



# National Institute of Standards & Technology

## Certificate of Analysis

### Standard Reference Material<sup>®</sup> 2646a

#### Propane in Nitrogen

(Nominal Amount-of-Substance Fraction - 1000  $\mu\text{mol/mol}$ )

This Standard Reference Material (SRM) is a primary gas mixture to which the amount-of-substance fraction, expressed as concentration [1], of secondary working standards may be related. The SRM is intended primarily for the calibration of instruments used for propane determinations.

This SRM mixture is supplied in a DOT 3AL specification aluminum (6061 alloy) cylinder with a water volume of 6 L. Mixtures are shipped with a nominal pressure exceeding 12.4 MPa (1800 psi) which provides the user with 0.73 m<sup>3</sup> (25.8 ft<sup>3</sup>) of useable mixture. The cylinder is the property of the purchaser and is equipped with a CGA-350 brass valve, which is the recommended outlet for this propane mixture. NIST recommends that this cylinder not be used below 0.7 MPa (100 psi).

**Certified Value:** This SRM mixture has been certified for propane concentration. The certified value, given below, applies to the identified cylinder and NIST sample number.

$$\text{Propane Concentration} = (979.1 \pm 6.6) \mu\text{mol/mol}$$

Cylinder Number:

NIST Sample Number:

The uncertainty of the certified value includes the estimated uncertainties of the gravimetrically prepared primary standards, the imprecision of measurements intercomparing the primary standards to the lot standard (LS), and the imprecision of intercomparing the LS with each of the mixtures comprising the lot. The uncertainty is expressed as an expanded uncertainty  $U = ku_c$  with  $u_c$  determined from experimental standard deviations and the coverage factor  $k$  is equal to 2. Since the concentration values of gaseous SRMs are assumed to be normally distributed with an experimental standard deviation of  $u_c$ , the true value for the propane concentration is asserted to lie in the interval defined by the certified value  $\pm U$  with a level of confidence of approximately 95 % [2].

**Expiration of Certification:** This certification is valid until **01 January 2006**, within the measurement uncertainties specified, provided the SRM is handled and stored in accordance with the instructions given in this certificate. However, the certification will be nullified if the SRM is contaminated or modified.

**Cylinder and Gas Handling Information:** NIST recommends the use of a high-purity, stainless steel, two-stage pressure regulator with a stainless steel diaphragm and CGA-350 outlet to safely reduce the pressure and to deliver this SRM mixture to the instrument. The regulator should be purged several times to prevent accidental contamination of the sample.

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

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Analytical Chemistry Division

Gaithersburg, MD 20899  
Certificate Issue Date: 31 May 2000

Nancy M. Trahey, Chief  
Standard Reference Materials Program

The analytical measurements leading to the certification of this current SRM lot was performed by W.R. Miller, R.C. Myers, and P.A. Johnson of the NIST Analytical Chemistry Division.

The overall direction and coordination of the technical work required for certification of this SRM was performed by F.R. Guenther of the NIST Analytical Chemistry Division.

**Mixture Preparation:** The gas mixtures comprising this SRM lot were prepared in accordance with NIST technical specifications by a commercial specialty gas vendor under contract to NIST. The specifications stipulate that each SRM mixture be identical in propane concentration and stable with time.

**Analytical Methods:** Analyses of the propane concentration for this lot of cylinders were conducted by intercomparing each cylinder mixture to a representative cylinder chosen from the lot, the lot standard (LS), using a research gas chromatograph (GC) equipped with a flame ionization detector (FID). Assignment of the propane concentration to the LS was accomplished by intercomparison to primary gravimetric standards using GC/FID.

**Homogeneity Analysis:** Each of the propane mixtures in this SRM lot was compared to the LS using GC/FID. An analysis of variance indicated that sample-to-sample propane concentration differences were not statistically significant. This indicates that within the precision of the NIST measurements, all of the cylinders in this SRM lot have identical propane concentrations. Therefore, a single concentration has been assigned to the entire SRM lot.

**Propane Concentration Value Assignment:** The certified propane concentration for this SRM lot was computed from the assigned concentration for the lot standard and the homogeneity analysis.

**Other Hydrocarbons:** This SRM was analyzed for other hydrocarbons by GC/FID. No other hydrocarbons were detected and it is estimated that the total other hydrocarbon content of this SRM is < 10  $\mu\text{mol/mol}$  (measured as propane). This value is not certified and is listed for information purposes only.

**Stability:** Periodic analyses of SRM units from this lot are performed at NIST to monitor stability. If significant changes in the propane amount-of-substance fraction are observed, the purchaser will be notified. Refer to the "Cylinder and Gas Handling Information" section for proper handling of this SRM.

#### REFERENCES

- [1] Taylor, B.N., "Guide for the Use of the International System of Units (SI)," NIST Special Publication 811, 1995 Ed., (April 1995).
- [2] *Guide to the Expression of Uncertainty in Measurement*, ISBN 92-67-10188-9 1st Ed. ISO Geneva, Switzerland, (1993); see also Taylor, B.N. and 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/>).

*Users of this SRM should ensure that the certificate in their possession is current. This can be accomplished by contacting the SRM Program at: telephone (301) 975-6776; fax (301) 926-4751; e-mail [srminfo@nist.gov](mailto:srminfo@nist.gov); or via the internet <http://www.nist.gov/srm>.*