

# FACT SHEET

## Organic Vapour Monitoring

Organic Vapours can present health problems in industrial situations if the levels become significant. Most organic compounds are toxic, but the degree of toxicity varies dramatically with the specific type of compound. To determine if a situation presents a risk to health then site monitoring should be carried out for the compounds involved.

Typical industrial operations which have been found to produce unacceptable levels are:

- a. Painting, especially spray painting, when solvent paints are used.
- b. Stripping and cleaning operations where organic solvents are used, such as trichloroethane, etc.
- c. Operation of combustion engines in areas of poor ventilation, such as diesel engines in underground mines.
- d. Use of organic solvents in mineral processing, such as bromoform for mineral separation by density
- e. Manufacture of plastic products

Organic substances can also present a health hazard when they are present in drinking water. This can arise through contamination of the water supply or through leaching of solvents from paints inside storage tanks.

Organic gases in air can be monitored by collecting the gas on absorber tubes. This can be done by either using adsorbent badges or tubes, which operate on a standard air sampling pump. Once the gas is collected it is then desorbed, chemically or thermally and analysed by gas chromatography (GC) with FID or MS detection. Results are normally available within 48 hours of receiving the samples.

Organics dissolved in drinking water can be determined by collecting the sample in purge and trap vials and submitting for analysis by purge and trap and GC-MS.

Please contact our customer service department for your supply of tubes, badges or vials.

### MPL Laboratories

16 - 18 Hayden Court, Myaree,  
Western Australia 6154  
PO Box 4023 Myaree BC,  
Western Australia 6960

Tel: +61 8 9317 2505  
Fax: +61 8 9317 4163  
email: [laboratory@mpl.com.au](mailto:laboratory@mpl.com.au)  
[www.envirolabservices.com.au](http://www.envirolabservices.com.au)



Part of the Envirolab Group

