



Thermo Scientific

Dionex IonPac AS15

Column Product Manual

P/N: 031362-10

June 2014

Product Manual
for

Dionex IonPac AG15 Guard Column

(4 x 50 mm, P/N 053942)
(3 x 30 mm, P/N 057597)
(2 x 50 mm, P/N 053943)
(0.4 x 50 mm, P/N 075663)

Dionex IonPac AS15 Analytical Column

(4 x 250 mm, P/N 053940)
(3 x 150 mm, P/N 057594)
(2 x 250 mm, P/N 053941)
(0.4 x 250 mm, P/N 075662)

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SECTION 1 – INTRODUCTION

The Thermo Scientific™ Dionex™ IonPac™ AS15 Analytical/Capillary Column in combination with the AG15 Guard/Capillary Guard Column is designed for the trace analysis of inorganic anions and monovalent organic acid anions. The selectivity of the Dionex IonPac AS15 Guard plus Analytical/Capillary Column set has been designed to retain fluoride well out of the water dip (system dip) and to isocratically separate common anions and low molecular weight organic acids encountered in high purity water matrices. The AS15 column must be operated at elevated temperature (30°C) to ensure reproducible retention times. The AS15 is compatible with pH 0-14 eluents and eluents containing organic solvents from 0 - 100% in concentration. The AS15 can be used with any suppressible ionic eluent that does not exceed the capacity of the Anion Self-Regenerating Suppressor or Anion Capillary Electrolytic Suppressor. The Dionex IonPac AS15 has nominal efficiency for sulfate using standard operating conditions of at least 4,000 plates/column for the 4-mm, 2-mm and 0.4-mm columns, and 6,000 plates per column for the 3-mm column.

Table 1
Dionex IonPac AS15/AG15 Packing Specification

Column	Particle Diameter µm	Substrate X-linking %	Column Capacity µeq/column	Functional Group	Hydrophobicity
AS15 4x250 mm	9.0	55	225	Alkanol quaternary ammonium	Medium-High
AG15 4x50 mm	9.0	55	45	Alkanol quaternary ammonium	Medium-High
AS15 3x150 mm	5.0	55	70	Alkanol quaternary ammonium	Medium-High
AG15 3x30 mm	5.0	55	14	Alkanol quaternary ammonium	Medium-High
AS15 2x250 mm	7.5	55	56.25	Alkanol quaternary ammonium	Medium-High
AG15 2x50 mm	7.5	55	11.25	Alkanol quaternary ammonium	Medium-High
AS15 Capillary 0.4x250 mm	6.5	55	2.25	Alkanol quaternary ammonium	Medium-High
AG15 Capillary 0.4x50 mm	6.5	55	0.45	Alkanol quaternary ammonium	Medium-High

Table 2
AS15/AG15 Operating Parameters

Column	Typical Back Pressure psi (MPa)	Standard Flow Rate mL/min	Maximum Flow Rate mL/min
AS15 4-mm Analytical	≤ 1,200 (8.27)	1.2	3.0
AG15 4-mm Guard	≤ 250 (1.72)	1.2	3.0
AS15 and AG15 4-mm columns	≤ 1,450 (10.00)	1.2	3.0
AS15 3-mm Analytical	≤ 1,500 (10.34)	0.5	1.5
AG15 3-mm Guard	≤ 350 (2.41)	0.5	1.5
AS15 and AG15 3-mm columns	≤ 1,850 (12.75)	0.5	1.5
AS15 2-mm Analytical	≤ 1,200 (8.27)	0.3	0.75
AG15 2-mm Guard	≤ 300 (2.07)	0.3	0.75
AS15 and AG15 2-mm columns	≤ 2,100 (14.47)	0.3	0.75
AS15 0.4-mm Capillary	≤ 2,200 (15.16)	0.012	0.020
AG15 0.4-mm Capillary Guard	≤ 440 (3.03)	0.012	0.020
AS15 and AG15 0.4-mm Capillary and Capillary Guard	≤ 2640 (18.20)	0.012	0.020

For assistance, contact Technical Support for Dionex Products. In the U.S., call 1-800-346-6390. Outside the U.S., call the nearest Thermo Fisher Scientific office.

SECTION 2 – ION CHROMATOGRAPHY SYSTEMS

The proper configuration of an Ion Chromatography System (ICS) in 2-mm or 4-mm format is based on the ratio of the 2-mm to 4-mm column cross-sectional area (a factor of $\frac{1}{4}$). The selected format will affect the type of pump recommended. A gradient pump is designed to blend and pump isocratic, linear, or gradient mixtures of up to four mobile phase components at precisely controlled flow rates. An isocratic pump is for applications not requiring gradient and multi-eluent proportioning capabilities. Both are offered in either standard bore or microbore options.

