

PFAS Analysis According to EPA 533 and to EPA 537.1

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Abstract

This application note describes the determination of native per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) according to EPA directives 533 and 537.1. It demonstrates the chromatographic separation of PFAS using a NUCLEODUR® PFAS analytical HPLC column in combination with a NUCLEODUR® PFAS Delay column.

Introduction

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) belong to a large group of manufactured chemicals which are very persistent in the environment and which have been used as additives in consumer products like fire-fighting foam, fiber coating, cookware, paper finishing, food packaging (e. g. pizza cartons, paper cups), building material, (e. g. water resistant lacquer). These anthropogenic pollutants are characterized by a linear aliphatic backbone, a high degree of fluorination and often feature a carboxylic or sulfonic acid functionality and have the potential to accumulate in the environment and impact the food chain, affecting fish, birds, livestock, and humans.

PFAS present entail numerous analytical challenges, including their widespread presence in a variety of environmental samples, occurrence of isomers for some compounds and precursor transformations that may occur during preservation and storage of the samples. There is also evidence that exposure to PFAS can lead to adverse human health effects.

This is the reason why authorities in the US published variety of laws and regulations to protect public health and the environment [1]:

- Safe Drinking Water Act
- Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA)
- Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act
- Clean Air Act

To protect environment and human health, the environmental protection agency (EPA) has published an action plan for identification and for understanding PFAS, e.g. new approaches to address current PFAS contamination, to prevent future contamination and to effectively communicate with the public about PFAS [2].

There is a need of robust and fast analytical methods to ensure accurate quantification of low levels. Therefore, EPA recommends two methods to detect PFAS from drinking water by solid phase extraction (SPE) and liquid chromatography/tandem mass spectrometry (LC/MS-MS) [3, 4].

This work presents the analysis of PFAS according to directives EPA method 533 and 537.1. It represents the chromatographic separation of PFAS using a NUCLEODUR® PFAS analytical HPLC column in combination with a NUCLEODUR® PFAS Delay column.

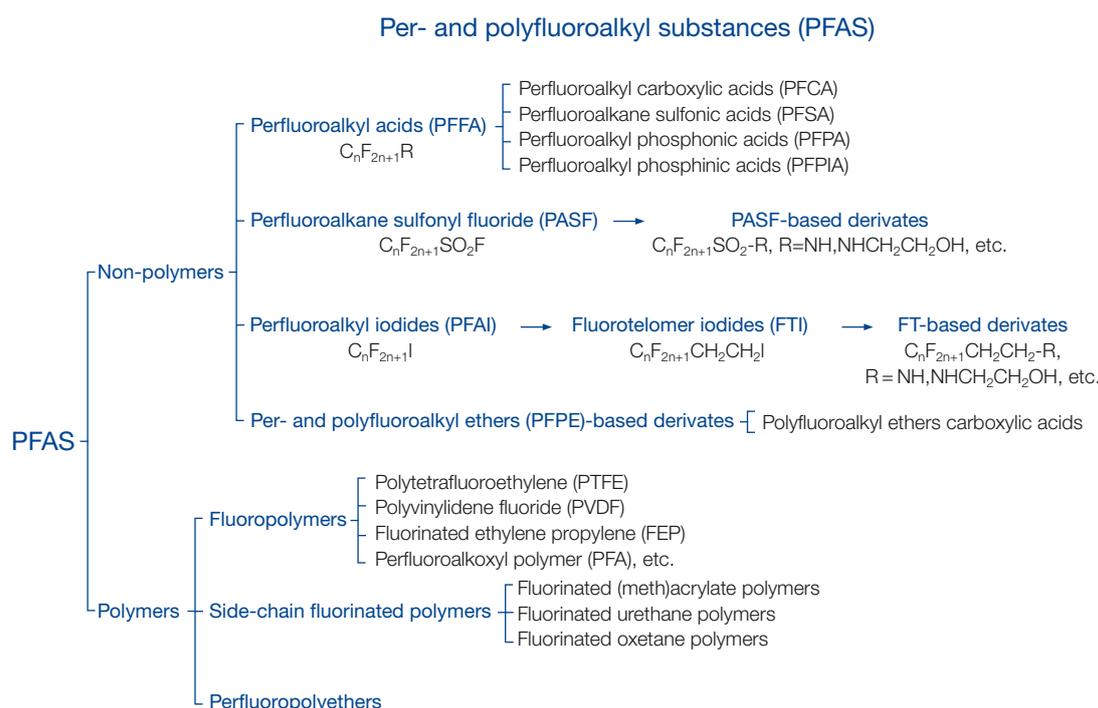


Figure 1: Classes of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

PFAS Analysis According to EPA 533 and to EPA 537.1

Analysis by HPLC-MS/MS

A: Chromatographic conditions

NUCLEODUR® PFAS, EC 50 x 2 mm, 3 µm

Delay column: EC 50/2 NUCLEODUR® PFAS Delay , 5 µm (REF 760673.20)

Analytical column: EC 50/2 NUCLEODUR® PFAS, 3 µm (REF 760663.20)

Eluent A: 5 mM ammonium acetate in water

Eluent B: 5 mM ammonium acetate in methanol

Gradient: hold 40 % B for 0.5 min, in 4 min from 40 % B to 95 % B, hold 95 % B for 1.5 min, in 0.05 min to 40 % B, hold 40 % B for 1.45 min

Flow rate: 0.3 mL/min

Temperature: 40 °C

Injection volume: 2 µL

Sample solution: Mixture of PFAS in methanol, concentration 1 ng/mL for each compound

B: Chromatographic conditions

NUCLEODUR® PFAS, EC 100 x 2 mm, 3 µm

Delay column: EC 50/2 NUCLEODUR® PFAS Delay , 5 µm (REF 760673.20)

Analytical column: EC 100/2 NUCLEODUR® PFAS, 3 µm (REF 760666.20)

Eluent A: 5 mM ammonium acetate in water

Eluent B: 5 mM ammonium acetate in methanol

Gradient: hold 40 % B for 1.0 min, in 8 min from 40 % B to 95 % B, hold 95 % B for 3.0 min, in 0.1 min to 40 % B, hold 40 % B for 2.9 min

Flow rate: 0.3 mL/min

Temperature: 40 °C

Injection volume: 2 µL

Sample solution: Mixture of PFAS in methanol, concentration 1 ng/mL for each compound

MS conditions:

