



National Institute of Standards & Technology

Certificate of Analysis

Standard Reference Material[®] 2389a

Amino Acids in 0.1 mol/L Hydrochloric Acid

This Standard Reference Material (SRM) is intended primarily for use in calibration of chromatographic instrumentation for the determination of amino acids. SRM 2389a is a solution of 17 amino acids in a 0.1 mol/L aqueous solution of hydrochloric acid. A unit of SRM 2389a consists of five 2-mL ampoules each containing approximately 1.2 mL of the solution under argon.

Certified Concentrations of Amino Acids: The certified concentrations and estimated uncertainties for the 17 amino acids provided in Table 1 are based on the results obtained from the gravimetric preparation of the solutions and from the analytical results determined using liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS). A NIST certified value is a value for which NIST has the highest confidence in its accuracy in that all known or suspected sources of bias have been investigated or taken into account [1]. Values are provided in mass fraction units (mg/g), and, for user convenience, in amount-of-substance concentrations (mmol/L) [2]. The amount-of-substance concentrations were calculated from the mass fraction values using the density of the solution determined at 20 °C (g/mL) and the relative molecular masses of each amino acid. An allowance for the change in density over the range 18 °C to 23 °C is included in the uncertainty.

Expiration of Certification: The certification of **SRM 2389a** is valid, within the measurement uncertainties specified, until **01 January 2019**, provided the SRM is handled in accordance with the instructions given in this certificate (see “Instructions for Handling, Storage, and Use”). The certification is nullified if the SRM is damaged, contaminated, or otherwise modified.

Maintenance of SRM Certification: NIST will monitor this SRM over the period of its certification. If substantive technical 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 certification was under the direction of D.M. Bunk, M.S. Lowenthal, and K.W. Phinney of the NIST Analytical Chemistry Division.

Preparation of the SRM solution was performed in the NIST Analytical Chemistry Division by L.T. Sniegoski and M.J. Welch. Analytical measurements were performed by B.S. Benford and M.S. Lowenthal of the NIST Analytical Chemistry Division and B.E. Lang of the NIST Biochemical Science Division.

Statistical consultations on the experimental design and the evaluation of the data were provided by J.H. Yen of the NIST Statistical Engineering Division.

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

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Table 1. Certified Values for Amino Acids in SRM 2389a

| Amino Acid | Mass Fraction ^(a) (mg/g) | Concentration ^(b) (mmol/L) |
|---------------|--|--|
| Alanine | 0.223 ± 0.007 | 2.50 ± 0.07 |
| Arginine | 0.436 ± 0.012 | 2.51 ± 0.07 |
| Aspartic acid | 0.333 ± 0.010 | 2.50 ± 0.08 |
| Cystine | 0.295 ± 0.013 | 1.23 ± 0.06 |
| Glutamic acid | 0.368 ± 0.011 | 2.50 ± 0.08 |
| Glycine | 0.189 ± 0.005 | 2.52 ± 0.07 |
| Histidine | 0.390 ± 0.011 | 2.52 ± 0.07 |
| Isoleucine | 0.320 ± 0.015 | 2.44 ± 0.11 |
| Leucine | 0.319 ± 0.014 | 2.44 ± 0.11 |
| Lysine | 0.353 ± 0.024 | 2.41 ± 0.17 |
| Methionine | 0.373 ± 0.011 | 2.51 ± 0.07 |
| Phenylalanine | 0.421 ± 0.014 | 2.55 ± 0.09 |
| Proline | 0.282 ± 0.013 | 2.46 ± 0.11 |
| Serine | 0.256 ± 0.012 | 2.44 ± 0.11 |
| Threonine | 0.296 ± 0.009 | 2.49 ± 0.07 |
| Tyrosine | 0.459 ± 0.014 | 2.54 ± 0.08 |
| Valine | 0.293 ± 0.012 | 2.51 ± 0.10 |

^(a) The results are expressed as the certified value ± the expanded uncertainty. Each result is the average of the gravimetric and the LC-MS/MS means. The uncertainty provided with each value is an expanded uncertainty about the mean to cover the measurand with approximately 95 % confidence: it expresses both the observed difference between the results from the methods and their respective uncertainties, incorporating uncertainty components for purity correction and gravimetry, consistently with the ISO Guide and with its Supplement 1 [3-5].

