

Liquid Sample Introduction Techniques

Measurement of Nutrient & Trace Level Elements in Juices and Food Matrices Using Ultrasonic Nebulization with ICP-OES Detection



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Introduction Analysis of Juices and Foods

Consumers are more concerned about levels of potentially toxic elements such as As, Cd, and Pb in beverages and foods. Of heightened concern are food products intended for consumption by infants and children.

Reliable and precise methods of food analysis are important to maintain the safety of the food supply. In addition, accurate data is needed to comply with food labeling requirements for nutrients such as Ca, Fe, K, and Na.



Liquid Sample Introduction Ultrasonic Nebulization

An ultrasonic nebulizer is an accessory for ICP-OES that enables higher sample transport efficiency (versus a standard pneumatic nebulizer) to the plasma. This benefit can be helpful for detection of more difficult elements such as As, Pb, Sb, Se, and TI using ICP-OES detection.

This webinar describes the use of ultrasonic nebulization for improved ICP-OES detection of trace elements in juices and food matrices.



Ultrasonic Nebulization Principle of Operation

In place of a regulated gas flow for generation of a liquid sample aerosol (pneumatic nebulization), liquid sample is pumped across a quartz plate with an underlying oscillating (piezoelectric) crystal.

The oscillations of the crystal will break up the liquid flow and cause formation of a sample aerosol. Ultrasonic nebulization is typically up to 10x more efficient (versus a conventional pneumatic nebulizer) for conversion of liquid sample into a useable aerosol.



Teledyne CETAC U5000AT⁺ Ultrasonic Nebulizer Dimensions and Weight



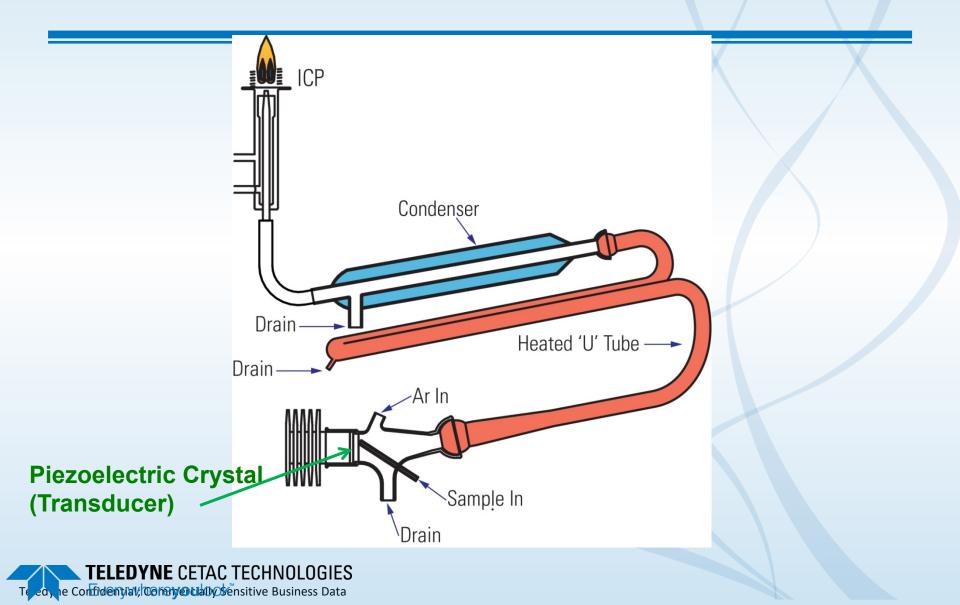
Width: 35.6 cm (14.0 in) Depth: 34.9 cm (13.7 in) Height: 25.4 cm (10.0 in)

Weight: 12.3 kg (27 lbs)

Temperature Controllers (2)



Teledyne CETAC U5000AT⁺ Schematic



U5000AT⁺ Important Features

- Integrated desolvation system (electrothermal)
 - Removes excess sample aerosol solvent for plasma stability
- Built-in drain peristaltic pump
 - Removes condensed sample solvent, no need to use host ICP-OES peristaltic pump