AB Sciex QTRAP 5500

Acquisition mode: SRM **Ion spray voltage:** – 4500 V

Interface: ESI **Temperature:** 400 °C

Polarity: negative **Ion source gas 1:** 50 psig

Curtain gas: 30 psig **Ion source gas 2:** 60 psig

Collision Gas: medium **Detection window:** 60 s

MRM transitions

| Analyte | Abbreviation | CAS number | Q ₁ mass [Da] | Q ₃ mass [Da] | Retention time [min] A | Retention time [min] B |
|---|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid | HFPO-DA | 13252-13-6 | 284.9 | 168.7 | 3.26 | 5.77 |
| Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid | PFBS | 375-73-5 | 298.9 | 98.9 | 2.37 | 4.20 |
| Perfluorohexanoic acid | PFHxA | 307-24-4 | 312.9 | 268.8 | 3.05 | 5.40 |
| Perfluoroheptanoic acid | PFHpA | 375-85-9 | 362.9 | 318.8 | 3.60 | 6.45 |
| 4,8-Dioxa-3H-perfluorononanoic acid | ADONA | 919005-14-4 | 376.9 | 250.7 | 3.66 | 6.58 |
| Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid | PFHxS | 355-46-4 | 398.9 | 79.8 | 3.62 | 6.49 |
| Perfluorooctanoic acid | PFOA | 335-67-1 | 412.9 | 369.0 | 3.99 | 7.26 |
| Perfluorononanoic acid | PFNA | 375-95-1 | 462.9 | 418.9 | 4.31 | 7.92 |
| Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid | PFOS | 1763-23-1 | 498.8 | 79.9 | 4.30 | 7.89 |
| Perfluorodecanoic acid | PFDA | 335-76-2 | 512.8 | 468.9 | 4.58 | 8.49 |
| 9-Chlorohexadecafluoro-3-oxanonane-1-sulfonic acid | 9Cl-PF ₃ ONS | 756426-58-1 | 530.8 | 350.7 | 4.48 | 8.25 |
| Perfluoroundecanoic acid | PFUnA | 2058-94-8 | 562.8 | 518.9 | 4.81 | 8.95 |
| N-methyl perfluorooctanesulfonamidoacetic acid | NMeFOSAA | 2355-31-9 | 569.8 | 418.9 | 4.71 | 8.78 |
| N-ethyl perfluorooctanesulfonamidoacetic acid | NEtFOSAA | 2991-50-6 | 583.8 | 418.8 | 4.40 | 9.02 |
| Perfluorododecanoic acid | PFDoA | 307-55-1 | 612.8 | 568.9 | 5.02 | 9.33 |
| 11-Chloroeicosafluoro-3-oxaundecane-1-sulfonic acid | 11Cl-PF ₃ OuS | 763051-92-9 | 630.7 | 451.0 | 4.93 | 9.15 |
| Perfluorotridecanoic acid | PFTriDA | 72629-94-8 | 662.8 | 618.9 | 5.19 | 9.66 |
| Perfluorotetradecanoic acid | PFTA | 376-06-7 | 712.8 | 668.8 | 5.34 | 9.94 |

Table 1: MRM transitions and retention times of PFAS according to EPA 537.1.

PFAS Analysis According to EPA 533 and to EPA 537.1

| Analyte | Abbreviation | CAS number | Q ₁ mass [Da] | Q ₃ mass [Da] | Retention time [min] A | Retention time [min] B |
|--|---------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Nonafluoro-3,6-dioxaheptanoic acid | NFDHA | 151772-58-6 | 201.0 | 85.0 | 2.94 | 5.19 |
| Perfluorobutanoic acid | PFBA | 375-22-4 | 212.9 | 168.8 | 1.02 | 2.01 |
| Perfluoro-3-methoxypropanoic acid | PFMPA | 377-73-1 | 228.9 | 85.0 | 1.37 | 2.64 |
| Perfluoropentanoic acid | PFPeA | 2706-90-3 | 262.9 | 219.0 | 2.14 | 3.90 |
| Perfluoro-4-methoxybutanoic acid | PFMBA | 863090-89-5 | 279.2 | 84.9 | 4.42 | 7.97 |
| Hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid | HFPO-DA | 13252-13-6 | 284.9 | 168.7 | 3.26 | 5.77 |
| Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid | PFBS | 375-73-5 | 298.9 | 98.9 | 2.37 | 4.20 |
| Perfluorohexanoic acid | PFHxA | 307-24-4 | 312.9 | 268.8 | 3.05 | 5.40 |
| Perfluoro(2-ethoxyethane)sulfonic acid | PFEESA | 113507-82-7 | 315.1 | 135.1 | 2.76 | 4.85 |
| 1H,1H, 2H, 2H-Perfluorohexane sulfonic acid | 4:2FTS | 757124-72-4 | 326.9 | 306.9 | 2,98 | 5.27 |
| Perfluoropentanesulfonic acid | PFPeS | 2706-91-4 | 348.8 | 80.0 | 3.13 | 5.54 |
| Perfluoroheptanoic acid | PFHpA | 375-85-9 | 362.9 | 318.8 | 3.60 | 6.45 |
| 4,8-Dioxa-3H-perfluorononanoic acid | ADONA | 919005-14-4 | 376.9 | 250.7 | 3.66 | 6.58 |
| Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid | PFHxS | 355-46-4 | 398.9 | 79.8 | 3.62 | 6.49 |
| Perfluorooctanoic acid | PFOA | 335-67-1 | 412.9 | 369.0 | 3.99 | 7.26 |
| 1H,1H, 2H, 2H-Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid | 6:2FTS | 27619-97-2 | 426.9 | 406.9 | 3.99 | 7.24 |
| Perfluoroheptanesulfonic acid | PFHpS | 375-92-8 | 448.9 | 79.8 | 4.00 | 7.26 |
| Perfluorononanoic acid | PFNA | 375-95-1 | 462.9 | 418.9 | 4.31 | 7.92 |
| Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid | PFOS | 1763-23-1 | 498.8 | 79.9 | 4.30 | 7.89 |
| 1H,1H, 2H, 2H-Perfluorodecane sulfonic acid | 8:2FTS | 39108-34-4 | 526.8 | 506.8 | 4.60 | 8.50 |
| Perfluorodecanoic acid | PFDA | 335-76-2 | 512.8 | 468.9 | 4.58 | 8.49 |
| 9-Chlorohexadecafluoro-3-oxanonane-1-sulfonic acid | 9Cl-PF ₃ ONS | 756426-58-1 | 530.8 | 350.7 | 4.48 | 8.25 |
| Perfluoroundecanoic acid | PFUnA | 2058-94-8 | 562.8 | 518.9 | 4.81 | 8.95 |
| Perfluorododecanoic acid | PFDoA | 307-55-1 | 612.8 | 568.9 | 5.02 | 9.33 |
| 11-Chloroeicosfluoro-3-oxaundecane-1-sulfonic acid | 11Cl-PF ₃ OUdS | 763051-92-9 | 630.7 | 451.0 | 4.93 | 9.15 |

Table 2: MRM transitions and retention times of PFAS according to EPA 533.

