

# ETHANOL AS INTERNAL STANDARD FOR DETERMINATION OF VOLATILE COMPOUNDS IN SPIRIT DRINKS BY GAS CHROMATOGRAPHY

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**BSU INP**

# Introduction

Over the world day-and-night according to the Official Methods the thousands accredited testing laboratories should determine the following 9 volatile compounds in spirit drinks: *acetaldehyde, methyl acetate, ethyl acetate, methanol, 2-propanol, 1-propanol, isobutyl alcohol, n-butanol, isoamyl alcohol*.

Concentrations of these compounds are expressed in milligrams per liter of absolute alcohol '**mg/L (AA)**'.

In accordance with Commission Regulation EC 2870-2000 and OIV (2009, v. 1-2) for quantitation the Internal Standard (**IS**) method is used. These documents propose to use pentan-3-ol as IS.

Researchers from NIS make calculation by means of the External Standard (ES) method.

Finally, to get quantitative values of impurity concentrations in **mg/L (AA)** it is also required to measure alcohol strength (v/v concentration) of the analyzed sample.

# Innovation

**We propose the new methodical approach** of using '**ethanol-as-IS**' in GC analysis of volatile compounds in spirit drinks in daily practice of analytical and testing laboratories.

**We propose a significant simplification of the analysis.** Namely, since **ethanol** is the main component in the alcohol products, we regard it as **IS** without introducing of any additional substances in the sample.

This method provides determination of volatile compound concentrations in spirit drinks expressed directly in **mg/L (AA)** without measuring the alcohol content in the analyzed sample.

The analysis of the experimental results show possibility of developing a **new international standard of measurement procedure**, which will allow increasing the data accuracy and considerably simplify the measurement procedure (*J. Agric. Food Chem.* **2013**, *61*, 2950-2956).

# Theoretical background

In our case the GC calibration includes measuring of relative detector response factors  $RRF_i$  for every analyzed compound relative to IS (**ethanol**).

$RRF_i$  are calculated from the chromatographic data for standard solutions prepared by gravimetric method with known concentrations of analyzed compounds in **mg/L (AA)**. They may be expressed by the following equation:

$$RRF_i = RF_i / RF_{IS} = \frac{C_i^{st} (sol)}{A_i^{st}} / \frac{C_{IS}^{st} (sol)}{A_{IS}^{st}} = \frac{A_{IS}^{st} \cdot C_i^{st} (sol)}{A_i^{st} \cdot C_{IS}^{st} (sol)} = \frac{A_{IS}^{st} \cdot C_i^{st}}{A_i^{st} \cdot \rho_{Et}} \quad (1)$$

where  $\rho_{Et} = 789300$  mg/L is the known density of ethanol.

Finally the concentration  $C_i$  of the  $i$ -th sample compound relative to **absolute alcohol** has the following form

$$C_i = RRF_i \cdot \frac{A_i}{A_{Et}} \cdot \rho_{Et} = C_i^{st} \cdot \frac{A_{Et}^{st}}{A_i^{st}} \cdot \frac{A_i}{A_{Et}} \quad (2)$$

# Validation. Gas Chromatographic conditions

There were a traditional GC conditions:

GC equipped with FID, a split/splitless injector;

- liquid autosampler;
- Unichrom software;
- capillary column Rt-Wax, 60 m x 0.53 mm, phase thickness 1  $\mu\text{m}$ ;
- initial isotherm at 75  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  (9 min), raised to 155  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  at rate 7  $^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{min}$ ;
- with final isotherm of 155  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  (2.6 min);
- carrier gas was nitrogen;
- gas flow was 2.44 mL/min;
- injector volume 0.5  $\mu\text{L}$  and split ratio 1:20.

# Validation. Standard solutions

In order to study accuracy of the proposed methodical approach in the case of large ranges of volatile compounds concentrations 6 – 20000 mg/L for methanol and 1 – 2000 mg/L for another 8 volatile compounds reference ethanol-water solutions were gravimetrically prepared with known concentrations of volatile compounds.

Validation of this method was been planed in accordance with ISO 5725.

