is given below.

Preparation of Working Standard Solutions by Volume: Each working standard solution should be prepared by transferring an aliquot of the SRM to an empty, dry polyethylene bottle and then weighing the bottle. The solution must now be transferred to a Class A volumetric flask and the polyethylene bottle reweighed to determine the exact mass of SRM solution transferred. The solution in the flask is then diluted to 99 % + volume using an appropriate dilute acid, mixed thoroughly, and the remaining few drops needed to dilute to exact volume carefully added. The concentration (in mg/mL) of the resulting working standard solution can then be calculated by multiplying the mass (in g) of the SRM solution amount by the SRM certified value (in mg/g) and dividing the numerical product by the calibrated volume (in mL) of the flask used for dilution. Thus, no correction for density is needed, and although the concentration of the resulting working standard solution may be an uneven fraction of the original SRM concentration, it will be known as accurately as a volumetric dilution permits.

Transpiration: While stored in the aluminized bag, transpiration of this SRM is negligible. After the SRM has been removed from the aluminized bag, transpiration will occur at a solution mass loss rate of approximately 0.2 % relative per year, resulting in a gradual increase in the element mass fraction. It is the responsibility of the user to account for this effect. The recommended way to reduce the effects of transpiration is to deliver all of the SRM as aliquots weighed into appropriate vessels as soon as the SRM is removed from the aluminized bag. The aliquots may be stored and can be diluted to known mass or volume at a later date. Storage of a partially used SRM bottle is **NOT** recommended; however, if such storage is necessary, the cap should be tightly sealed and the SRM bottle kept in an airtight container to slow the rate of transpiration. When the bottle is weighed both before and after being placed in storage, the mass difference observed will be a measure of transpiration mass loss. The user should set a maximum shelf-life for a partially used SRM bottle commensurate with accuracy requirements.

REFERENCES

- [1] ISO; *Guide to the Expression of Uncertainty in Measurement*; ISBN 92-67-10188-9, 1st ed., International Organization for Standardization: Geneva, Switzerland (1993); see also Taylor, B.N.; Kuyatt, C.E.; *Guidelines for Evaluating and Expressing the Uncertainty of NIST Measurement Results*; NIST Technical Note 1297, U.S. Government Printing Office: Washington, DC (1994); available at <http://physics.nist.gov/Pubs/> (accessed Apr 2011).
- [2] Levenson, M.S.; Banks, D.L.; Eberhardt, K.R.; Gill, L.M.; Guthrie, W.F.; Liu, H.K.; Vangel, M.G.; Yen, J.H.; Zhang, N.F.; *An Approach to Combining Results From Multiple Methods Motivated by the ISO GUM*; J. Res. Natl. Inst. Stand. Technol., Vol. 105; p. 571 (2000).
- [3] ISO; *International Vocabulary of Basic and General Terms in Metrology*; ISBN 92-67-01075-1, 2nd ed., International Organization for Standardization: Geneva, Switzerland (1993).

Certificate Revision History: 27 April 2011 (This revision includes minor editorial changes); 03 May 2007 (Original certificate date).

Users of this SRM should ensure that the certificate in their possession is current. This can be accomplished by contacting the SRM Program: telephone (301) 975-2200; fax (301) 926-4751; e-mail srminfo@nist.gov; or via the Internet at <http://www.nist.gov/srm>.