

SOURCE OF ERRORS IN ORGANOTIN SPECIATION ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

Several monitoring programs have been carried out in many countries to study the environmental distribution of organotin compounds and to control the effectiveness of the adopted legal provisions. Water, sediment and biota samples have been analyzed and a lot of data are available in literature. However, the reliability and comparability of these data are doubtful as the analytical methods used are not always under control. Mistakes can occur not only during the analysis but also during the whole analytical procedure. So, it is necessary to carefully check each step to evaluate the quality of the results. Three of the most critical steps are sampling, sample storage and treatment. Problems concerning these steps are briefly presented and discussed.