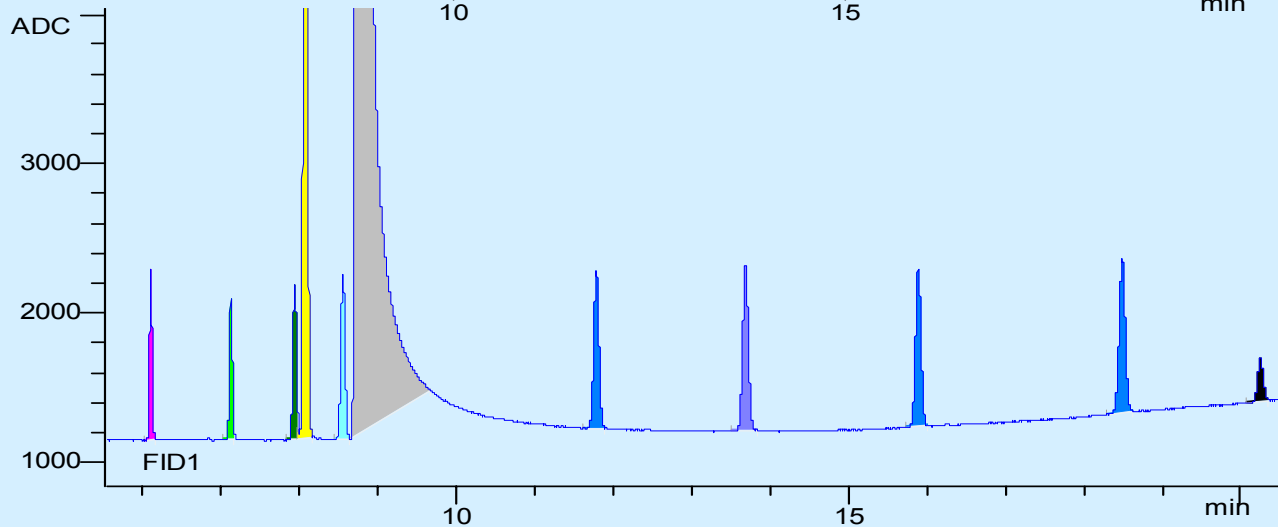
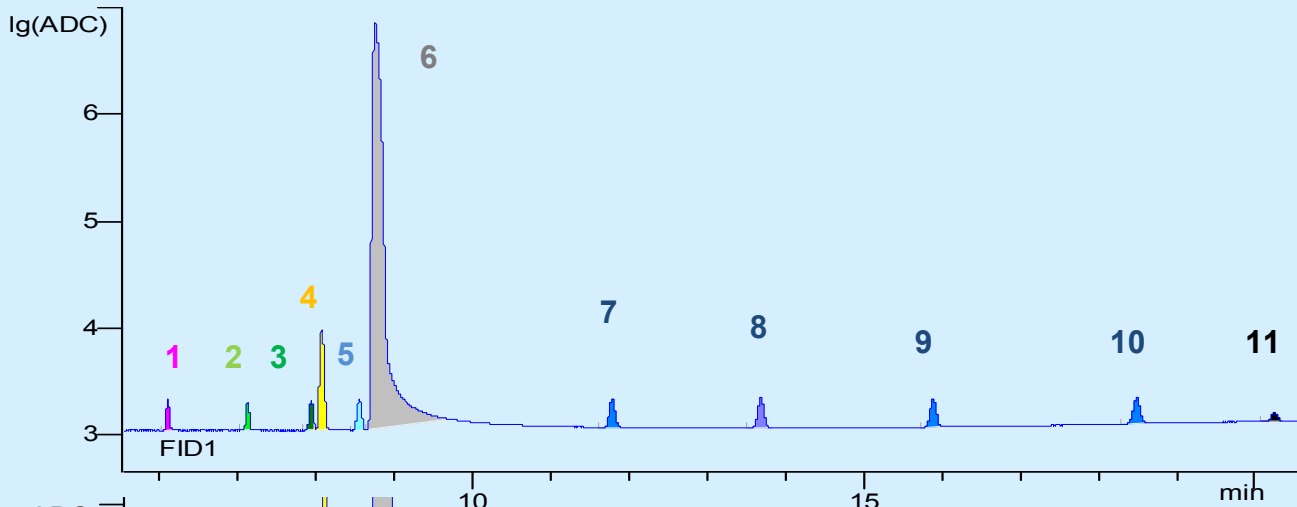
Every reference solution was injected 30 (15 x 2) times.

# Validation. Characteristics of standard solutions

Table 1. Concentrations of analyzed volatile compounds are expressed in **mg/L (AA)**. 1-pentanol was introduced as traditional **IS**.