U5000AT⁺ Transducer Assembly

Piezoelectric Crystal (disk shape)

Quartz Plate



Instrumentation

ICP-OES: PerkinElmer Avio 500

Ultrasonic Nebulizer: Teledyne CETAC U5000AT⁺

Microwave Digestion System: CEM Mars 6



U5000AT⁺ Ultrasonic Nebulizer Installation Steps

- 1. Remove standard nebulizer and spray chamber from the ICP-OES.
- 2. Connect nebulizer gas inlet tubing from ICP-OES.
- 3. Connect sample out tube from U5000AT⁺ to ICP torch.
- 4. Connect power cord to U5000AT⁺ and turn on power. Allow 10 min. for Heater and Cooler to stabilize.
- 5. Start ICP, introduce tune solution, press one button (Operate) to begin nebulizing tune solution and then samples. Adjust gas flows for best signal.



U5000AT⁺ Ultrasonic Nebulizer Installation Summary

Overall setup takes about 15 minutes.

Use host ICP-OES peristaltic pump to introduce samples.

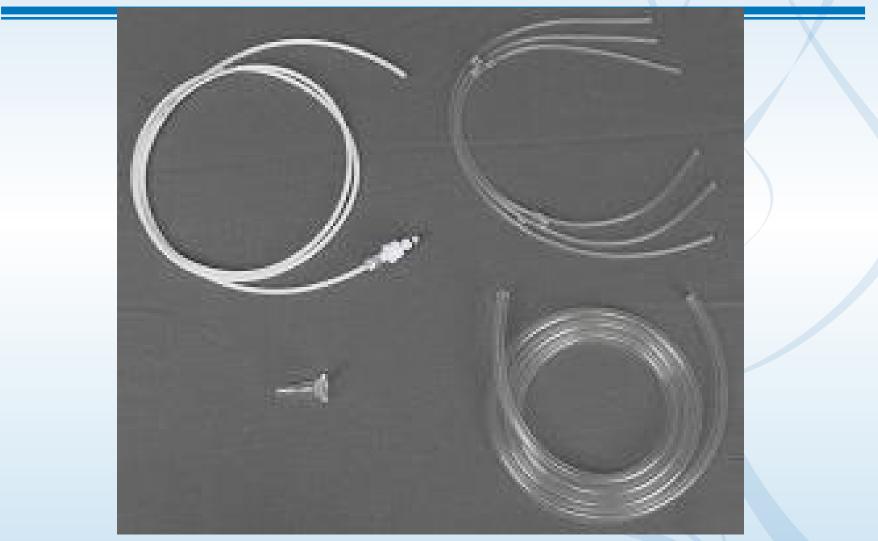
No computer control, no software installation needed.

One button operation

Sample introduction can be automated by connecting the sample inlet line to an autosampler (CETAC ASX-280 or ASX-560)