- For an ICS in 2-mm and 3-mm format, Dionex recommends a microbore isocratic pump, standard bore isocratic pump, microbore gradient pump, or standard bore gradient pump.
- For an ICS in 4-mm format, Dionex recommends a standard bore isocratic pump or standard bore gradient pump.
- For an ICS in 0.4 mm format, Dionex recommends a Capillary IC system such as the ICS-5000 system.

See Appendix C, Comparison of Ion Chromatography Systems for specific recommended settings and parts including pumps, eluent flow rate, Self-Regenerating Suppressor (SRS), Capillary Electrolytic Suppressor (CES), MicroMembrane Suppressor (MMS), injection loop, system void volume, detectors, and tubing back pressure.

SECTION 3 – INSTALLATION

3.1. System Requirements

3.1.1. System Requirements for 0.4 mm Operation

The Dionex IonPac AS15 0.4 mm Capillary Guard and Capillary Column are designed to be run on a capillary ion chromatograph system. It is recommended to run the capillary column only on the ICS-5000 capillary system for best performance.

3.1.2. System Requirements for 2-mm Operation

The Dionex IonPac AS15 2-mm Guard and Analytical Columns are designed to be run on Dionex Ion Chromatographs equipped with suppressed conductivity detection. Isocratic analyses at flow rates of 0.5 mL/min or greater can be performed on a pump with standard (1/8" pistons) pump heads. For isocratic analyses at flow rates below 0.5 mL/min and gradient analyses, a microbore pump (1/16" pistons) must be employed.

3.1.3. System Requirements for 3-mm Operation

The Dionex IonPac AS15 3-mm Guard and Analytical Columns are designed to be run on Dionex Ion Chromatographs equipped with suppressed conductivity detection. Isocratic analyses at flow rates of 0.5 mL/min or greater can be performed on a pump with standard (1/8" pistons) pump heads. For isocratic analyses at flow rates below 0.5 mL/min and gradient analyses, a microbore pump (1/16" pistons) must be employed.

3.1.4. System Requirements for 4-mm Operation

The Dionex IonPac AS15 4-mm Guard and Analytical Columns are designed to be run on any Dionex Ion Chromatograph equipped suppressed conductivity detection. Gradient methods and methods requiring solvent containing eluents should be performed on a system having a pump with standard pump heads (1/8" pistons). Isocratic analysis can also be performed on a pump with standard bore pump heads (1/8" pistons).

3.1.5. System Void Volume

When using 2-mm columns, it is particularly important to minimize system void volume. The system void volume should be scaled down to at least 1/4 of the system volume in a standard 4-mm system. For best performance, all of the tubing installed between the injection valve and detector should be 0.005" (P/N 044221) ID PEEK tubing. 0.010" ID PEEK tubing (P/N 042260) or 0.012" Tefzel® tubing may be used but peak efficiency will be compromised which may also result in decreased peak resolution. Minimize the lengths of all connecting tubing and remove all unnecessary switching valves and couplers.

3.2. The Sample Concentrator

The Trace Anion Concentrator Low Pressure Column (TAC-LP1, P/N 046026), the Trace Anion Concentrator Ultra Low Pressure Column (TAC-ULP1, P/N 061400), the Ultra Trace Anion Concentrator Low Pressure Column (UTAC-LP1, P/N 063079) or (UTAC-LP2, P/N 072779), the Ultra Trace Anion Concentrator Ultra Low Pressure Column (UTAC-ULP1, P/N 063475) or (UTAC-ULP2, P/N 072780), the Ultra Trace Anion Concentrator Extremely Low Pressure Column (UTAC-XLP1, P/N 063459) or (UTAC-XLP2, P/N 072781), or the Dionex IonPac AG15 Guard Column can be used for trace anion concentration work with the 2 mm and 4 mm AS15 columns. The function of a concentrator column in these applications is to strip ions from a measured volume of a relatively clean aqueous sample matrix. This process “concentrates” the desired analyte species onto the concentrator column, lowering detection limits by 2-5 orders of magnitude. The concentrator column is used in lieu of the sample loop. Pump the sample onto the concentrator column in the OPPOSITE direction of the eluent flow. When using concentration techniques, do not overload the concentrator column by concentrating an excessive amount of sample. Concentrating an excessive amount of sample can result in inaccurate results being obtained. It is possible during the concentration step for the polyvalent anions such as phosphate and sulfate to elute the weakly retained anions such as fluoride and acetate off the concentrator column. For Trace Anion Concentration work with the AS15 0.4 mm column use the AG15 0.4 mm Capillary Guard Column or the IonSwift MAC-100 or the IonSwift MAC-200 Column.

