

Lewisite, clark and adamsite are detected by oxidation with potassium permanganate. Spray with potassium permanganate (40 mg in 100 ml water). White to yellow spots indicate the presence of these compounds.

Mustard gas is detected by spraying with 4(4'-nitrobenzyl)-pyridine (5g in 100 ml ethanol), heating to high temperature (150°C) and spraying with sodium hydroxide (4 g in 100 ml water:methanol=1:1). Blue spots which disappear quite rapidly indicate the presence of mustard gas.

The retention factors using the mobil phases described above are:
tabun: 0.43, sarin: 0.34, soman: 0.48, VX: 0.62, lewisite I: 0.27, clark I: 0.52, clark II: 0.51, adamsite: 0.15 and mustard gas: 0.71.

- Information obtained by CAM should be used as an indication of the presence of nerve agents or mustard gas.

- Detection paper should be used on droplets or damp spots to give a indication of the presence of nerve agents or mustard gas.

- Other instruments should be considered as soon as miniaturization has made them available as mobile field equipment.

2.5 Sample handling

2.5.1 Sample sealing

The samples should be sealed and secured immediately after collection to prevent loss or tampering before analysis. The plastic bags and glass bottles used for sampling should be sealed with a lead seal to prevent tampering during transport and storage. It is also important that the containers used for sampling are airtight to prevent any loss of sample.