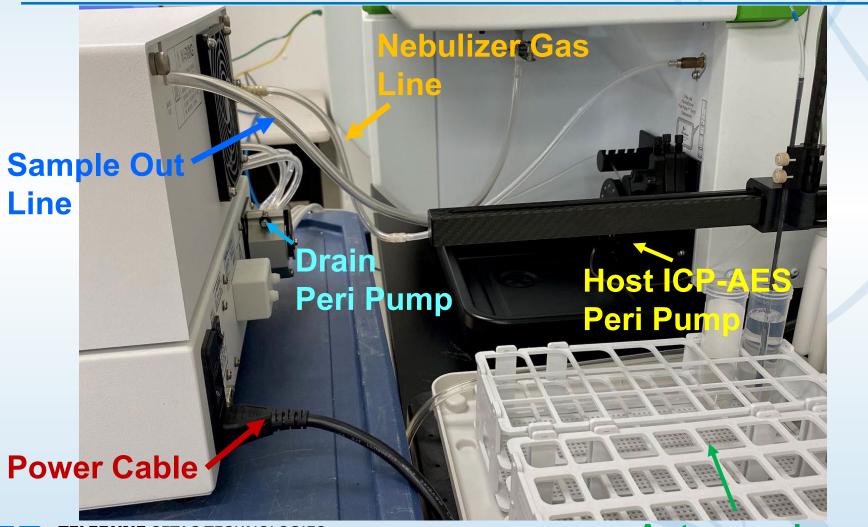


U5000AT⁺ Ultrasonic Nebulizer Example Interface Kit





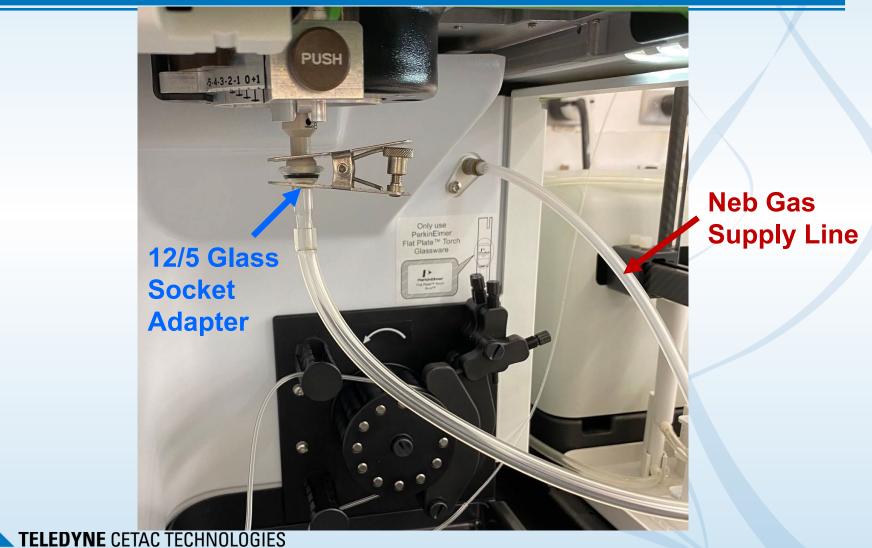
Connections Between Host ICP-OES & U5000AT⁺ Ultrasonic Nebulizer



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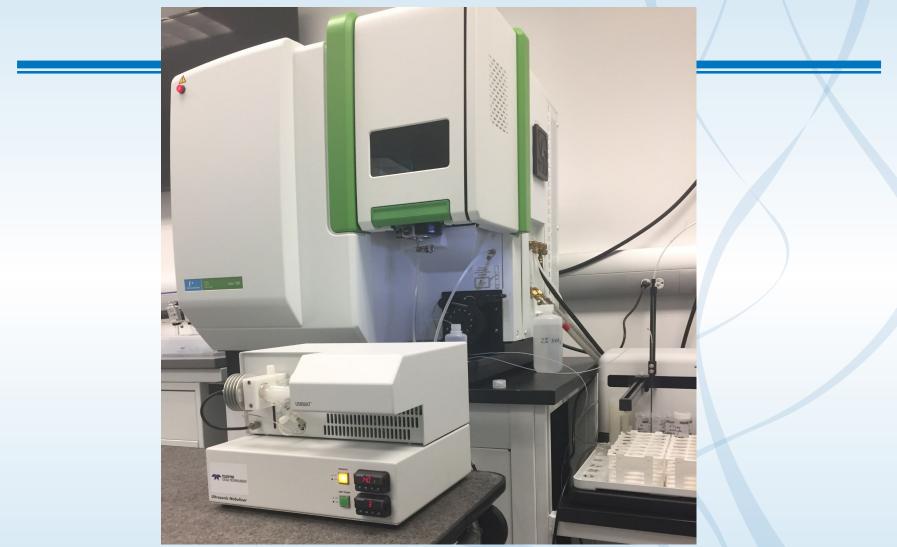
Autosampler