For more detailed information on sample concentration techniques for high sensitivity work and a detailed discussion of anion concentration techniques refer to:

- Section 3, “Operation,” of the Trace Anion Concentrator Low Pressure (TAC-LP1) and Ultra Low Pressure (TAC-ULP1) Column Product Manual (Document No. 034972),
- Section 3, “Operation,” of the Ultra Trace Anion Concentrator Low Pressure (UTAC-LP1), Ultra Low Pressure (UTAC-ULP1), and Extremely Low Pressure (UTAC-XLP1) Column Product Manual (Document No. 065091),
- Section 4, “Operation,” of the Ultra Trace Anion Concentrator 2 Low Pressure (UTAC-LP2), Ultra Low Pressure (UTAC-ULP2), and Extremely Low Pressure (UTAC-XLP2) Column Product Manual (Document No. 065376),
- Section 3, “Operation”, of the IonSwift Monolith Anion Concentrator (MAC) Column Product Manual (Document No. 065387).

These techniques can also be applied to the AG15.



Dionex IonPac Trace Anion Concentrator (TAC-2) Column (P/N 043101) is not optimized for use with hydroxide eluents and should not be used for concentrator work with the Dionex IonPac AS15.

3.3. The Injection Loop

3.3.1. The 2-mm System Injection Loop, 2 - 15 μ L

For most applications on a 2-mm analytical system, a 2 - 15 μ L injection loop is sufficient. Generally, you should not inject more than 12.5 nanomoles of any one analyte onto a 2-mm analytical column. Injecting larger number of moles of a sample can result in overloading the column which can affect the detection linearity. For low concentrations of analytes, larger injection loops can be used to increase sensitivity. The AS15 2-mm requires a microbore system configuration. Install an injection loop one-fourth or less ($< 15 \mu\text{L}$) of the loop volume used with a 4-mm analytical system (Section 2, "Comparison of Ion Chromatography Systems").

3.3.2. The 3-mm System Injection Loop, 5 - 25 μ L

For most applications on a 3-mm analytical system, a 5 - 25 μ L injection loop is sufficient. Generally, you should not inject more than 25 nanomoles of any one analyte onto a 3-mm analytical column. Injecting larger number of moles of a sample can result in overloading the column which can affect the detection linearity. For low concentrations of analytes, larger injection loops can be used to increase sensitivity. The AS15 3-mm requires a microbore system configuration. Install an injection loop one-half or less ($< 25 \mu\text{L}$) of the loop volume used with a 4-mm analytical system (Section 2, "Comparison of Ion Chromatography Systems").

3.3.3. The 4-mm System Injection Loop, 10 - 50 μ L

For most applications on a 4-mm analytical system, a 10 - 50 μ L injection loop is sufficient. Generally, you should not inject more than 50 nanomoles of any one analyte onto the 4-mm analytical column. Injecting larger number of moles of a sample can result in overloading the column which can affect the detection linearity. For low concentrations of analytes, larger injection loops can be used to increase sensitivity. For typical low to sub ppb samples, you can inject up to 2-4 mL.

3.3.4. The 0.4-mm System Injection Loop, 0.4 μ L Internal Loop

For most applications on a 0.4-mm capillary system, a 0.4 μ L injection loop is sufficient. Generally, you should not inject more than 0.5 nanomoles total anion concentration onto a 0.4-mm capillary column. Injecting larger number of moles of a sample can result in overloading the column which can affect the detection linearity. For low concentrations of analytes, larger injection loops can be used to increase sensitivity.

3.4. The Dionex IonPac AG15 Guard Column

An Dionex IonPac AG15 Guard/Capillary Guard Column is normally used with the Dionex IonPac AS15 Analytical/Capillary Column. Retention times will increase by approximately 20% when a guard/capillary guard column is placed in-line prior to the analytical/capillary column. A guard is placed prior to the analytical/capillary column to prevent sample contaminants from eluting onto the analytical/capillary column. It is easier to clean or replace a guard/capillary guard column than it is an analytical/capillary column. Replacing the AG15 Guard/Capillary Guard Column at the first sign of peak efficiency loss or decreased retention time will prolong the life of the AS15 Analytical/Capillary Column.

3.5. Installing the CR-ATC Trap Column for Use with EGC III KOH Cartridge

For Dionex IonPac AS15 applications using the EGC KOH cartridge, a CR-ATC Continuously Regenerated Trap Column (P/N 060477 or 072078) should be installed at the EGC eluent outlet to remove trace level anionic contaminants from the carrier deionized water. See the CR-TC Product Manual (Document No. 031910) for instructions.

As an alternative for 2-mm, 3-mm and 4-mm columns, the ATC-HC Trap Column (P/N 059604) should be installed between the pump outlet and the inlet of the EluGen Cartridge in the Module to remove anionic contaminants from the carrier deionized water. See the ATC-HC Product Manual (Document No. 032697) for instructions.