^(b) The amount-of-substance concentrations (mmol/L) were obtained by multiplying the certified values in mass fraction units by the density of the solution at 20 °C (1.00123 g/mL) and dividing by the relative molecular masses of each of the compounds. These concentrations are for use in the temperature range of 18 °C to 23 °C, and an allowance for the change in density over this temperature range is included in the Type B components of uncertainty.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR HANDLING, STORAGE, AND USE

Handling: This material contains 0.1 mol/L hydrochloric acid and should be handled with care. Use proper disposal methods.

Storage: Sealed ampoules, as received, should be stored in the dark at approximately 4 °C.

Use: Prior to removal of the test portion for analysis, the contents of an ampoule of material should be allowed to warm to room temperature (18 °C to 23 °C). Test portions for use should be withdrawn immediately after opening the ampoules and should be processed or diluted without delay for the certified concentration to be valid within the stated uncertainty. The certified concentration values listed in Table 1 apply only to aliquots removed at 18 °C to 23 °C.

PREPARATION AND ANALYSIS¹

Preparation of Material: All chemicals used in the preparation of this SRM were of the highest purity available and were obtained from a commercial source. The amino acid solution was prepared by weighing the individual amino acids, concentrated HCl, and water and mixing until the amino acids were completely dissolved. The total mass of this solution was measured. The concentration of each amino acid was calculated using the measured density of the 0.1 mol/L HCl solution at 20 °C of 1.00123 g/mL. Corrections were made to the calculated amino acid concentrations based on purity as determined by LC with absorbance detection with confirmatory data provided by the manufacturer. The purity of each amino acid was also evaluated by elemental analysis at Galbraith Laboratories (Knoxville, TN).

¹ Certain commercial equipment, instruments, or materials are identified in this report to specify adequately the experimental procedure. Such identification does not imply recommendation or endorsement by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, nor does it imply that the materials or equipment identified are necessarily the best available for the purpose.

Moisture content for all amino acids was determined using Karl Fischer titration at Galbraith Laboratories and for lysine at NIST. Arginine and lysine contained measurable levels of water and values were corrected; correction for moisture was not necessary for the remaining amino acids.

The bulk solution was dispensed in 1.2 mL aliquots into argon-flushed 2-mL amber ampoules that were then flame sealed and stored in numbered boxes at ≈ 4 °C.

LC-MS/MS Measurements: Three aliquots from four randomly selected ampoules were analyzed in duplicate by LC-MS/MS on a SIELC (Prospect Heights, IL) Primesep 100 mixed-mode LC column. Chromatographic separation was performed using microflow liquid chromatography coupled in-line to a triple quadrupole mass spectrometer equipped with a standard source. Data were acquired through selected-reaction monitoring of amino acid precursor-to-product ion transitions. Unique isotopically-labeled internal standards were used for quantification of each amino acid. Internal standards and calibrants were prepared gravimetrically in 0.1 mol/L HCl as stock solutions and were further diluted gravimetrically to working concentrations. Internal standards were mixed gravimetrically with calibrants and were measured quantitatively by LC-MS/MS to determine the calibration curves. The same internal standard solution was mixed with aliquots of SRM 2389a and was analyzed in an identical manner. Mass ratios of SRM 2389a were determined by interpolation of integrated peak area ratios through calibration curves created from multiple reaction monitoring analysis of the calibrants.

REFERENCES

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- [4] JCGM 101:2008; *Evaluation of measurement data – Supplement 1 to the Guide to Expression of Uncertainty in Measurement*; Propagation of Distributions Using a Monte Carlo Method; Joint Committee for Guides in Metrology (BIPM, IEC, IFCC, ILAC, ISO, IUPAC, IUPAP and OIML), International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM), Sèvres, France (2008); available at http://www.bipm.org/utis/common/documents/jcgm/JCGM_101_2008_E.pdf (accessed Jul 2010).
- [5] Efron, B.; Tibshirani, R.J.; *An Introduction to the Bootstrap*; Chapman & Hall, London, UK (1993).

Users of this SRM should ensure that the Certificate of Analysis 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>.