Torch Adapter Connection



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ICP-OES with Ultrasonic Nebulization



PerkinElmer Avio 500 ICP-AES, U5000AT⁺ USN, ASX-280 Autosampler

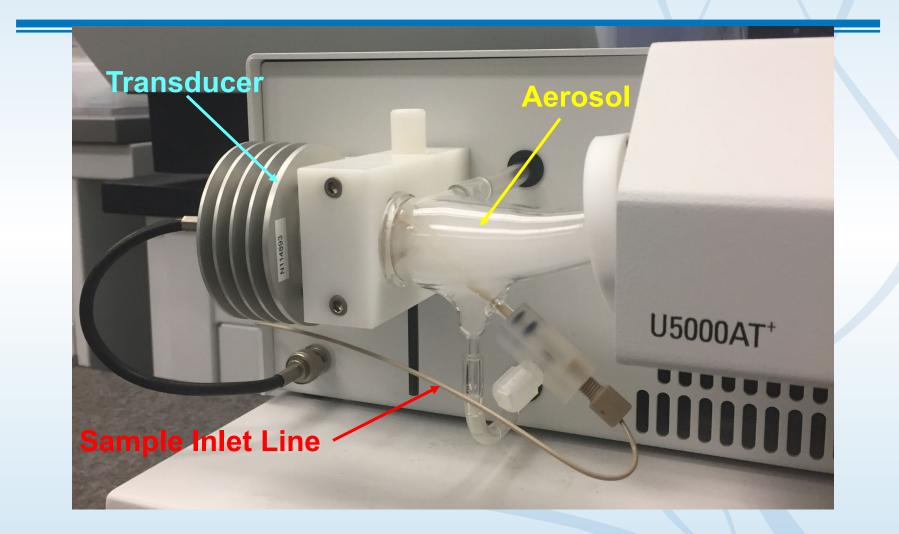


Ultrasonic Nebulizer Aerosol Generation: One Button Operation





Ultrasonic Nebulizer Aerosol Close-Up View





Operating Conditions

ICP-OES with Standard Nebulizer and U5000AT⁺ USN

| Parameter | Std Nebulizer | U5000AT ⁺ USN | X |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|---|
| ICP Power | 1500 W | 1500 W | |
| Plasma Gas | 8.0 L/min | 8.0 L/min | |
| Auxiliary Gas | 0.2 L/min | 0.2 L/min | |
| Nebulizer Gas | 0.70 L/min | 0.62 L/min 🛛 🔸 | |
| Torch Injector | 2 mm | 2 mm | |
| Uptake Rate | 1.0 mL/min | 1.0 mL/min | |
| Cassette Position | -3.0 | -5.0 🔸 | |
| Resolution | Normal | Normal | |
| Nebulizer Type | Meinhard K | Piezoelectric | |
| Spray Chamber | Baffled cyclonic | Conical | |
| Heater Temp | N/A | 120°C | |
| Cooler Temp | N/A | 5°C | |
| Integration Time | 2 s min, 5 s max | 2 s min, 5 s max | |
| Peak Area | 3 pts/peak | 3 pts/peak | |
| Replicates | 3 | 3 | |
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Calibration

- The ICP-OES was calibrated using digested standards prepared in 10% HNO₃ and 4% H₂O₂
- Measure 1 blank and 3 standards, correlation coefficient must be better than 0.998
- Use on-line mixing tee (before nebulizer input) for addition of 100 μ g/L Y internal standard