If the lower capacity ATC-3 Trap Column (P/N 059660 and 059661) is used with a 2-mm, 3-mm or 4-mm column, it should be installed between the gradient pump and the injection valve to remove anionic contaminants from the eluent. The ATC-3 column is used when performing sodium hydroxide gradient anion exchange applications using hand-prepared bottled eluents. See the ATC-3 Product Manual (Document No. 032697) for instructions.

The ATC-HC (P/N 059604) and ATC-3 Trap Columns will require off-line regeneration. To use the ATC-HC or ATC-3 Anion Trap Columns, refer to the Product Manuals.

3.6. Eluent Storage

Dionex IonPac AS15 columns are designed to be used with sodium hydroxide eluent systems. Storage under a helium atmosphere ensures contamination free operation and proper pump performance (nitrogen can be used if eluents do not contain solvents).



CAUTION

Do Not Use Glass bottles for either stock solution bottles or eluent bottles! Base slowly dissolves glass, releasing impurities that adversely affect the AS15 column performance.

3.7. Anion Self-Regenerating Suppressor Requirements

An Anion Self-Regenerating Suppressor should be used for applications that require suppressed conductivity detection. It is compatible with solvent containing eluents and aqueous ionic eluents of all concentrations with which the systems and columns are compatible. Aqueous ionic eluents can be used in all ASRS™ 300 modes of operation.



CAUTION

Solvent containing eluents should be used in the AutoSuppression External Water Mode.

For Dionex IonPac AS15 0.4-mm Capillary Column, use the ACES 300 (0.4-mm P/N 072052).

For Dionex IonPac AS15 4-mm Analytical Column, use an ASRS 300 (4-mm, P/N 064554).

For Dionex IonPac AS15 3-mm Analytical Column, use an ASRS 300 (2-mm, P/N 064555).

For Dionex IonPac AS15 2-mm Analytical Column, use an ASRS 300 (2-mm, P/N 064555).

For detailed information on the operation of the Anion Self-Regenerating Suppressor, see Document No. 031956, the “Product Manual for the Anion Self-Regenerating Suppressor 300, the ASRS 300 (4-mm) and the ASRS 300 (2-mm).”

For detailed information on the operation of the Anion Capillary Electrolytic Suppressor, see Document No. 065386, the “Product Manual for the Anion Capillary Electrolytic Suppressor 300, the ACES 300.”

3.8. Anion MicroMembrane Suppressor Requirements

An Anion MicroMembrane Suppressor (AMMS™ 300) may be used instead of an ASRS 300 (4-mm) for applications that require suppressed conductivity detection. Use an AMMS 300 4-mm (P/N 064558) with the Dionex IonPac AS15 4-mm Analytical Column. It is compatible with all solvents and concentrations with which the systems and columns are compatible. For 3-mm and 2-mm operation, use the AMMS 300 2-mm (P/N 064559).

For detailed information on the operation of the Anion MicroMembrane Suppressor, see Document No. 031727, the “Product Manual for the Anion MicroMembrane Suppressor 300.”

3.9. Using Displacement Chemical Regeneration (DCR) in the Chemical Suppression Mode

DIONEX recommends using the Displacement Chemical Regeneration (DCR) Mode for chemical suppression using sulfuric acid and the Anion MicroMembrane Suppressor (AMMS 300). See the DCR kit manual, Document P/N 031664, for details.



SAFETY

Use proper safety precautions in handling acids and bases.

3.10. Detector Requirements

See Appendix C, “Comparison of Ion Chromatography Systems,” for 2-mm, 3-mm, 4-mm and 0.4-mm system detector, cell and thermal stabilizer requirements.

3.11. Using the EGC-KOH with AS15

Please refer to the EGC manual, Document No. 065018, for information on the operation of the EGC.

3.12. Installation of the Capillary Column

1. Before installing the new separator column, tear off the column label and slide it into the holder on the front of the cartridge (see Figure 1).
2. For reference, Figure 1 shows the column cartridge after installation of both a capillary guard column and a capillary separator column. Figure 2 shows the column cartridge after installation of only a capillary separator column.

