

Letter to the Editor

Modified stripping technique for the analysis of trace organics in water

Sir,

Borén *et al.*¹ describe a method for overcoming problems with system contamination resulting in unacceptable blanks. In the interest of the users of the closed loop stripping analysis (CLSA) technique, we wish to comment on the mentioned contamination.

The major source of possible contamination is a damaged adsorbent filter. A mechanical influence may break some carbon particles. The carbon powder thus produced will contaminate the lines, primarily the pump, and may create severe ghosting. A damaged filter should immediately be eliminated, since the loss of a few particles will produce free space in the filter bed, allowing the neighbouring particles to move under the influence of the gas flow. This will cause friction, resulting in the production of further carbon powder. As soon as contamination becomes evident, the system should be cleaned. The lines are washed with water containing a surfactant and the pump is opened and mechanically cleaned. After running the empty system for a few hours, it will again be ready for perfect operation.

We are far from doubting or criticizing the careful work by Borén *et al.* We think, however, that the cleaning procedure described here is the more suitable response to contamination than switching to an open system, which sacrifices the advantages of the closed loop.

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1 H. Borén, A. Grimvall and R. Sävenhed, *J. Chromatogr.*, 252 (1982) 139.

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