Note: H_2O_2 oxidizes As³⁺ to As⁵⁺ for improved As recoveries



Calibration Ranges and Wavelengths

| Element | λ (nm) | View | Range | X |
|-------------|---------------|--------|-------------|---|
| Ca | 317.933 | Radial | 0.1-10 mg/L | |
| Ca | 315.887 | Radial | 1-100 mg/L | |
| Mg | 285.213 | Radial | 0.1-10mg/L | |
| К | 766.490 | Radial | 0.1-10 mg/L | |
| Na | 589.592 | Radial | 0.1-10 mg/L | |
| Na | 330.237 | Radial | 1-100 mg/L | |
| Sb | 206.836 | Axial | 10-1000μg/L | |
| As | 188.979 | Axial | 10-100μg/L | |
| Ba | 493.408 | Radial | 10-1000μg/L | |
| Ве | 313.107 | Axial | 10-1000μg/L | |
| Cd | 214.440 | Axial | 10-1000μg/L | |
| | | | | |



Calibration Ranges and Wavelengths

| | Element | λ (nm) | View | Range | |
|-------|--------------------------|---------------|--------|-------------|--|
| | Cr | 205.560 | Axial | 10-1000μg/L | |
| | Cu | 327.393 | Axial | 10-100µg/L | |
| | Fe | 238.204 | Axial | 50-1000μg/L | |
| | Pb | 220.353 | Axial | 10-1000µg/L | |
| | Mn | 257.610 | Axial | 50-1000μg/L | |
| | Мо | 202.031 | Axial | 10-1000µg/L | |
| | Ni | 231.604 | Axial | 10-1000µg/L | |
| | Р | 178.221 | Axial | 10-1000µg/L | |
| | Р | 214.914 | Radial | 1-100mg/L | |
| | Se | 196.026 | Axial | 10-1000µg/L | |
| | U | 409.014 | Axial | 50-1000μg/L | |
| | Zn | 206.200 | Axial | 50-1000μg/L | |
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Sample Types

- Beverages
 - 100% Cranberry Juice
 - Apple Juice from a juice box
 - 100% Fruit Punch from a juice box
- Foods
 - Dry Cereal
 - Baby Food from a pouch
 - Donut
- Standard Reference Materials
 - NIST[®] 1538 Rice Flour
 - NIST[®] 1577 Bovine Liver
 - NIST[®] 1549 Non-Fat Milk Powder

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Sample Weights and Volumes for Digestion

| Sample Type | Amount Digested |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| NIST Standards | 0.5 g |
| Dry Food (cereal) | 0.5 g |
| Wet Food (baby food) | 1 g |
| Juice | 5 mL |



Sample Preparation

- 1. To each digestion vessel add 8 mL conc. HNO_3 and 1 mL of 30% H_2O_2 .
- 2. Allow samples to react for at least 10 minutes in a ventilation hood.
- 3. Place cap on digestion vessels.



Microwave System Operating Parameters

| Power | Ramp | Hold | Temp |
|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 1200 W | 25 min | 15 min | 200°C |

After digestions were complete, samples were cooled to room temperature and diluted to a final volume of 25 mL with deionized water.



Instrument Detection Limits

Ten reagent blanks (10% HNO_3 / 4% H_2O_2) were measured using the standard nebulizer kit and the U5000AT⁺.

Instrument detection limits (IDLs) are calculated as 10x the standard deviation of the blank concentration.



Instrument Detection Limits Selected Elements

| Element | Std Neb IDL (μg/L) | U5000AT+ IDL (μg/L) | Improvement Factor |
|---------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| As | 5.53 | 0.35 | 15.8 |
| Cd | 0.54 | 0.10 | 5.4 |
| Pb | 4.97 | 0.53 | 9.5 |
| Se | 7.62 | 0.97 | 7.8 |



Sample Spikes

Samples were spiked at concentrations of 10 μ g/L and 50 μ g/L for trace elements and 0.5 mg/L for Ca, Na, Mg, and K before digestion. Per the FDA EAM (Elemental Analysis Manual) 4.4, % spike recovery must be 80% -120% to pass.

If the analyte concentration was > 30% of the spike value, results are not reported.