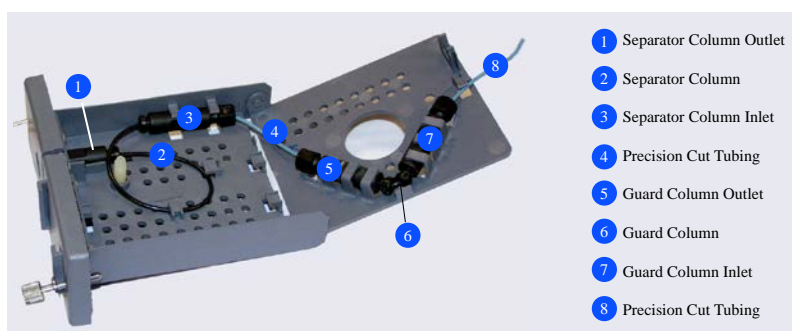


Figure 1
Separator and Guard Columns Installed in Column Cartridge

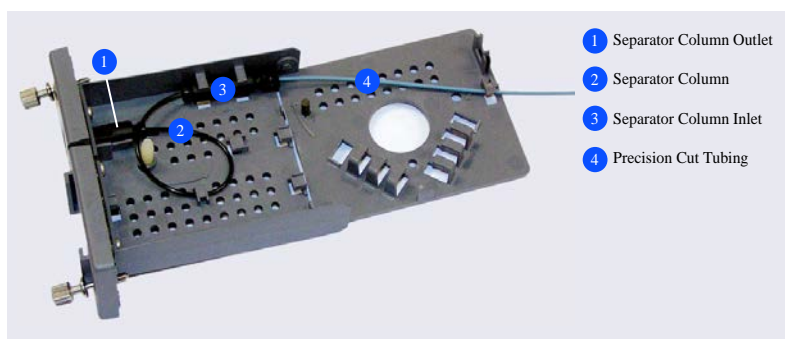


Figure 2
Separator Column Only Installed in Column Cartridge

3. Locate the IC Cube Tubing Kit (P/N 072186) that is shipped with the IC Cube. The tubing kit includes the following items:

Table 3
Contents of the IC Cube Tubing Kit (P/N 072186)

Part	Length / Quantity	Part Number	Used To Connect...
Precision cut 0.062-mm (0.0025-in) ID PEEK tubing, blue	65 mm (2.56 in)	072188	50 mm guard column outlet to 250 mm separator column inlet
Precision cut 0.062-mm (0.0025-in) ID PEEK tubing, blue, labeled VALVE PORT 3	115 mm (4.53 in)	072189	Guard column inlet to injection valve
Precision cut 0.062-mm (0.0025-in) ID PEEK tubing, blue	75 mm (2.93 in)	074603	35 mm guard column outlet to 150 mm separator column inlet
Precision cut 0.062-mm (0.0025-in) ID PEEK tubing, blue, labeled VALVE PORT 3	210 mm (8.27 in)	072187	Separator column inlet to injection valve (if a guard column is not present)
0.25-mm (0.010-in) ID PEEK tubing, black	610 mm (24 in)	042690	EG degas cartridge REGEN OUT to waste (if an EG is not present)
Fitting bolt, 10-32 hex double-cone (smaller), black	3	072949	Connect precision cut 0.062-mm (0.0025-in) ID PEEK tubing
Fitting bolt, 10-32 double-cone (larger), black	1	043275	Connect 0.25-mm (0.010-in) ID PEEK tubing (black)
Ferrule fitting, 10-32 double-cone, tan	4	043276	Use with both sizes of fitting bolts

4. Refer to the following figures for the precision cut tubing required for your configuration:

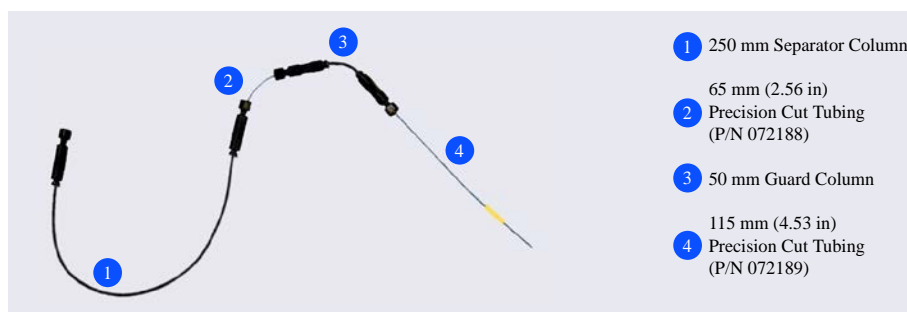


Figure 3
Tubing Connections for 250-mm Separator Column and 50-mm Guard Column

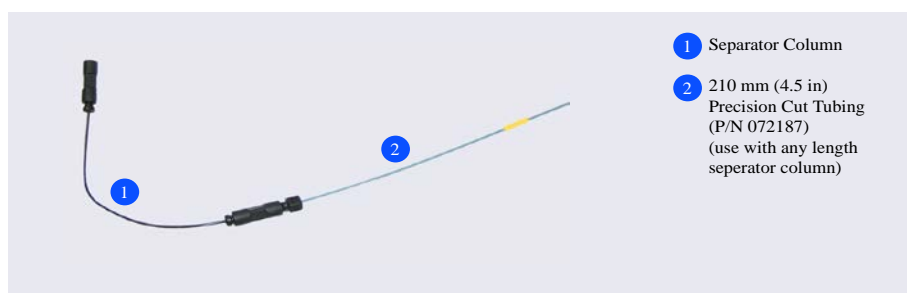


Figure 4
Tubing Connections for Separator Column Only

5. Lift up the lid of the column cartridge to open it.
6. Remove the fitting plug from the outlet fitting on the separator column. Orient the fitting with a flat side up (see Figure 5) and push the fitting into the opening at the front of the column cartridge until it stops.