Compound	Concentration, mg/L (AA)							Relative error, % (P=0,95)
	VC-1	VC-2	VC-3	VC-4	VC-5	VC-6	VC-7	
acetaldehyde	4275	1096	111	56,2	11,2	2,22	1,13	± 3 %
methyl acetate	4397	1128	114	57,8	11,5	2,29	1,17	± 3 %
ethyl acetate	4173	1070	108	54,9	10,9	2,17	1,11	± 3 %
methanol	41995	10774	1092	555,5	113,3	24,96	14,3	± 3 %
2-propanol	3991	1025	105	54,1	12,1	3,69	2,70	± 3 %
1-propanol	4012	1029	104	52,8	10,5	2,08	1,06	± 3 %
isobutyl alcohol	3975	1020	103	52,3	10,4	2,06	1,05	± 3 %
n-butanol	4071	1044	106	53,5	10,7	2,11	1,08	± 3 %
isoamyl alcohol	4071	1044	106	53,5	10,7	2,11	1,08	± 3 %
1-pentanol (IS)	27,1	27,1	27,1	27,1	27,1	27,13	27,13	± 3 %

# Validation. Chromatograms



- 1 - acetaldehyde
- 2 - methyl acetate
- 3 - ethyl acetate
- 4 - methanol
- 5 - 2-propanol
- 6 - ethanol
- 7 - 1-propanol
- 8 - isobutyl alcohol
- 9 - n-butanol
- 10 - isoamyl alcohol
- 11 - 1-pentanol (IS)

Fig.1. Typical chromatogram of standard ethanol-water (40% vs 60 %) solutions. To show the dominant component ethanol and another compounds synchronously the logarithm scale of response signal is chosen.



# Validation. Response factors

Table 2. Analytical characteristics of the obtained calibration graphs

Compound	1-pentanol as IS		ES		Ethanol as IS		LOD* (mg/L)
	RRF	Correlation coefficient, R <sup>2</sup>	RF (mg/L)/(pA*min)	Correlation coefficient, R <sup>2</sup>	RRF	Correlation coefficient R <sup>2</sup>	
acetaldehyde	2,396	0,9997	266,1	0,9997	1,710	0,9997	0,344
methyl acetate	2,491	0,9997	276,7	0,9996	1,779	0,9999	0,683
ethyl acetate	1,757	0,9997	195,1	0,9997	1,254	0,9999	0,322
methanol	2,133	0,9998	236,9	0,9997	1,523	0,9999	0,231
2-propanol	1,400	0,9998	155,5	0,9997	0,999	0,9999	0,119
ethanol	1,413	N/A	155,5	N/A	1	N/A	N/A
1-propanol	1,179	0,9997	130,9	0,9996	0,841	0,9999	0,222
isobutyl alcohol	1,018	0,9998	113,0	0,9997	0,727	0,9999	0,178
n-butanol	1,117	0,9999	124,1	0,9998	0,798	0,9999	0,189
isoamyl alcohol	1,030	0,9999	114,4	0,9998	0,735	0,9999	0,179
1-pentanol	1	N/A	110,1	N/A	0,708	N/A	0,271

\* limit of detection (LOD)