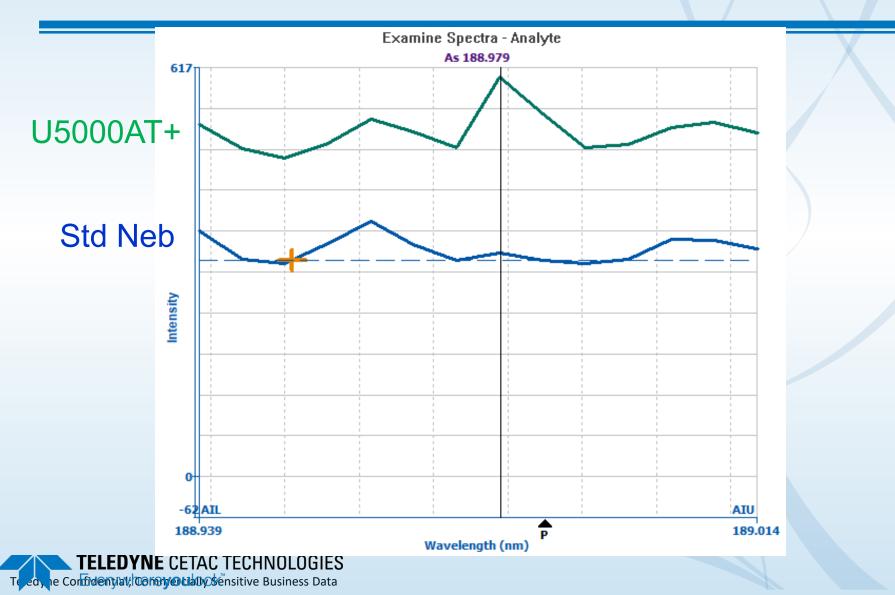
Per Cent Spike Recoveries - Juices

| Element | Cranberry Juice 10 μg/L | Apple Juice 10 μg/L |
|---------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| As | 86 | 107 |
| Ba | 82 | 96 |
| Be | 101 | 115 |
| Cd | 105 | 102 |
| Cr | 98 | 99 |
| Cu | 107 | 96 |
| Fe | - | - |
| Pb | 97 | 104 |
| Mn | - | - |
| Мо | - | - |
| Na | - | - |
| Ni | - | - |
| Sb | 105 | 104 |
| Se | 103 | 73 |
| | 104 | 98 |

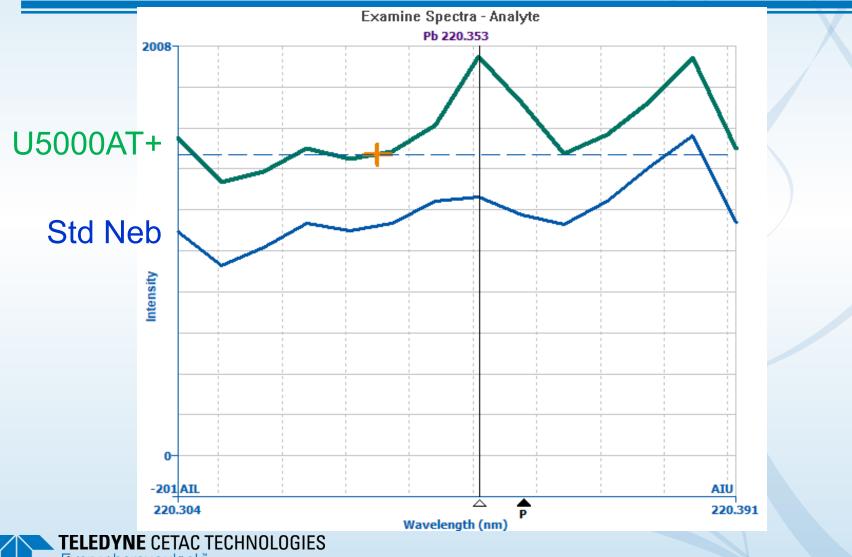
Per Cent Spike Recoveries - Juices

| Element | Apple Juice 50 μg/L | Fruit Punch 50 μg/L |
|---------|---------------------|---------------------|
| As | 86 | 104 |
| Ва | 88 | 106 |
| Be | 115 | 99 |
| Cd | 105 | 98 |
| Cr | 92 | 84 |
| Cu | 105 | 96 |
| Fe | 111 | 107 |
| Pb | 108 | 92 |
| Mn | 113 | 105 |
| Мо | 108 | 97 |
| Na | - | 94 |
| Ni | 113 | 96 |
| Sb | 104 | 98 |
| Se | 115 | 86 |
| | 88 | 82 |