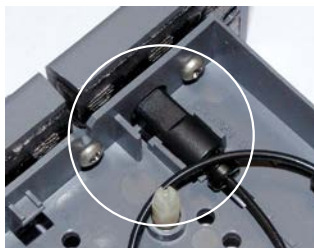


Figure 5
Column Outlet Fitting Installed in Column Cartridge

7. Coil the separator column tubing inside the cartridge as shown in Figure 1 or Figure 2. Secure the column tubing and the inlet fitting in the clips on the column cartridge.
8. Secure the inlet and outlet fittings on the guard column (if used) in the column clips on the lid of the column cartridge.
9. Route the guard column inlet tubing (if used) or the separator column inlet tubing through the clip on the top edge of the column cartridge lid.
10. Close the lid (you should hear a click) and route the tubing into the slot on the front of the column cartridge (see Figure 6).



NOTE

If the columns are installed correctly, the cartridge lid snaps closed easily. If the lid does not close easily, do not force it. Open the lid and verify that the columns and tubing are installed correctly and secured in the clips.



Figure 6
Column Cartridge Closed

SECTION 4 – OPERATION

4.1. General Operating Conditions

Sample Volume:	2-mm: 5 μ L Loop + 0.8 μ L Injection valve dead volume 3-mm: 5 μ L Loop + 0.8 μ L Injection valve dead volume 4-mm: 25 μ L Loop + 0.8 μ L Injection valve dead volume 0.4-mm: 0.4 μ L loop
Column:	2-mm: AS15 2-mm Analytical Column + AG15 2-mm Guard Column 3-mm: AS15 3-mm Analytical Column + AG15 3-mm Guard Column 4-mm: AS15 4-mm Analytical Column + AG15 4-mm Guard Column 0.4-mm: AS15 0.4-mm Capillary Column + AG15 0.4-mm Capillary Guard Column
Eluent:	2-mm: 38 mM KOH 3-mm: 40 mM KOH 4-mm: 38 mM KOH 0.4-mm: 38 mM KOH
Eluent Source:	EGC-KOH
Eluent Flow Rate:	2-mm: 0.3 mL/min 3-mm: 0.5 mL/min 4-mm: 1.2 mL/min 0.4-mm: 0.012 μ L/min
Temperature:	30°C
SRS Suppressor:	2-mm and 3-mm: Anion Self-Regenerating Suppressor, ASRS 300 (2-mm) 4-mm: Anion Self-Regenerating Suppressor, ASRS 300 (4-mm) AutoSuppression Recycle Mode
or MMS Suppressor:	2-mm and 3-mm: Anion MicroMembrane Suppressor, AMMS 300 (2-mm) 4-mm: Anion MicroMembrane Suppressor, AMMS 300 (4-mm) 0.4-mm: Anion Capillary Electrolytic Suppressor ACES 300 (0.4-mm)
MMS Regenerant:	50 mN H ₂ SO ₄
Expected Background Conductivity:	< 3 μ S
Long Term Storage Solution (> 1 week):	100 mM Sodium Borate
Short Term Storage Solution (< 1 week):	Eluent

4.2. Dionex IonPac AS15 Operation Precautions



CAUTION

Filter and Degas Eluents

Filter Samples

Eluent pH between 0 and 14

Sample pH between 0 and 14

0.02 mL/min Maximum Flow Rate for 0.4-mm Columns

0.75 mL/min Maximum Flow Rate for 2-mm Columns

1.5 mL/min Maximum Flow Rate for 3-mm Columns

3.0 mL/min Maximum Flow Rate for 4-mm Columns

Maximum Operating Pressure = 4,000 psi (27.57 MPa)

4.3. Chemical Purity Requirements

Obtaining reliable, consistent and accurate results requires eluents that are free of ionic impurities. Chemicals, solvents and deionized water used to prepare eluents must be of the highest purity available. Low trace impurities and low particle levels in eluents also help to protect your ion exchange columns and system components. Dionex cannot guarantee proper column performance when the quality of the chemicals, solvents and water used to prepare eluents has been compromised.

