

Purpose: To check the cleanliness of the laboratory ambient air which is part of the extraction procedure.

Scope: Analysis of laboratory ambient air within the exhaust hood

Responsibility: Arson section chemist or designee

Analytical procedure: As part of the QA/QC program, the ambient air in the exhaust hood area is analyzed according to the following:

1. When deemed necessary by the chemist, an ambient air sample is analyzed via the charcoal tube adsorption/elution procedure.
2. Review the chromatogram for interfering peaks or contamination. If there are none, continue with extractions.
3. If the results are not acceptable, test a second air sample. If the results are still unacceptable, suspend all fire debris analysis until the problem is corrected.

Documentation: none