# Validation. Linearity for methanol

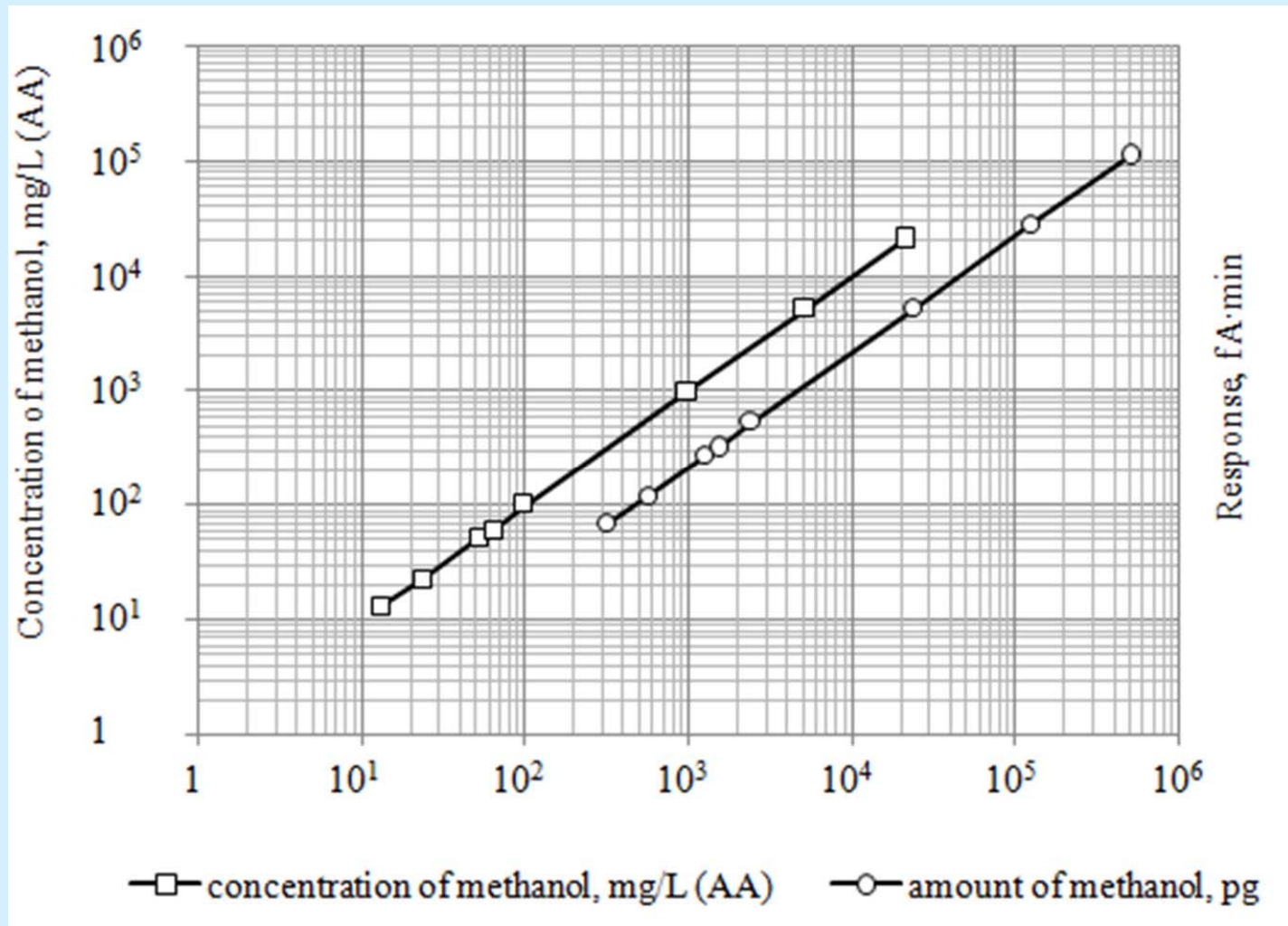


Fig. 2. Analytical characteristics of the obtained calibration graphs for **methanol**.