4.3.1. Inorganic Chemicals

Reagent Grade inorganic chemicals should always be used to prepare ionic eluents. Whenever possible, inorganic chemicals that meet or surpass the latest American Chemical Society standard for purity should be used. These inorganic chemicals will detail the purity by having an actual lot analysis on each label.

4.3.2. Deionized Water

The deionized water used to prepare eluents should be Type I Reagent Grade Water with a specific resistance of 18.2 megohm-cm. The deionized water should be free of ionized impurities, organics, microorganisms and particulate matter larger than 0.2 μm . Bottled HPLC-Grade Water (with the exception of Burdick & Jackson) should not be used since most bottled water contains an unacceptable level of ionic impurities.

4.3.3. Solvents

Solvents can be added to the ionic eluents used with Dionex IonPac AS15 columns to modify the ion exchange process or improve sample solubility. The solvents used must be free of ionic impurities. However, since most manufacturers of solvents do not test for ionic impurities, it is important that the highest grade of solvents available be used. Currently, several manufacturers are making ultrahigh purity solvents that are compatible for HPLC and spectrophotometric applications. These ultrahigh purity solvents will usually ensure that your chromatography is not affected by ionic impurities in the solvent. Currently at Dionex, we have obtained consistent results using High Purity Solvents manufactured by Burdick and Jackson and Optima[®] Solvents by Fisher Scientific.

When using a solvent in an ionic eluent, column generated back pressures will depend on the solvent used, concentration of the solvent, the ionic strength of the eluent and the flow rate used. The column back pressure will vary as the composition of water-methanol and water-acetonitrile mixture varies. The practical back pressure limit for the Dionex IonPac AS15 columns is 4,000 psi (27.57 MPa).

The AS15 can withstand common HPLC solvents in a concentration range of 0 - 100%. Solvents and water should be premixed in concentrations which allow proper mixing by the gradient pump and to minimize outgassing. Ensure that all of the inorganic chemicals are soluble in the highest solvent concentration to be used during the analysis.

Table 4
HPLC Solvents for Use with Dionex IonPac AS15 Columns

Solvent	Maximum Operating Concentration
Acetonitrile	100%
Methanol	100%
2-Propanol	100%
Tetrahydrofuran	20%*
*Higher concentration may only be used for limited duration applications such as column clean up at pressures < 2000 psi.	



The ASRS 300 and the ACES 300 must be operated in the AutoSuppression External Water Mode when using eluents containing solvents. Do not use > 40% solvent on the ASRS 300 and the ACES 300 in the electrolytic mode (power on)

4.3.3.1. Making Eluents that Contain Solvents

When mixing solvents with water remember to mix solvent with water on a volume to volume basis. If a procedure requires an eluent of 90% acetonitrile, prepare the eluent by adding 900 mL of acetonitrile to an eluent reservoir. Then add 100 mL of deionized water or eluent concentrate to the acetonitrile in the reservoir. Using this procedure to mix solvents with water will ensure that a consistent true volume/volume eluent is obtained. Premixing water with solvent will minimize the possibility of outgassing.



NOTE

When purging or degassing eluents containing solvents, do not purge or degas the eluent excessively since it is possible that a volatile solvent can be “boiled” off from the solution.



NOTE

Always degas and store all eluents in glass or plastic eluent bottles pressurized with helium. Only helium can be used to purge and degas ionic eluents containing solvents, since nitrogen is soluble in solvent containing eluents.



NOTE

Acetonitrile (ACN) hydrolyzes to ammonia and acetate when left exposed to basic solutions. To prevent eluent contamination from acetonitrile hydrolysis, always add acetonitrile to basic aqueous eluents by proportioning the acetonitrile into the basic eluent with the gradient pump. Keep the acetonitrile in a separate eluent bottle containing only acetonitrile and water.



SAFETY

Never add the acetonitrile directly to the basic carbonate or hydroxide eluent Solutions.

4.4. Eluent Preparation

4.4.1. Sodium Hydroxide Eluent Concentration

4.4.1.1. Weight Method

When formulating eluents from 50% sodium hydroxide, Dionex recommends weighing out the required amount of 50% sodium hydroxide. Use Fisher Grade 50% sodium hydroxide. Do not use pellets.

