

laser Raman spectrometry (LRS) to identify solvents used in sample preparation.

5. Time frame

The samples arrived at the laboratories between late October and mid December; except for one laboratory which never received the samples. The time agreed for the analytical phase was one month from the date when the samples arrived at laboratories. After reporting of the identified chemicals, two further weeks were available to describe the used methods in detail. The coordinating laboratory prepared forms and tables and sent them to each laboratory to facilitate reporting and to obtain all necessary data.

The laboratories were asked to record their results on the VERIFY database directly or through the coordinating laboratory. Only two laboratories did this, the others mailing or faxing their results to the coordinating laboratory. One laboratory sent its results outside the agreed timeframe.

After all participants had reported their findings to the coordinator, Australia described how the samples were prepared and which chemicals were used to spike them and at what concentrations. The coordinating laboratory collected the results and methods used for sample pretreatment and analysis and forwarded this material to the laboratories together with chromatograms and spectra. This procedure enabled the participants to acquaint themselves with the results and methods used by other laboratories before the test was discussed in detail among the experts participating in the test. It was not possible to distribute all material from each laboratory to other participants owing to the amount of paper received by the coordinating laboratory.

6. Results

Table 1 shows 17 scheduled chemicals found in the samples. In addition to these chemicals 31 phosphorus-containing chemicals (see Table 2) and