# Validation. Linearity for all other 8 compounds

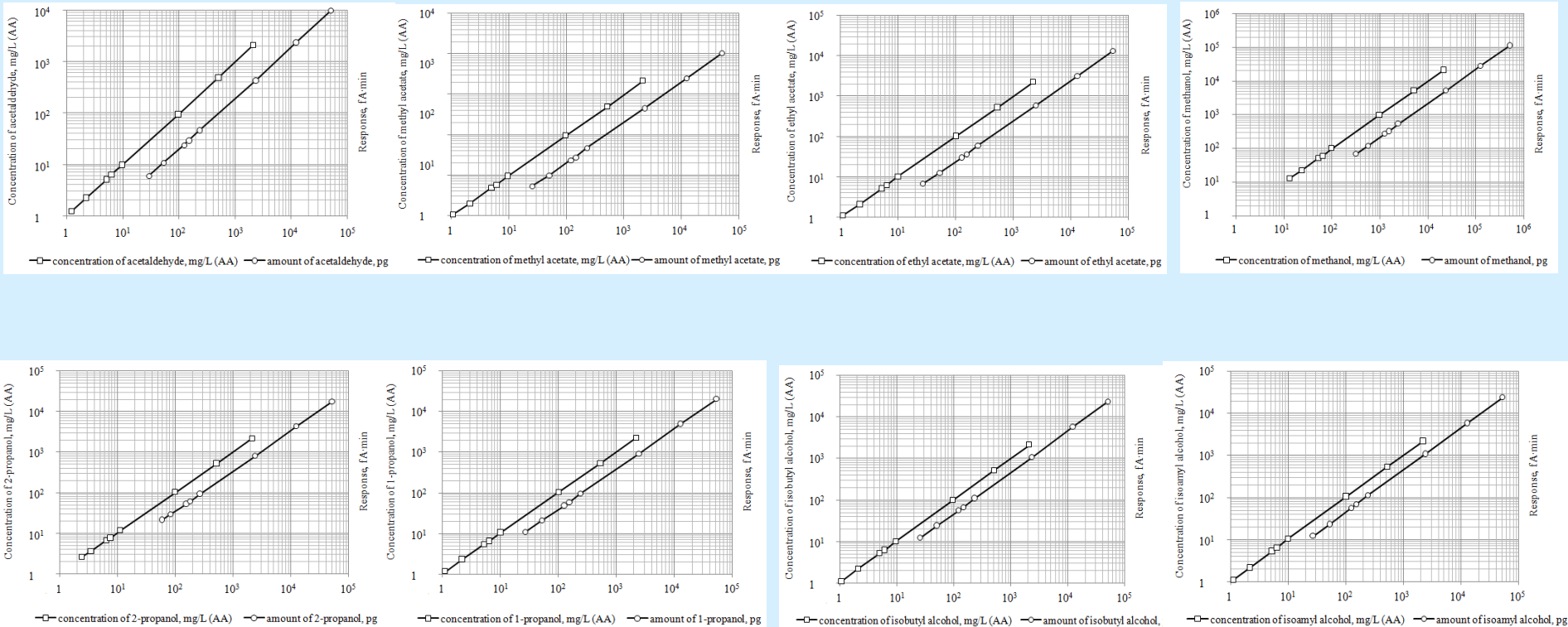


Fig. 3. Analytical characteristics of the obtained calibration graphs for **all other 8 compounds**.

# Validation. Metrological characteristics of 'ethanol-as-IS' method

№ St Sol	acetaldehyde			methyl acetate			ethyl acetate			methanol			2-propanol			1-propanol			isobutyl alcohol			n-butanol			isoamyl alcohol		
	C st, u(C), mg/l	C exp, S(TO), mg/l	Δ, u, %	C st, u(C), mg/l	C exp, S(TO), mg/l	Δ, u, %	C st, u(C), mg/l	C exp, S(TO), mg/l	Δ, u, %	C st, u(C), mg/l	C exp, S(TO), mg/l	Δ, u, %	C st, u(C), mg/l	C exp, S(TO), mg/l	Δ, u, %	C st, u(C), mg/l	C exp, S(TO), mg/l	Δ, u, %	C st, u(C), mg/l	C exp, S(TO), mg/l	Δ, u, %	C st, u(C), mg/l	C exp, S(TO), mg/l	Δ, u, %	C st, u(C), mg/l	C exp, S(TO), mg/l	Δ, u, %
1	1,23	1,23	-0,1	1,08	1,08	-0,5	1,13	1,10	-2,3	13,39	12,82	-4,2	2,45	2,55	4,0	1,13	1,15	1,8	1,08	1,08	-0,3	1,08	1,07	-0,7	1,12	1,08	-3,8
	0,024	0,07	6,1	0,001	0,04	3,5	0,002	0,05	5,2	0,376	0,22	5,4	0,20	0,07	9,6	0,001	0,07	6,3	0,001	0,05	4,4	0,001	0,07	6,3	0,001	0,06	7,0
2	2,25	2,26	0,2	2,11	1,99	-5,4	2,20	2,08	-5,8	23,72	22,29	-6,0	3,50	3,58	2,2	2,21	2,30	3,8	2,11	2,17	2,6	2,11	2,19	4,0	2,19	2,11	-3,5
	0,025	0,09	4,3	0,005	0,08	6,7	0,005	0,07	6,7	0,382	0,14	6,3	0,20	0,10	6,8	0,005	0,10	5,8	0,005	0,09	5,3	0,005	0,13	7,5	0,005	0,13	7,1
3	5,16	5,10	-1,0	5,04	4,90	-2,9	5,27	5,08	-3,5	53,15	51,28	-3,5	6,49	6,55	1,0	5,29	5,36	1,4	5,05	5,11	1,2	5,03	5,15	2,3	5,22	5,24	0,4
	0,03	0,10	2,2	0,01	0,08	3,3	0,01	0,11	4,1	0,38	0,19	3,6	0,20	0,08	3,5	0,01	0,13	2,9	0,01	0,10	2,3	0,01	0,11	3,3	0,01	0,17	3,4
4	6,44	6,25	-2,9	6,34	5,75	-9,2	6,62	6,16	-7,0	66,17	59,71	-9,8	7,81	7,53	-3,5	6,65	6,41	-3,6	6,34	6,12	-3,6	6,32	6,14	-2,9	6,57	6,30	-4,0
	0,03	0,11	3,4	0,01	0,11	9,4	0,01	0,07	7,0	0,38	1,01	9,9	0,20	0,08	4,5	0,01	0,16	4,3	0,01	0,09	3,9	0,01	0,12	3,5	0,01	0,19	5,0
5	9,75	9,81	0,7	9,68	9,56	-1,2	10,11	10,01	-1,0	99,70	99,78	0,1	11,21	11,50	2,7	10,15	10,51	3,5	9,69	9,98	3,1	9,66	10,07	4,3	10,03	10,38	3,5
	0,03	0,31	3,4	0,01	0,26	3,0	0,01	0,22	2,4	0,39	0,55	0,7	0,20	0,10	3,4	0,01	0,16	3,8	0,01	0,13	3,4	0,01	0,12	4,5	0,01	0,13	3,7
6	96,65	94,06	-2,7	97,38	95,68	-1,7	101,8	101,1	-0,7	980,5	990,3	1,0	100,5	101,2	0,7	102,2	103,3	1,1	97,47	98,97	1,5	97,18	99,28	2,2	100,9	103,6	2,7
	0,15	1,44	3,1	0,12	1,77	2,6	0,13	1,57	1,7	0,85	1,86	1,0	0,23	0,31	0,8	0,12	0,17	1,1	0,12	0,25	1,6	0,13	0,20	2,2	0,12	0,38	2,7
7	506,0	486,8	-3,8	510,5	491,6	-3,7	533,5	520,7	-2,4	5129	5124	-0,1	521,3	515,6	-1,1	535,6	530,8	-0,9	511,0	507,0	-0,8	509,5	506,0	-0,7	529,1	526,2	-0,5
	0,98	5,79	4,0	0,90	12,5	4,5	0,96	9,93	3,1	7,46	11,8	0,3	0,90	0,57	1,1	0,90	0,55	0,9	0,88	0,95	0,8	0,93	1,82	0,8	0,90	2,50	0,7
8	2085	2080	-0,2	2104	2113	0,4	2198	2202	0,2	21128	21130	0,0	2144	2139	-0,2	2207	2206	-0,1	2106	2107	0,1	2099	2104	0,2	2180	2187	0,3
	2,77	20,9	1,1	2,25	10,1	0,7	2,46	5,29	0,3	11,05	20,0	0,1	2,08	5,04	0,3	2,10	2,28	0,2	2,14	3,61	0,2	2,43	6,81	0,4	2,12	11,0	0,6

