



DRIFT SAMPLES: HOW AND WHEN TO USE IT

WHAT IS AN XRF DRIFT SAMPLE?

An XRF drift sample is used to correct for instrumental drift over time. The drift sample does not have to be made from the same sample material as the matrix material. However, it does have to be a stable matrix. Once registered to the calibration method, an intensity-based correction is applied to correct for changes in the observed raw intensities. If done correctly, re-calibration is not necessary.

TERMINOLOGY used for Drift Samples

- 1) Monitors
- 2) Drift Correction Samples
- 3) Setting-Up Samples (SUS)
- 4) Standardization Materials
- 5) Blocks, Flats (yes, we've actually heard customers use these terms!)

WHEN TO APPLY THE DRIFT SAMPLE

Once a stable drift sample has been identified, it is typically registered to the method at the time of calibration (i.e. Day 0). In other words, the initial baseline intensities are registered for each element. As a general rule of thumb, the drift sample does not get analyzed again unless the control (or check) sample fails to meet the specifications as defined by the user. A new coefficient is generated every time the drift sample is analyzed and is then applied to the raw intensity of each element.

NEED ASSISTANCE?

Don't know which sample to use as a drift sample or where to start? Check out the website to learn more about our XRF consulting services.

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