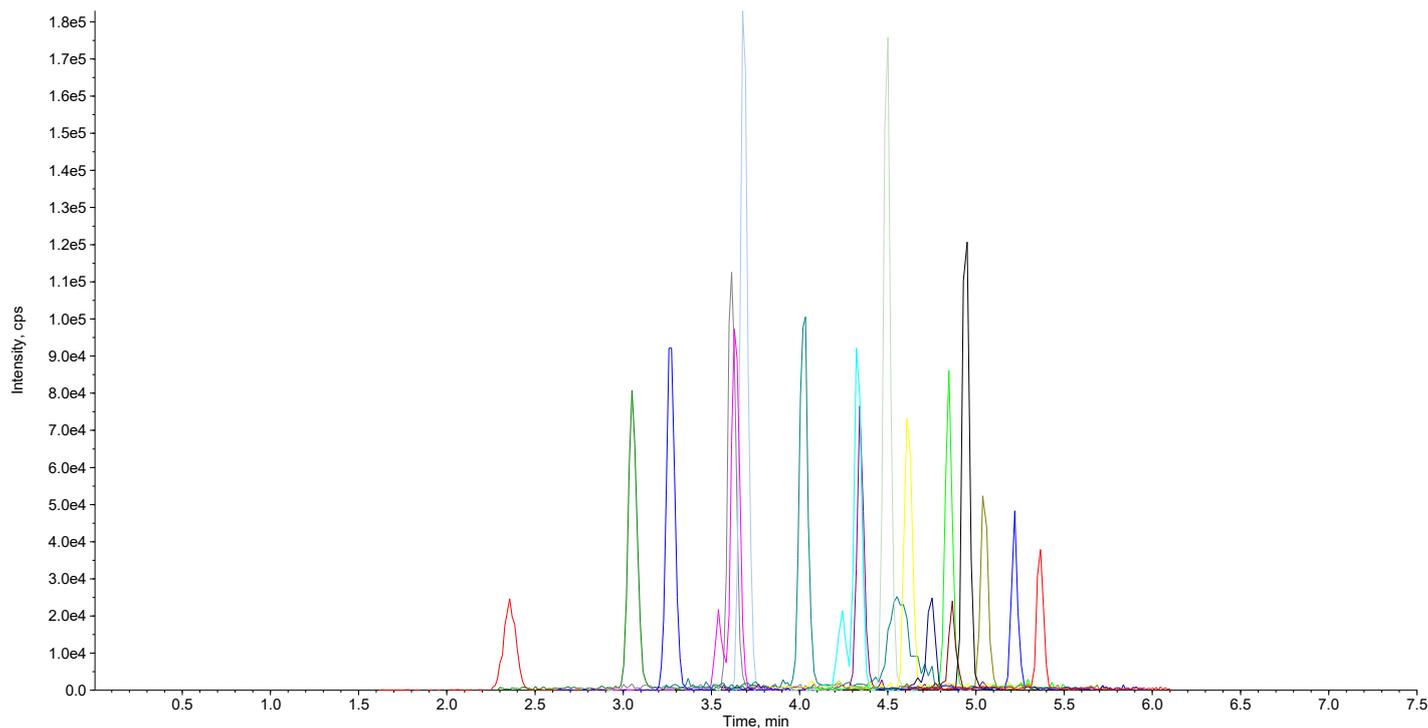


Figure 2: Chromatogram of PFAS according to EPA 537.1 on NUCLEODUR® PFAS EC 50 x 2 mm column ($\beta = 1.0$ ng/mL for each compound).

PFAS Analysis According to EPA 533 and to EPA 537.1

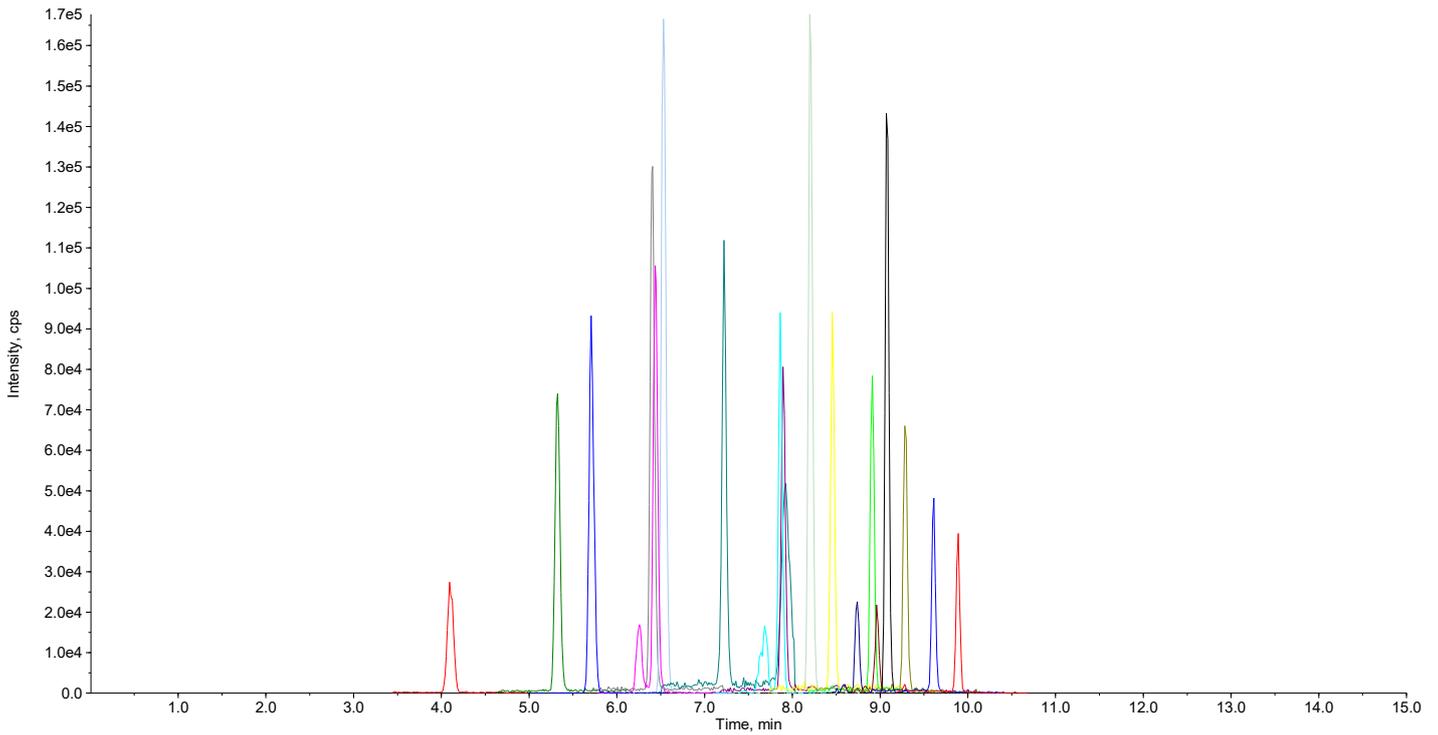


Figure 3: Chromatogram of PFAS according to EPA 537.1 on NUCLEODUR® PFAS EC 100 x 2 mm column ($\beta = 1.0$ ng/mL for each compound).