Table 3. The analysis of experimental data shows that the value of **relative uncertainty  $u$**  in the determination of the impurities concentration in experiments in the whole range of concentrations for all examined impurities **does not exceed 10%**.

# Validation. Method was certificated in Rosstandart

 001340

ФЕДЕРАЛЬНОЕ АГЕНТСТВО  
ПО ТЕХНИЧЕСКОМУ РЕГУЛИРОВАНИЮ И МЕТРОЛОГИИ  
(Росстандарт)  
Федеральное государственное унитарное предприятие  
«Уральский научно-исследовательский институт метрологии»  
(ФГУП «УНИИМ»)  
Государственный научный метрологический институт

**СВИДЕТЕЛЬСТВО**  
**об аттестации методики (метода) измерений**  
№ 253.0169/01.00258/2013

Методика измерений массовой концентрации летучих компонентов в водке и спирте  
наименование методики, включая наименование измеряемой величины, и, при необходимости,  
этиловым методом газовой хроматографии  
объекта измерений, дополнительных параметров и реализуемый способ измерений

предназначенная для измерений массовой концентрации летучих компонентов в водке и  
этиловым методом газовой хроматографии в лаборатории аналитических  
исследований НИИ ЯП БГУ.

разработанная Научно-исследовательским учреждением "Институт ядерных проблем"  
наименование и адрес организации (предприятия), разработавшей методику  
Белорусского Государственного Университета (НИИ ЯП БГУ).

220030 Беларусь, г. Минск, ул. Бобруйская, д. 11

и содержащаяся в документе "Определение летучих компонентов в водке и спирте"  
обозначение и наименование документа, содержащего методику, год утверждения, число страниц  
этиловым методом газовой хроматографии. Методика измерений"

Методика аттестована в соответствии с ФЗ № 102 "Об обеспечении единства измерений"  
и ГОСТ Р 8.563-2009.

