

Saxitoxin in Freshwater Sample Preparation

1. Intended Use

For the detection of Saxitoxin in freshwater samples: groundwater, surface water, drinking water, effluent.

2. Materials Required (Not Provided)

Pipettes capable of delivering 100 and 900 μ L
Glass sample collection vials with Teflon lined caps

3. Notes and Precautions

Immediately upon collection, freshwater samples must be preserved with 10X Concentrated Sample Diluent to prevent adsorptive loss of Saxitoxin from the sample. This step is necessary for freshwater samples only. Saltwater samples do not require additional reagents for preservation due to their naturally occurring salts.

Treated drinking water samples, in addition to being preserved with 10X Concentrated Sample Diluent, must be quenched with sodium thiosulfate or ascorbic acid immediately upon collection to remove residual chlorine. Sodium thiosulfate or ascorbic acid at 0.1 mg/mL is recommended. If necessary, samples can be quenched with concentrations up to and including 1 mg/mL (concentrations above 1 mg/mL will cause interference in the assay). Sodium thiosulfate or ascorbic acid may be added to the sample container prior to collection. Avoid overfilling pre-treated sample bottles, as quenching reagents may be lost, producing insufficiently quenched samples and therefore inaccurate sample results. The quenching of residual chlorine is necessary for treated water samples only. Raw (untreated) drinking water samples (samples not treated with chlorine) do not require sodium thiosulfate or ascorbic acid at the time of collection.

4. Procedure (for preserving with 10X Concentrated Sample Diluent)

Add 100 μ L of 10X Concentrated Sample Diluent per 900 μ L of Sample. Cap container and invert several times to thoroughly mix.

The sample is now ready to analyze according to the procedure described in the Abraxis Saxitoxin Kit package insert.

5. Evaluation of Results

Results obtained with freshwater samples which have been preserved with 10X Concentrated Sample Diluent as described above must be multiplied by a factor of 1.1 to account for the initial dilution of samples with 10X Diluent.

6. Performance Data

Recovery

Four (4) freshwater samples were spiked with various levels of Saxitoxin, preserved as described above, and then assayed using the Saxitoxin Assay. The following results were obtained:

Amount of Saxitoxin Added (ppb)	----- Recovery -----				S.D. (ppb)	%
	Mean (ppb)	48 Hours Mean (ppb)	1 Week Mean (ppb)			
0.04	0.046	0.046	0.050	0.002	117.9	
0.08	0.087	0.085	0.086	0.001	107.5	
0.2	0.227	0.217	0.217	0.006	110.1	
Average					111.8	

7. Assistance

For ordering or technical assistance contact:

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