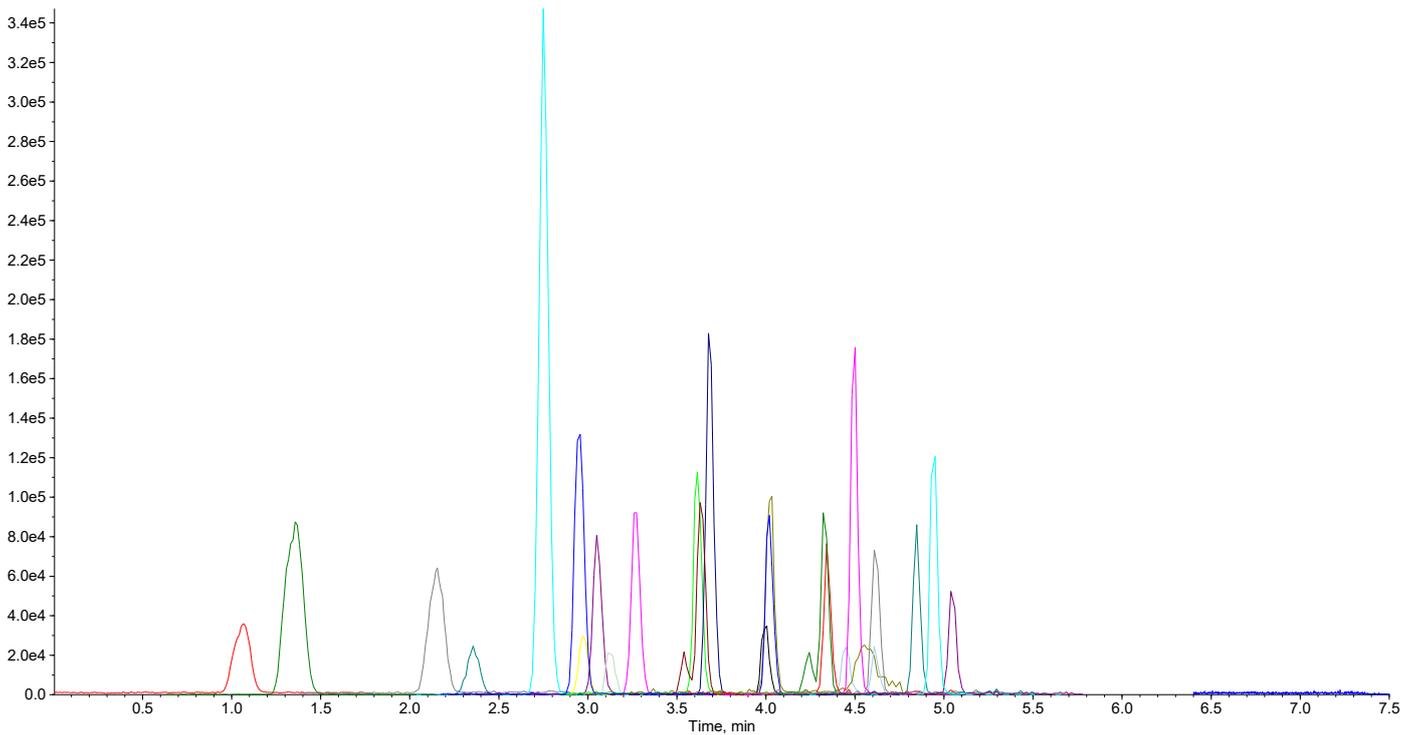


Figure 4: Chromatogram of PFAS according to EPA 533 on NUCLEODUR® PFAS EC 50 x 2 mm column ($\beta = 1.0$ ng/mL for each compound).

PFAS Analysis According to EPA 533 and to EPA 537.1

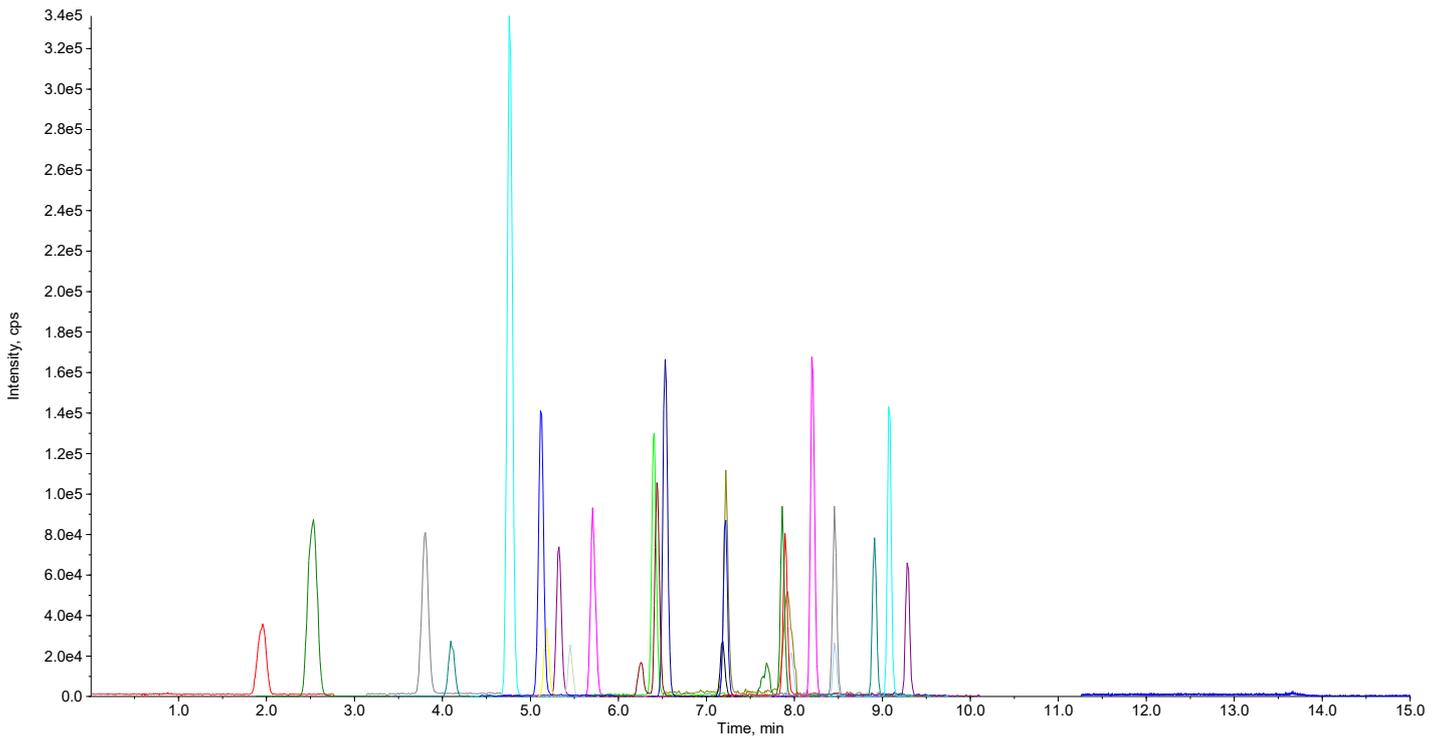


Figure 5: Chromatogram of PFAS according to EPA 533 on NUCLEODUR® PFAS EC 100 x 2 mm column ($\beta = 1.0$ ng/mL for each compound).

Excursus: The way of PFAS from manufacturing over waste and consumer products to environment and human contamination

PFAS are emitted into the environment by different pathways. For example, exhaust air from industrial sources can contain PFAS and thus are dispersed into nearby ground and water bodies. Rain and snow, for example, can eventually carry them from the air into the soil and surface waters. Particle accumulation can even cause them to travel long distances through the air. PFAS are therefore also found far from industrial production sites and human living areas, such as in sediments from the Bering Sea to the Arctic [5, 6].

Through volatilization from products (evaporation from carpets or home textiles treated with soil-repellent agents) or from waterproofing sprays, indoor air can also be contaminated.

Soils can also be directly contaminated, for example by firefighting foams. With the uptake of PFAS from contaminated soils and waters in vegetation and their accumulation in fish, these substances enter the human food chain. Consequently, humans absorb PFAS from the environment through food, water or air.