Comparative Emission Spectra 10 µg/L As spike in Cranberry Juice



Comparative Emission Spectra 10 µg/L Pb spike in Cranberry Juice



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Baby Foods

• Type 1

Blend of apples, carrots, blueberries and yogurt

- Type 2
 - Blend of bananas, blueberries and oats



Per Cent Spike Recoveries – Food Matrices 50 µg/L spike

| Element | Baby Food Type1 | Baby Food Type 2 |
|---------|-----------------|------------------|
| As | 94 | 108 |
| Ва | 88 | 95 |
| Be | 97 | 103 |
| Cd | 98 | 109 |
| Cr | 88 | 95 |
| Cu | 98 | 98 |
| Mn | 99 | 90 |
| Мо | 95 | 98 |
| Ni | 100 | 108 |
| Pb | 91 | 98 |
| Sb | 96 | 94 |
| Se | 77 | 99 |
| U | 86 | 84 |
| Zn | 103 | 117 |
| | | |

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Per Cent Spike Recoveries – Food Matrices 50 µg/L spike

| Element | Glazed Donut | Breakfast Cereal |
|---------|--------------|------------------|
| As | - | - |
| Ва | 106 | 101 |
| Be | 111 | 99 |
| Cd | 111 | 108 |
| Cr | 104 | 104 |
| Cu | 111 | 101 |
| Mn | - | 110 |
| Мо | 110 | 107 |
| Ni | 104 | 100 |
| Pb | 97 | 97 |
| Sb | 95 | 99 |
| Se | 105 | 91 |
| U | 88 | 86 |
| Zn | - | - |

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Standard Reference Materials

Standards were diluted at a minimum of 50x after digestion.

Elements with reference values below the detection limit were not reported.

Per FDA EAM 4.41, reference values should have a per cent recovery of 80% – 120%.

