

DETERMINATION OF TOTAL MERCURY IN ESTUARY, LAKE AND RIVER SEDIMENTS

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SUMMARY

In order to improve the quality of the results in sediment analysis, the Community Bureau of Reference (BCR) of the European Communities has developed 3 sediment reference materials (CRM) from estuarine, lake and river origins. Certification of mercury content in these materials was achieved by 3 methods (cold vapor atomic absorption spectrometry, plasma emission spectrometry, neutron activation analysis with radiochemical separation). The values finally certified in the CRM estuarine, lake and river sediments are 1.77 ± 0.06 , 0.67 ± 0.02 , 1.03 ± 0.13 mg/kg respectively.

Key words: sediment, mercury, certification, Community Bureau of Reference, pollution

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