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Schematic diagram

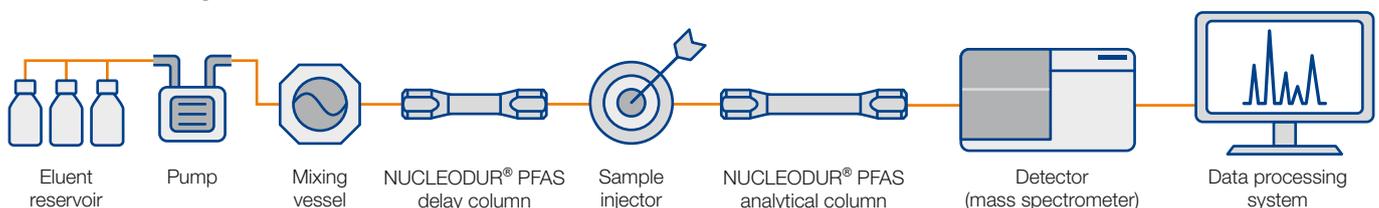


Figure 6: Installation and usage of NUCLEODUR® PFAS Delay column. The NUCLEODUR® PFAS Delay column is connected in flow direction between the mixing vessel and the sample injector.

PFAS Analysis According to EPA 533 and to EPA 537.1

Separation of instrument contaminants by using a delay column

The prevalence of PFOA is commonly observed as an instrument materials contaminant. The following figures 7 and 8 show the benefits of using a delay column for the combinations A and B (see chromatographic conditions).

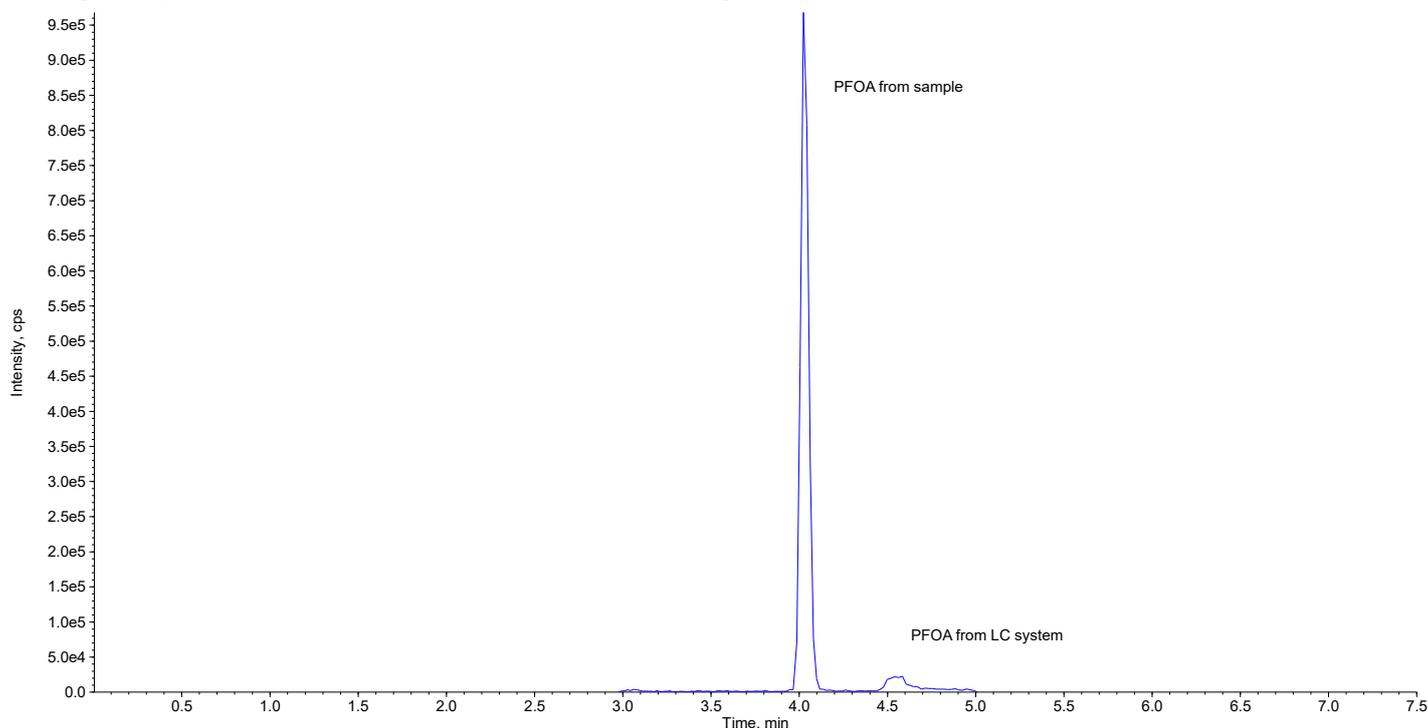


Figure 7: Chromatogram of PFOA resulted from the combination of NUCLEODUR® PFAS Delay EC 50/2 mm column x NUCLEODUR® PFAS EC 50/2 mm column ($\beta = 10.0$ ng/mL in methanol). The chromatogram shows the effectiveness of the NUCLEODUR® PFAS Delay column by impeding the instrument PFOA contamination from the sample by 0.5 minutes (RT 4.02 min PFOA from sample, RT 4.55 min PFOA from LC system).