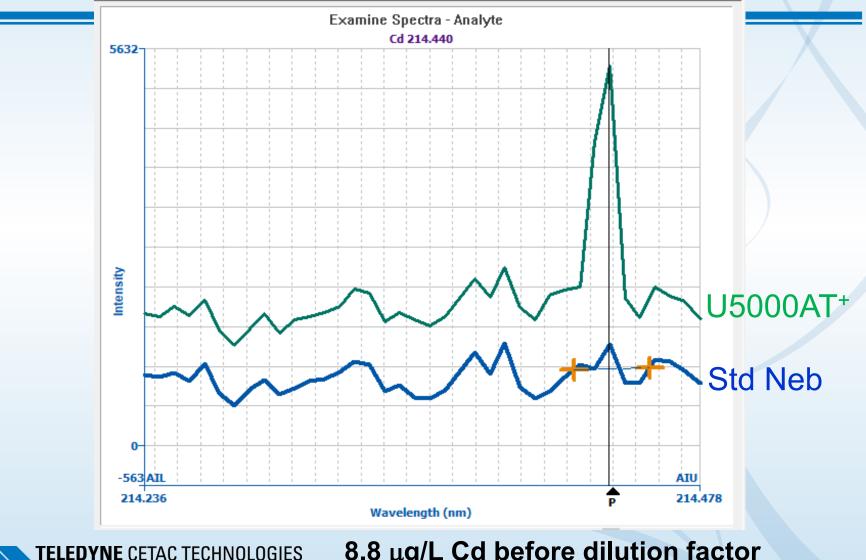


Certified Reference Materials NIST[®] 1577 Bovine Liver

| Element | Ref. Value (mg/kg) | Result (mg/kg) | % Recovery |
|---------|-----------------------|----------------|------------|
| Ва | - | - | - |
| Са | 120 | 116 | 97 |
| Cd | 0.44 | 0.497 | 113 |
| Cu | 158 | 148 | 94 |
| Fe | 194 | 186 | 96 |
| К | 9960 | 9410 | 93 |
| Mg | 600 | 547 | 91 |
| Mn | 9.9 | 9.4 | 95 |
| Мо | 3.5 | 3.37 | 96 |
| Na | 2430 | 2100 | 86 |
| Р | 11100 | 9477 | 85 |
| Zn | 123 | 107 | 87 |



Comparison of Cd ICP-OES Signal NIST® 1577 Bovine Liver



8.8 μg/L Cd before dilution factor

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Certified Reference Materials NIST[®] 1538 Rice Flour

| Element | Ref. Value (mg/kg) | Result (mg/kg) | % Recovery |
|---------|-----------------------|----------------|------------|
| Ва | - | - | - |
| Са | 118 | 112 | 95 |
| Cd | - | - | - |
| Cu | 2.4 | 2.42 | 101 |
| Fe | 7.4 | 7.6 | 102 |
| К | 1280 | 1189 | 93 |
| Mg | 560 | 513 | 92 |
| Mn | 20 | 19 | 95 |
| Мо | 1.46 | 1.43 | 98 |
| Na | - | - | - |
| Р | 1530 | 1732 | 113 |
| Zn | 19.4 | 19.3 | 99 |



Certified Reference Materials NIST[®] 1549 Nonfat Milk Powder

| Element | Ref. Value (mg/kg) | Result (mg/kg) | % Recovery |
|---------|-----------------------|----------------|------------|
| Ва | 2.2 | 2.06 | 94 |
| Са | 13000 | 12245 | 94 |
| Cd | - | - | - |
| Cu | - | - | - |
| Fe | 1.78 | 1.68 | 95 |
| К | 16900 | 14694 | 87 |
| Mg | 1200 | 1186 | 99 |
| Mn | - | - | - |
| Мо | - | - | - |
| Na | 4970 | 4679 | 94 |
| Р | 10600 | 14694 | 87 |
| Zn | 46.1 | 54.5 | 118 |



Analysis of Juices and Food Matrices Using U5000AT⁺ & ICP-OES Detection: Conclusions and Benefits

- Enhanced signal and lower detection limts for important elements such as As, Cd, Pb, and Se
- Accurate nutrient results necessary for food package labels
- Fast and easy setup with host ICP-OES
- No computer control required



Ultrasonic Nebulizer for ICP-OES Part Numbers for Ordering

U5000AT⁺ Ultrasonic Nebulizer

- U51-99-0001A+ (115 V)

- U51-99-0001B+ (220 V)



U5000AT⁺ Interface Kits for ICP-OES U5000AT⁺ Compatibility

- All ICP-OES Models
 - Examples with Interface Kit SP Numbers ()
 - Agilent (SP5155Y)
 - Analytik Jena (SP5155Y)
 - PerkinElmer (SP5155L)
 - Shimadzu (SP5155Z)
 - Spectro (SP5155P)
 - Teledyne Leeman (SP5155I)
 - Thermo Fisher (SP5155CC)

One interface kit provided at no charge with each U5000AT⁺



Acknowledgement

 Special thanks to Mary Jo Menke-Wright for her work in sample preparation, method development, data collection, and outline text for this important application.



Where to go for more information

- Service support
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- Web information
 - <u>https://www.teledynecetac.com/products/nebulizers/u5000at</u>+
 - <u>https://www.teledynecetac.com/site-</u> products/Brochures/Flyer_U5000AT.pdf
 - <u>https://www.teledynecetac.com/resourceSite/Application%20</u>
 <u>Notes/AP-U5000-005.pdf</u>

