



National Institute of Standards & Technology

Certificate of Analysis

Standard Reference Material[®] 1660a

Methane and Propane in Air

(Nominal Amount-of-Substance Fraction – [4 $\mu\text{mol/mol}$ Methane; 1 $\mu\text{mol/mol}$ Propane])

This certificate reports the certified values for Lot 13-XX-E.

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

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 psig), which provides the user with 0.73 m³ (25.8 ft³) of useable mixture. The cylinder is the property of the purchaser and is equipped with a CGA-590 brass valve, which is the recommended outlet for this propane mixture.

Certified Value: This SRM mixture has been certified for methane and propane concentration. The certified values given below apply to the identified cylinder and NIST sample number.

Methane Concentration:	3.94 $\mu\text{mol/mol} \pm 0.02 \mu\text{mol/mol}$
Propane Concentration:	0.972 $\mu\text{mol/mol} \pm 0.005 \mu\text{mol/mol}$

Cylinder Number: SAMPLE
Hydrotest Date: March 1994

NIST Sample Number: SAMPLE
Blend Date: June 1994

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. The uncertainty of the certified value includes the estimated uncertainties in the NIST standards, the analytical comparisons to the lot standard (LS), and the uncertainty of comparing the LS with each of the mixtures comprising this lot. The uncertainty is expressed as an expanded uncertainty $U = ku_c$ with u_c determined by experiment and a coverage factor $k = 2$. The true value for the methane and propane amount-of-substance fraction 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: The certification of **SRM 1660a Lot No. 13-XX-E** is valid, within the measurement uncertainty specified, until **01 October 2017**, provided the SRM is handled and stored in accordance with instructions given in this certificate (see "Cylinder and Gas Handling Information"). The certification is nullified if the SRM is damaged, contaminated, or otherwise modified.

Cylinder and Gas Handling Information: NIST recommends the use of a high-purity, two-stage pressure regulator with a stainless steel diaphragm and CGA-590 outlet to safely reduce the pressure and to deliver this SRM mixture to the instrument. The regulator should be purged to prevent accidental contamination of the SRM by repeatedly (minimum three times) opening the valve and pressurizing the regulator, then closing the valve and releasing the pressure safely into a vent line. This SRM should not be used after the internal pressure drops below 0.7 MPa (100 psig). This SRM should be stored under normal laboratory conditions within the temperature range of 15 °C and 30 °C.

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

Stephen A. Wise, Chief
Analytical Chemistry Division

Gaithersburg, MD 20899
Certificate Issue Date: 27 July 2010
See Certificate Revision History on Last Page

Robert L. Watters, Jr., Chief
Measurement Services Division

The analytical measurements leading to the certification of the current SRM lot were performed by G.C. Rhoderick, and M.E. Kelley of the NIST Analytical Chemistry Division.

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

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.

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 methane and propane concentration and stable with time.

Analytical Methods: Analyses of the methane and propane concentration for this lot of cylinders were conducted by comparing each cylinder mixture to a representative cylinder chosen from the lot, the LS, using gas chromatography with flame-ionization detection. Assignment of the methane and propane concentration to the LS was accomplished by comparison to primary gravimetric standards using gas chromatography with flame-ionization detection.

Homogeneity Analysis: Each of the methane and propane mixtures that comprise this SRM lot was compared to the LS using gas chromatography with flame-ionization detection. A statistical analysis of the analytical results indicated that sample-to-sample methane and propane concentration differences were not statistically significant. This indicates that, within the precision of the NIST measurements, all of the cylinders comprising this SRM lot have identical methane and propane concentrations. Therefore, one concentration has been assigned to the entire SRM lot.

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

Information Values: Results for additional analyses performed during the certification process are given below. The concentrations reported are **NOT** certified values. These values are given for informational purposes only. An information value is considered to be a value that will be of interest to the SRM user, but for which insufficient information is available to assess adequately the uncertainty associated with the value, or only a limited number of analyses were performed [3].

Constituent	Concentration	Method	CAS Registry
Argon	0.92 % mol/mol	Mass Spectrometry	7440-37-1
Carbon Dioxide	350 μ mol/mol	Mass Spectrometry	124-38-9
Oxygen	20.91 % mol/mol	Mass Spectrometry	7782-44-7
Other Hydrocarbons (expressed as methane)	< 0.010 μ mol/mol	GC/FID	74-82-8
or			
Other Hydrocarbons (expressed as propane)	< 0.003 μ mol/mol	GC/FID	74-98-6
Nitrogen	Balance		10102-44-0

REFERENCES

- [1] Thompson, A.; Taylor, B.N.; *Guide for the Use of the International System of Units (SI)*; NIST Special Publication 811; U.S. Government Printing Office: Washington, DC (2008); available at: http://ts.nist.gov/WeightsAndMeasures/Metric/mpo_pubs.cfm (accessed Jul 2010).
- [2] JCGM 100:2008; Evaluation of Measurement Data — Guide to the Expression of Uncertainty in Measurement (ISO GUM 1995 with Minor Corrections); Joint Committee for Guides in Metrology (2008); available at http://www.bipm.org/utis/common/documents/jcgm/JCGM_100_2008_E.pdf (accessed Jul 2010); see also Taylor, B.N.; 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://www.nist.gov/physlab/pubs/index.cfm> (accessed Jul 2010).
- [3] May, W.; Parris, R.; Beck II, C.; Fassett, J.; Greenberg, R.; Guenther, F.; Kramer, G.; Wise, S.; Gills, T.; Colbert, J.; Gettings, R.; MacDonald, B.; *Definition of Terms and Modes Used at NIST for Value-Assignment of Reference Materials for Chemical Measurements*; NIST Special Publication 260-136 (2000); available at <http://ts.nist.gov/MeasurementServices/ReferenceMaterials/PUBLICATIONS.cfm> (accessed Jul 2010).

Certificate Revision History: 27 July 2010 (Extension of the certification period; editorial changes); 24 June 2005 (This revision reflects an extension in the certification period for cylinders listed in this document); 16 July 2001 (Original certificate date).

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>.