Аттестация осуществлена по результатам метрологической экспертизы материалов по  
теоретических и (или) экспериментальных исследований  
разработке методики измерений и экспериментальных исследований

В результате аттестации методики измерений установлено, что методика измерений  
нормативно-правовой документ в области обеспечения единства измерений (при наличии) и ГОСТ Р 8.563  
соответствует требованиям, предъявляемым ГОСТ Р 8.563-2009

Показатели точности измерений приведены в приложении на 2 л.

Зам. директора по качеству		Ю.С. Бессонов
Зав. лабораторией		Е.В. Осинцева
Дата выдачи		12.07.2013
Рекомендуемый срок пересмотра методики измерений:		12.07.2018

М.П.

Россия, 620000, г. Екатеринбург, ул. Красноармейская, 4  
Тел.: (343) 350-26-18, факс: (343) 350-20-39. E-mail: unim@unim.ru



 013400

Federal Agency  
for Technical Regulation and Metrology  
(Rosstandart)  
The Federal State Unitary Enterprise  
"Ural Scientific-Research Institute of Metrology"  
(Federal State Unitary Enterprise "UNIIM")  
State Scientific Institute of Metrology

**CERTIFICATE**  
**of certification procedure (method)**  
№ 253.0169/01.00258/2013

Method of measurement of the mass concentration of volatile compounds in alcohol drinks  
name of method, including the name of the measured values and, if appropriate, measurement object,  
by Gas Chromatography  
additional parameters and implemented method for measuring  
designed for measuring of the mass concentration of volatile components in alcohol drinks by  
area of use  
gas chromatography in the Laboratory of Analytical Research of INP BSU.

developed by the Research Institute "Institute of Nuclear Problems" of Belarusian State University (INP BSU)  
name and address of the organization (enterprise) developed the method  
220030 Belarus, city of Minsk, Bobrujskaya Str., 11

and contained in the document "Determination of volatile compounds in alcohol drinks by gas chromatography"  
designation and name of the document containing the method, year of approval, number of pages

Method is certified in accordance with the Federal Law № 102 "On ensuring the uniformity of measurements" and  
GOST R 8.563-2009.

Certification carried out on the results of metrological examination of theoretical and experimental materials  
development of measurement techniques and (or) experimental studies  
As a result of evaluation of the measurement procedure is established that the method meets the  
legal document in the area of traceability (if available) and GOST R 8.563  
requirements of GOST R 8.563-2009.

Performance measurement accuracy is given in Appendix on 2 pages.

Deputy Director		Yu.S. Bessonov
Head of Laboratory		E.V. Osintseva
Date of issue		12.07.2013
Recommended for revision of the measurement procedure		12.07.2018

Россия, 620000, г. Екатеринбург, Красноармейская Стр., 4  
Тел.: (343) 350-26-18, факс: (343) 350-20-39. E-mail: unim@unim.ru

# Prospection

How to introduce this new method '**ethanol-as-IS**' in the daily practice ?

There is only one working way: to propose for customers more easy, attractive and effective way for laboratory business..

Thousands of testing laboratories over the world day-and-night carry out gas chromatographic analysis of volatile compounds in spirit drinks.

They may test this new method in their real practice. It is important to note that there is no need to perform any additional measurements.

Everybody could test and validate '**ethanol-as-IS**' method while performing current measurements with existing instrumentation and calculations could be done in parallel according to the traditional way with addition of '**pental-3-ol**' as IS and using '**ethanol-as-IS**'.

# Road map. Detailed description of 'ethanol-as-IS' in Internet

**UniChrom** BEL RUS DEU ENG

Main Page / Products / Solutions / Ethanol as Internal Standard for Determination of Volatile Compounds in Alcohol Drinks by Gas Chromatography with UniChrom Datasystem < Back

## Ethanol as Internal Standard for Determination of Volatile Compounds in Alcohol Drinks by Gas Chromatography

There are the following prepared templates [TemplateWork\\_for\\_VC\\_in\\_Alcohol\\_Drinks\\_Ethanol\\_as\\_IS\\_eng.uwb](#) and [TemplateReport\\_for\\_VC\\_in\\_Alcohol\\_Drinks\\_Ethanol\\_as\\_IS\\_eng.xls](#) for illustration how this method is working.

