

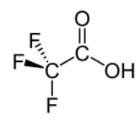
## **APPLICATIONS**

# LC-MS/MS Analysis of Trifluoroacetate in Groundwater and Drinking Water using a bioZen® Glycan 2.6 µm 150 x 2.1 mm column

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### Introduction

Trifluoroacetate (TFA) is a non-toxic but persistent contaminant of water, including drinking water. Recent research  $^{1\text{-}3}$  has indicated that standard wastewater treatment facilities are not able to remove TFA. Some of the processes used at these facilities are possible additional sources of TFA. Since January 2017 TFA is defined by the German Environment Agency (Umweltbundesamt – UBA) as a non-relevant metabolite with a health-oriented guidance value (GOW) of 3.0  $\mu\text{g/L}$  in drinking water. This application note describes an easy, precise, and robust method to determine the concentration of TFA in drinking water and groundwater.





### **Experimental Conditions**

The analyses were performed on an Agilent® 1260 Infinity II system equipped with an Agilent 6475 Series Triple Quad MS-Detector. The MS-detection was done using electrospray ionization in the negative mode (ESI-).

### **HPLC Parameters**

Column: bioZen Glycan 2.6 μm Dimensions: 150 x 2.1 mm Part No.: 00F-4773-AN

Mobile Phase: 10 mmol/L NH<sub>4</sub>Ac + 0.1 % CHOOH / Acetonitrile (40:60)

Flow Rate: 0.55 mL/min Injection Volume: 100 uL

Detection: Electrospray Ionization Tandem Mass Spectrometer (ESI-MS/MS)

### **Mass Spectrometer Parameters**

**Table 1.**MRM Transitions and Compound Dependent Parameters

Compound Name	Q1	Q3	Dwell	Frag	CE
TFA-13C <sub>2</sub> (ISTD)	115.1	70	40	54	12
TFA	112.8	113	40	54	2
TFA	112.8	69	40	54	11

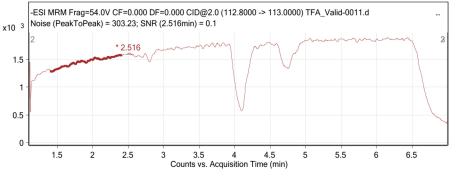
**Table 2.**MS Source Parameters

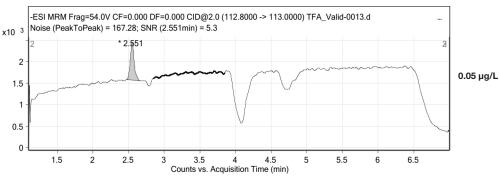
Source Parameter	Setting		
	Value (+)	Value (-)	
Gas Temp [°C]	300	300	
Gas Flow [I/min]	9	9	
Nebulizer [psi]	45	45	
Sheath Gas Heater [°C]	350	350	
Sheath Gas Flow [I/min]	11	11	
Capillary [V]	3,500	3,500	
V Charging	0	300	

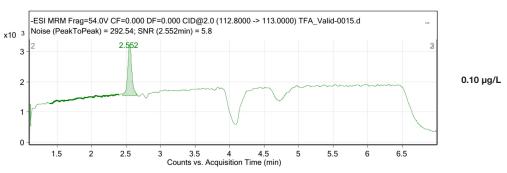


### **Analyte and Retention Time**

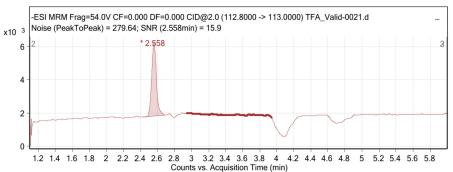
Analyte	RT	
TFA	2.55 min	









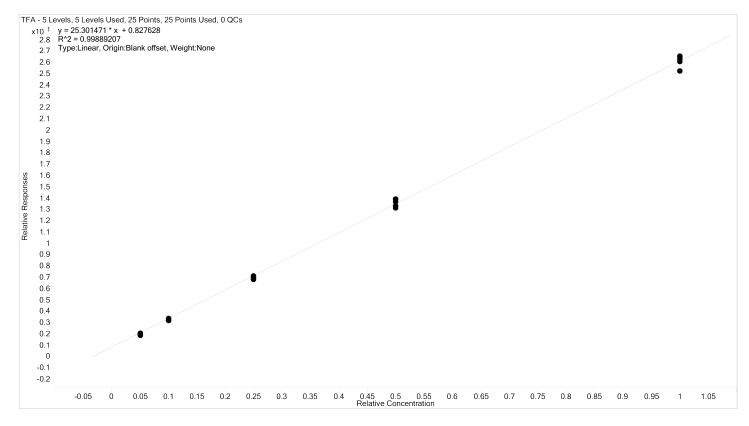


0.25 μg/L

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The linearity range of the method was determined by using standard injections with concentrations from 0.00  $\mu$ g/L - 0.25  $\mu$ g/L. Each sample was injected 5 times.





### **Results and Discussion**

The presented HILIC method allows a fast and reliable quantification of TFA in groundwater and drinking water samples under isocratic conditions. The LOD according to DIN 32645:2008-11 is 0.0187  $\mu$ g/L and the LOQ is 0.0495  $\mu$ g/L.

### References

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- Brunner, A.M. et. al. Integration of target analyses, non-target screening and effect-based monitoring to assess OMP related water quality changes in drinking water treatment, Sci. Total Environ. 705 (2020), online article 135779
- Janda, J. et. al. Robust trace analysis of polar (C2-C8) perfluorinated carboxylic acids by liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry: method development and application to surface water, groundwater and drinking water, Env Science and Pollution Res 26 (2019) 7326-7336

### **Acknowledgements**

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