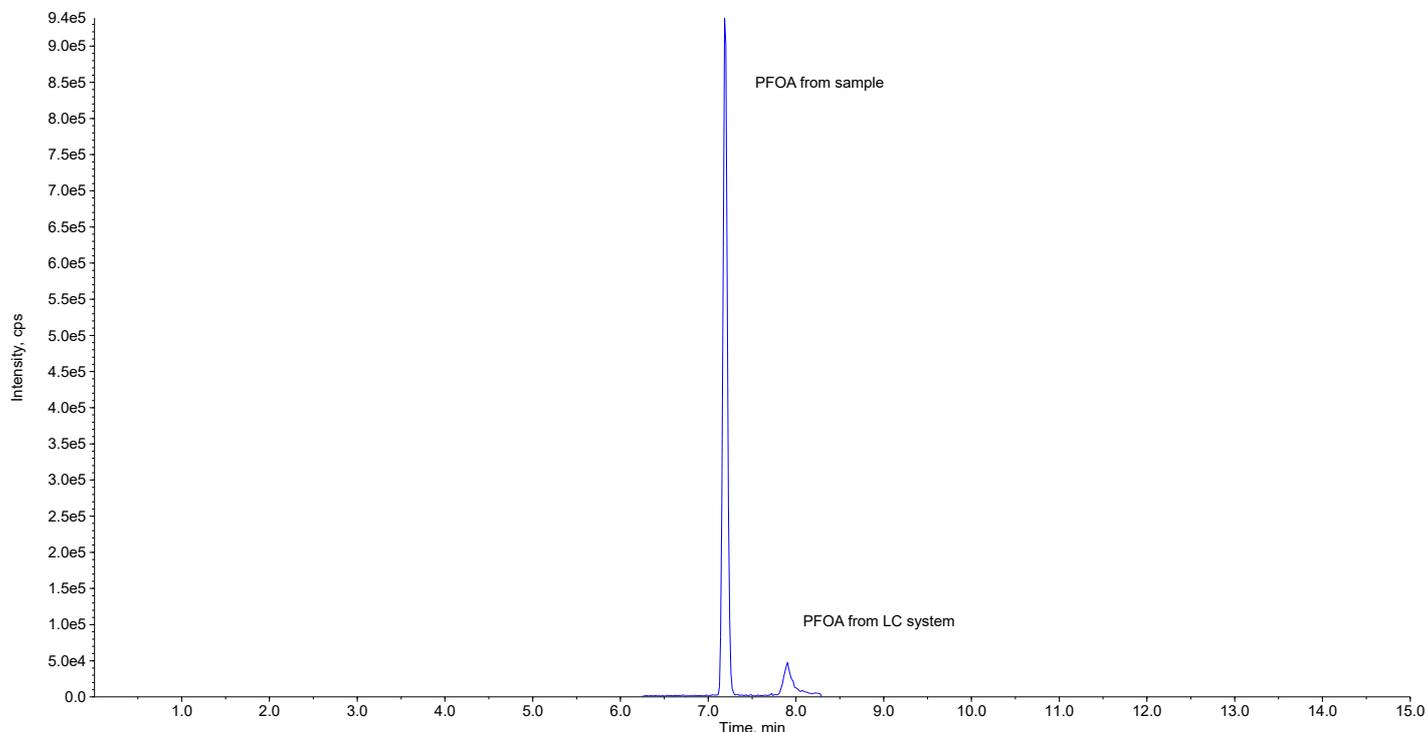


Figure 8: Chromatogram of PFOA resulted from the combination of NUCLEODUR® PFAS Delay EC 50/2 mm column x NUCLEODUR® PFAS EC 100/2 mm column ($\beta = 10.0$ ng/mL in methanol). The chromatogram shows the effectiveness of the NUCLEODUR® PFAS Delay column by impeding the instrument PFOA contamination from the sample by 0.7 minutes (RT 7.21 min PFOA from sample, RT 7.91 min PFOA from LC system).

PFAS Analysis According to EPA 533 and to EPA 537.1

Batch-to-batch reproducibility

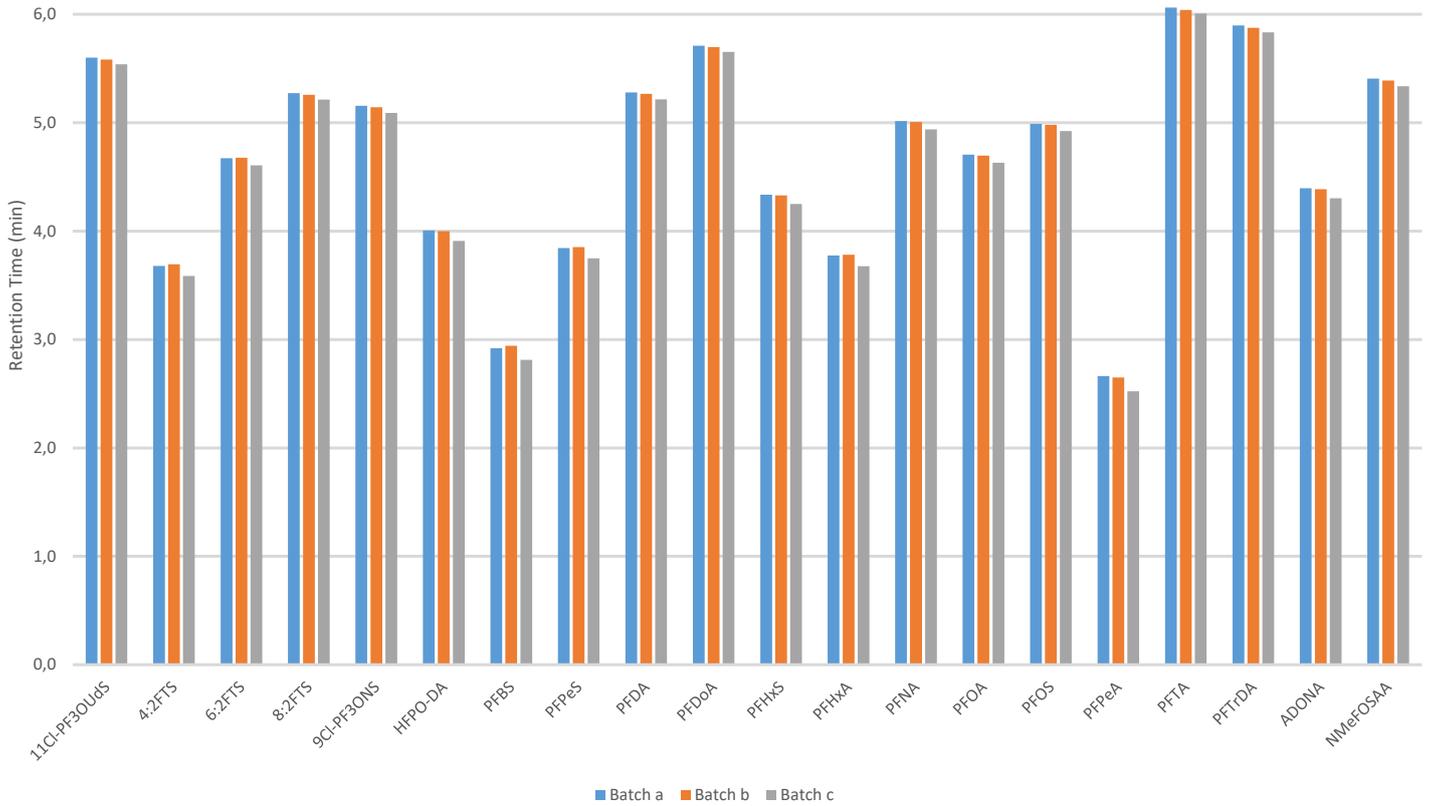


Figure 9: Comparison of retention times of PFAS on NUCLEODUR® PFAS EC 50 x 2 mm column using three batches (a-c).