NAS UniChrom™ - [TemplateWork\_for\_VC\_in\_Alcohol\_Drinks\_Ethanol\_as\_IS\_eng.uwb] - (1) Relative graduation PB3 - 3rd measurement for graduation]

Signal	Lm. Time	Lm. Signal	Rm. Time	Rm. Signal	Fragm. dV	Library	
Channel 1	7,41	0,0122	4,14	0,0112	10,783	0,0135	Library: Components of 1 layer of TemplateWork_for_VC_in_Alcohol_Drinks_Ethanol_as_IS_eng.uwb:

Chromatogram showing peaks at 7.41, 0.0122, 4.14, 0.0112, 10.783, and 0.0135 minutes. The x-axis is labeled 'min' and the y-axis is labeled 'mV'.

Order	atqpl	Mode	Name
1		Mode 5	PB0 - 1st measurement for gradu
2		Mode 5	PB0 - 2nd measurement for gradu
3		Mode 5	PB0 - 3rd measurement for gradu
4		Mode 5	PB0 - 1st measurement for gradu
5		Mode 5	PB0 - 2nd measurement for gradu
6		Mode 5	PB0 - 3rd measurement for gradu
7		Mode 5	PB1 - 1st measurement for gradu
8		Mode 5	PB1 - 2nd measurement for gradu
9		Mode 5	PB1 - 3rd measurement for gradu
10		Mode 5	Sample Ni 777 - 1st measurement
11		Mode 5	Sample Ni 777 - 2nd measurement
12		Mode 5	Sample Ni 777 - Certificate Data
13		Mode 5	Sample Ni A310 - 1st measurement
14		Mode 5	Sample Ni A310 - 2nd measurement
15		Mode 5	PB2 - Quality Control - 1st meas
16		Mode 5	PB2 - Quality Control - 2nd meas
17		Mode 5	PB2 - Certificate Data

Control panel for Oven / Temperature. Chosen mode: 2 - Mode 5.

Parameter values: Current: 0, Setpoint: 65, Minimal: 0, Maximal: 220, Readiness: 0.5.

Programme: 25,5 min.

Rate	Value	Interval
1	0	65
2	10	180
3		9

Detailed description is here: [www.unichrom.com/vodka/ethanol-solutione.shtml](http://www.unichrom.com/vodka/ethanol-solutione.shtml)

# Road map. Unification of final report generation

Microsoft Excel - VC\_in Alcohol Drinks\_Ethanol\_as\_IS\_eng-Template.xls

Файл Правка Вид Вставка Формат Сервис Данные Окно Справка Adobe PDF

UNICROM

N43

**RJS "Minsk Krystall"**  
Control Laboratory  
Certificate of Accreditation № BY/112 02.1.0.1906 from 05.02.2001.

The 1st measurement: PB2 - Quality Control - 1st measurement  
The 2nd measurement: PB2 - Quality Control - 2nd measurement  
File name: C:\Conferences\2011-01-24 - Rapid\_Methods\_Europe\_2011\VC\_in Alcohol\_Drinks\_Ethanol\_as\_IS\_eng-Template.uwb

The 1st measurement  
Comments

The 2nd measurement  
Comments

Compound	15		16		Criteria	Δlim, %	17	
	C1, mg/L	C2, mg/L	Cover, mg/L	Δ, %			C, mg/L	Δ, %
acetaldheyde	11,35	11,28	11,32	0,7	OK!	15	10,88	4,0
methyl acetate	11,87	11,74	11,80	1,1	OK!	15	10,52	12,2
ethyl acetate	11,47	11,57	11,52	0,9	OK!	15	10,47	10,0
methanol	150,30	150,37	150,34	0,0	OK!	15	149,88	0,3
2-propanol	11,59	11,81	11,70	1,8	OK!	15	11,70	0,0
ethanol	789300	789300	789300	0,0			789300	0,0
1-propanol	9,99	9,52	9,75	4,9	OK!	15	9,74	0,2
isobutyl alcohol	10,00	9,86	9,93	1,5	OK!	15	9,95	0,2
n-butanol	10,02	9,96	9,99	0,6	OK!	15	10,06	0,6
isoamyl alcohol	10,07	10,04	10,05	0,3	OK!	15	10,18	1,2
methanol (% v/v)	0,0190	0,0190	0,0190	0,0	OK!	15	0,0189	0,3
higher alcohols	40,09	39,37	39,73	1,8	OK!	15	39,92	0,5
volatile acids	23,34	23,32	23,33	0,1	OK!	15	21,00	11,1

Analyst: R. Golubevas

\*Possible coincidence of names, surnames and names of institutions is purely coincidental

Final report / Staff / Comments /

Generation of final report of any official documents with help of OLE Automation technology.



# Road map. Traditional '1-pentanol-as-IS' and 'ethanol-as-IS'