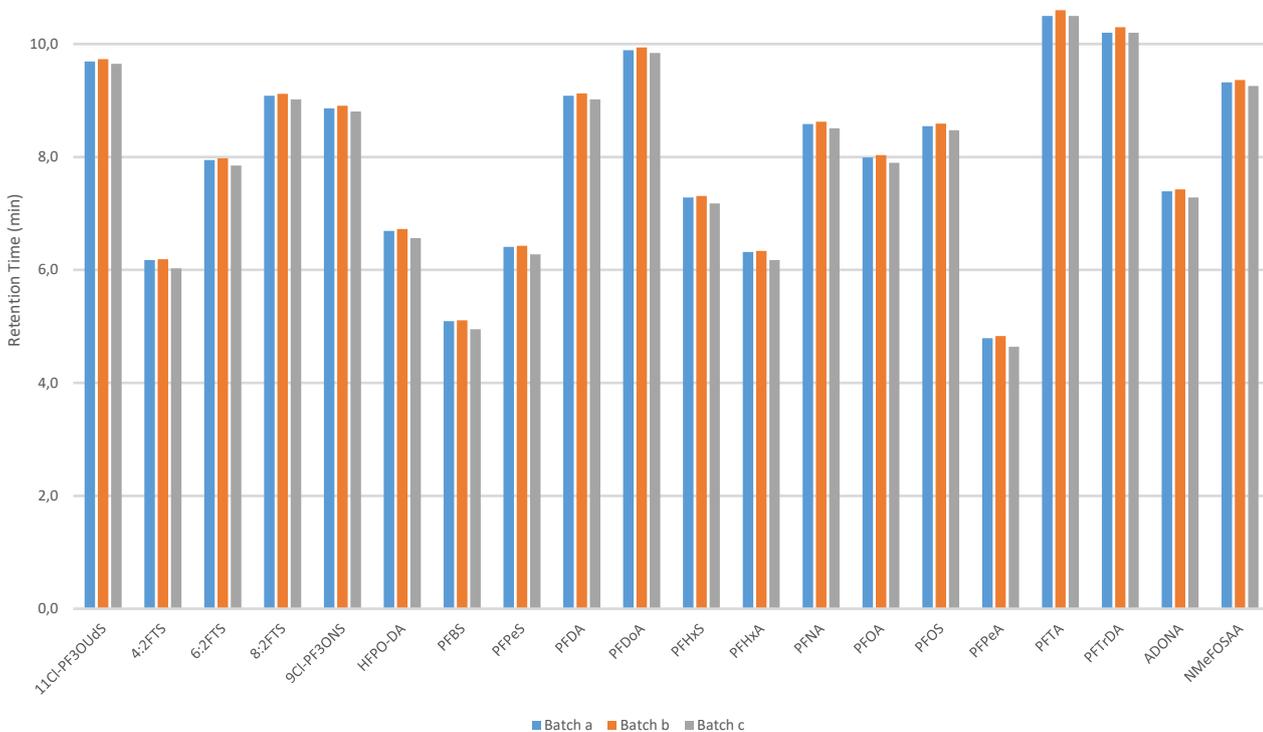


Figure 10: Comparison of retention times of PFAS on NUCLEODUR® PFAS EC 100 x 2 mm column using three batches (a-c).

PFAS Analysis According to EPA 533 and to EPA 537.1

Suitability of NUCLEODUR® PFAS columns for PFAS analysis

In the following tables the suitability of NUCLEODUR® PFAS for PFAS analysis is shown. There is a good correlation of the peaks, a high signal to noise ratio, sharp and narrow peaks with a large peak height which corresponds to high resolution and sensitivity.

| Analyte | Abbreviation | NUCLEODUR® PFAS EC 100 x 2 mm | | | | NUCLEODUR® PFAS EC 50 x 2 mm | | | |
|--|---------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|------------------------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|
| | | Correlation | Area / Height | Width at 50% | Signal / Noise | Correlation | Area / Height | Width at 50% | Signal / Noise |
| Hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid | HFPO-DA | 0.99862 | 4.08 | 0.06 | 1064 | 0.99913 | 3.51 | 0.06 | 1184 |
| Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid | PFBS | 0.99561 | 4.01 | 0.07 | 198 | 0.99888 | 4.91 | 0.08 | 351 |
| Perfluorohexanoic acid | PFHxA | 0.99918 | 4.05 | 0.06 | 266 | 0.99972 | 3.59 | 0.06 | 238 |
| Perfluoroheptanoic acid | PFHpA | 0.99905 | 3.68 | 0.06 | 307 | 0.99939 | 3.20 | 0.05 | 226 |
| 4,8-Dioxa-3H-perfluorononanoic acid | ADONA | 0.99918 | 3.85 | 0.06 | 2101 | 0.99851 | 3.12 | 0.05 | 989 |
| Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid | PFHxS | 0.99896 | 4.37 | 0.06 | 627 | 0.99959 | 3.95 | 0.05 | 421 |
| Perfluorooctanoic acid | PFOA | 0.99888 | 3.60 | 0.06 | 127 | 0.99941 | 3.27 | 0.05 | 142 |
| Perfluorononanoic acid | PFNA | 0.99698 | 3.46 | 0.05 | 186 | 0.99791 | 3.07 | 0.05 | 144 |
| Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid | PFOS | 0.99899 | 4.33 | 0.05 | 565 | 0.99911 | 3.85 | 0.05 | 420 |
| Perfluorodecanoic acid | PFDA | 0.99783 | 3.48 | 0.06 | 165 | 0.99788 | 3.30 | 0.05 | 133 |
| 9-Chlorohexadecafluoro-3-oxa-nonane-1-sulfonic acid | 9Cl-PF ₃ ONS | 0.99866 | 3.39 | 0.05 | 1867 | 0.99925 | 2.89 | 0.05 | 833 |
| Perfluoroundecanoic acid | PFUnA | 0.99841 | 3.24 | 0.05 | 185 | 0.99848 | 2.82 | 0.05 | 160 |
| N-methyl perfluorooctanesulfonamido-acetic acid | NMeFOSAA | 0.99831 | 4.00 | 0.06 | 216 | 0.99842 | 3.64 | 0.05 | 121 |
| N-ethyl perfluorooctanesulfonamido-acetic acid | NEtFOSAA | 0.99807 | 3.77 | 0.05 | 276 | 0.99899 | 3.27 | 0.05 | 169 |
| Perfluorododecanoic acid | PFDoA | 0.99845 | 3.26 | 0.05 | 179 | 0.99654 | 2.92 | 0.05 | 154 |
| 11-Chloroeicosafluoro-3-oxa-undecane-1-sulfonic acid | 11Cl-PF ₃ OUdS | 0.99864 | 3.25 | 0.05 | 1321 | 0.99796 | 2.88 | 0.04 | 629 |
| Perfluorotridecanoic acid | PFTrDA | 0.99302 | 2.63 | 0.04 | 112 | 0.99914 | 2.77 | 0.04 | 162 |
| Perfluorotetradecanoic acid | PFTA | 0.99673 | 3.05 | 0.05 | 230 | 0.99854 | 2.73 | 0.04 | 174 |

Table 3: Signal to noise ratio, area to height ratio of the peak, peak width at 50 % peak height and correlation of various sample concentrations for 18 PFAS analytes according to EPA 537.1.

| Analyte | Abbreviation | NUCLEODUR® PFAS EC 100 x 2 mm | | | | | NUCLEODUR® PFAS EC 50 x 2 mm | | | | |
|---|--------------|-------------------------------|---------------|----------------------|--------------|----------------|------------------------------|---------------|----------------------|--------------|----------------|
| | | Correlation | Area / Height | Retention time [min] | Width at 50% | Signal / Noise | Correlation | Area / Height | Retention time [min] | Width at 50% | Signal / Noise |
| Nonafluoro-3,6-dioxaheptanoic acid | NFDHA | 0.99922 | 4.15 | 5.12 | 0.063 | 426 | 0.99949 | 3.77 | 2.95 | 0.06 | 417 |
| Perfluorobutanoic acid | PFBA | 0.99924 | 6.91 | 1.95 | 0.117 | 186 | 0.99937 | 6.51 | 1.06 | 0.11 | 192 |
| Perfluoro-3-methoxypropanoic acid | PFMPA | 0.99933 | 7.50 | 2.52 | 0.120 | 1023 | 0.99958 | 7.29 | 1.35 | 0.12 | 820 |
| Perfluoropentanoic acid | PFPeA | 0.99919 | 5.44 | 3.80 | 0.083 | 269 | 0.99954 | 6.22 | 2.15 | 0.10 | 188 |
| Perfluoro-4-methoxybutanoic acid | PFMBA | 0.99875 | 4.00 | 7.96 | 0.060 | 177 | 0.99588 | 3.28 | 4.45 | 0.05 | 214 |
| Hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid | HFPO-DA | 0.99862 | 4.08 | 5.71 | 0.063 | 1064 | 0.99913 | 3.51 | 3.27 | 0.06 | 1184 |
| Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid | PFBS | 0.99561 | 4.01 | 4.15 | 0.070 | 198 | 0.99888 | 4.91 | 2.36 | 0.08 | 351 |
| Perfluorohexanoic acid | PFHxA | 0.99918 | 4.05 | 5.32 | 0.060 | 266 | 0.99972 | 3.59 | 3.05 | 0.06 | 238 |
| Perfluoro(2-ethoxyethane)sulfonic acid | PFEESA | 0.99886 | 4.25 | 4.76 | 0.070 | 1588 | 0.99950 | 3.95 | 2.75 | 0.06 | 2168 |
| 1H,1H, 2H, 2H-Perfluorohexane sulfonic acid | 4:2FTS | 0.99900 | 4.09 | 5.18 | 0.063 | 695 | 0.99952 | 3.60 | 2.97 | 0.06 | 442 |
| Perfluoropentanesulfonic acid | PFPeS | 0.99910 | 3.78 | 5.45 | 0.060 | 455 | 0.99925 | 3.50 | 3.13 | 0.05 | 242 |
| Perfluoroheptanoic acid | PFHpA | 0.99905 | 3.68 | 6.40 | 0.060 | 307 | 0.99939 | 3.20 | 3.61 | 0.05 | 226 |
| 4,8-Dioxa-3H-perfluorononanoic acid | ADONA | 0.99918 | 3.85 | 6.53 | 0.060 | 2102 | 0.99851 | 3.12 | 3.68 | 0.05 | 989 |
| Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid | PFHxS | 0.99896 | 4.37 | 6.44 | 0.057 | 627 | 0.99959 | 3.95 | 3.64 | 0.05 | 421 |
| Perfluorooctanoic acid | PFOA | 0.99888 | 3.60 | 7.22 | 0.050 | 127 | 0.99941 | 3.27 | 4.02 | 0.05 | 142 |
| 1H,1H, 2H, 2H-Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid | 6:2FTS | 0.99891 | 3.72 | 7.18 | 0.057 | 654 | 0.99227 | 3.33 | 3.99 | 0.05 | 392 |
| Perfluoroheptanesulfonic acid | PFHpS | 0.99888 | 3.54 | 7.21 | 0.053 | 1183 | 0.99852 | 3.05 | 4.02 | 0.05 | 762 |
| Perfluorononanoic acid | PFNA | 0.99698 | 3.46 | 7.89 | 0.050 | 186 | 0.99791 | 3.07 | 4.34 | 0.05 | 144 |

PFAS Analysis According to EPA 533 and to EPA 537.1

| Analyte | Abbreviation | NUCLEODUR® PFAS EC 100 x 2 mm | | | | | NUCLEODUR® PFAS EC 50 x 2 mm | | | | |
|--|---------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|----------------------|--------------|----------------|------------------------------|---------------|----------------------|--------------|----------------|
| | | Correlation | Area / Height | Retention time [min] | Width at 50% | Signal / Noise | Correlation | Area / Height | Retention time [min] | Width at 50% | Signal / Noise |
| Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid | PFOS | 0.99899 | 4.33 | 7.86 | 0.053 | 565 | 0.99911 | 3.85 | 4.33 | 0.05 | 420 |
| 1H,1H, 2H, 2H-Perfluorodecane sulfonic acid | 8:2FTS | 0.99783 | 3.48 | 8.46 | 0.057 | 165 | 0.99788 | 3.30 | 4.62 | 0.05 | 133 |
| Perfluorodecanoic acid | PFDA | 0.99837 | 3.45 | 8.46 | 0.057 | 336 | 0.99765 | 3.19 | 4.61 | 0.05 | 113 |
| 9-Chlorohexadecafluoro-3-oxanonane-1-sulfonic acid | 9Cl-PF ₃ ONS | 0.99866 | 3.39 | 8.21 | 0.050 | 1867 | 0.99925 | 2.89 | 4.49 | 0.05 | 833 |
| Perfluoroundecanoic acid | PFUnA | 0.99841 | 3.24 | 8.91 | 0.047 | 185 | 0.99848 | 2.82 | 4.84 | 0.05 | 160 |
| Perfluorododecanoic acid | PFDoA | 0.99845 | 3.26 | 9.28 | 0.050 | 179 | 0.99654 | 2.92 | 5.05 | 0.05 | 154 |
| 11-Chloroeicosafuoro-3-oxaundecane-1-sulfonic acid | 11Cl-PF ₃ OUdS | 0.99864 | 3.25 | 9.08 | 0.050 | 1321 | 0.99796 | 2.88 | 4.94 | 0.04 | 629 |

Table 4: Signal to noise ratio, area to height of the peak, peak width at 50 % peak height and correlation of various sample concentrations for 25 PFAS analytes according to EPA 533.

Conclusion

This application note shows the reliable and successful separation of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) on optimized PFAS HPLC columns. Figures 2–5 show chromatograms of PFAS standard mixtures according to EPA methods 533 and 537.1.

The NUCLEODUR® PFAS column is especially well suited for the analysis of PFAS compounds. This HPLC phase shows high retention for polar PFAS like PFBA and PBS and high MS intensity. Figure 9 and 10 present the excellent batch-to-batch reproducibility by comparing the retention times of several PFAS using three different batches. If the chromatographic issue is focused on the separation of linear and branched PFAS isomers NUCLEODUR® PFAS column should have a length of 100 mm.

This work points out the effectiveness of the NUCLEODUR® PFAS Delay column. This isolator column impedes the instrument contamination (especially PFOA) from the sample by 0.5 or 0.7 minutes respectively.

In summary, the presented application note describes a quick and convenient method for chromatographic separation of PFAS according to EPA Methods 537.1 and 533.

References

- [1] United States Environmental Protection Agency, PFAS Laws and Regulations, <https://www.epa.gov/pfas/pfas-laws-and-regulations>.
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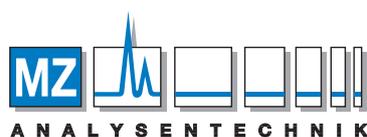
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Product information

The following MACHERY-NAGEL products have been used in this application note:

| | |
|---------------|---|
| REF 760673.20 | EC 50/2 NUCLEODUR® PFAS Delay, 5 µm |
| REF 760666.20 | EC 100/2 NUCLEODUR® PFAS, 3 µm |
| REF 760663.20 | EC 50/2 NUCLEODUR® PFAS, 3 µm |
| REF 702402 | Screw closure, N 9, PP, blue, center hole, silicone white/polyimide orange, 1.0 mm, fluorine-free |
| REF 702009 | Screw neck vial, N 9, 11.6 x 32.0 mm, 0.3 mL, inner cone, PP transparent |

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