Example: To make 1 L of 38 mM NaOH use 3.04 g of 50% sodium hydroxide:
(as used in Section 5.3, “Production Test Chromatogram”)

$$\text{For 38 mM: } \frac{0.038 \text{ mole/L} \times 40.01 \text{ g/mole}}{50\%} = 3.04 \text{ g diluted to 1 L}$$

4.4.1.2. Volume Method

Although it is more difficult to make precise carbonate-free eluents for gradient analysis volumetrically, you may choose to use the following formula to determine the correct volume of 50% sodium hydroxide to be diluted.

g = dvr Where: g = weight of sodium hydroxide required (g)
 * d = density of the concentrated solution (g/mL)
 v = volume of the 50% sodium hydroxide required (mL)
 r = % purity of the concentrated solution

Example: To make 1 L of 38 mM NaOH, use 1.99 mL of 50% sodium hydroxide:
(as used in Section 5.3, “Production Test Chromatogram”)

$$\text{For 38 mM: } \frac{0.038 \text{ mole/L} \times 40.01 \text{ g/mole}}{50\% \times 1.53 \text{ g/mL}} = 1.99 \text{ mL diluted to 1 L}$$

* This density applies to 50% NaOH. If the concentration of the NaOH solution is significantly different from 50%, the upper (weight method) calculation should be used instead.

4.4.1.3. Sodium Hydroxide Eluents

Dilute the amount of 50% (w/w) NaOH (in water) specified in Table 5, "Dilution of 50% (w/w) NaOH to Make Standard AS15 Eluents" with degassed, deionized water having a specific resistance of 18.2 megohm-cm to a final volume of 1,000 mL using a volumetric flask. Avoid the introduction of carbon dioxide from the air into the aliquot of 50% (w/w) NaOH or the deionized water being used to make the eluent. Do not shake the 50% (w/w) NaOH or pipette the required aliquot from the top of the solution where sodium carbonate may have formed.

Table 5
Dilution of 50% (w/w) NaOH to Make Standard AS15 Eluents

50% (w/w) NaOH g (mL)	Concentration of NaOH Eluent (mM)
0.40 (0.26)	5
2.8 (1.83)	35
8.00 (5.25)	100
160.00 (104.6)	2 M

4.5. Regenerant Preparation for the AMMS 300

The Anion MicroMembrane Suppressor 300 (AMMS 300) requires the use of a regenerant solution. If you are using the AMMS 300 instead of the Anion Self-Regenerating Suppressor 300 (ASRS 300), see the Product Manual for the AMMS 300 (Document No. 031727).

SECTION 5 – EXAMPLE APPLICATIONS

5.1. Recommendations for Optimum System Performance

The chromatograms in this section were obtained using columns that reproduced the Production Test Chromatogram (see Section 5.3, “Production Test Chromatograms”) on optimized Ion Chromatographs (see Section 3, “Installation”). Different systems will differ slightly in performance due to slight differences in column sets, system void volumes, liquid sweep-out times of different components and laboratory temperatures.

The Dionex IonPac AS15 is designed for the determination of trace concentrations of inorganic anions and low molecular weight organic acid anions in high purity water matrices. In any type of gradient elution system it is important to use eluents that produce a minimum shift in baseline conductivity during the run, as well as a fast equilibration time from one run to the next. Because sodium or potassium hydroxide is converted to water in the suppressor, it is the best choice for an eluent. As long as the capacity of the suppressor is not exceeded, the eluent hydroxide concentration has little effect on background conductivity. For example, a gradient run could begin at 10 mM KOH and end at 100 mM KOH, with only a resulting 1 to 3 μ S total baseline change.

You can increase the sensitivity of your system by using sample concentration techniques (see Section 3.2, “The Sample Concentrator”).



CAUTION

Carbon dioxide readily dissolves in dilute basic solutions forming carbonate. Carbonate contamination of eluents can affect the retention times of the anions being analyzed. Eluents should be maintained under an inert helium atmosphere to avoid carbonate contamination.

5.2. Production Test Chromatograms

5.2.1. Comparison of 4-mm and 3-mm Column Formats Using an EG Eluent Generator

The following chromatograms compare the separation of the common inorganic anions using eluent generated by the EG Eluent generator on a 3-mm versus a 4-mm AS15 column.

Sample Volume:	3-mm: 5 μ L Loop + 0.8 μ L Injection valve dead volume 4-mm: 10 μ L Loop + 0.8 μ L Injection valve dead volume
Column:	See Chromatogram
Eluent:	3-mm: 40 mM KOH 4-mm: 38 mM KOH
Eluent Source:	EG
Eluent Flow Rate:	3-mm: 0.5 mL/min 4-mm: 1.2 mL/min
Temperature:	30°C
SRS Suppressor:	Anion Self-Regenerating Suppressor, ASRS 300 (2-mm or 4-mm) AutoSuppression Recycle Mode
or MMS Suppressor:	Anion MicroMembrane Suppressor, AMMS 300 (2-mm or 4-mm)
MMS Regenerant:	50 mN H ₂ SO ₄ Both in the AutoSuppression® Recycle Mode
Expected Background Conductivity:	≤ 2 μ S
Long Term Storage Solution (> 1 week):	100 mM Sodium Borate
Short Term Storage Solution (< 1 week):	Eluent

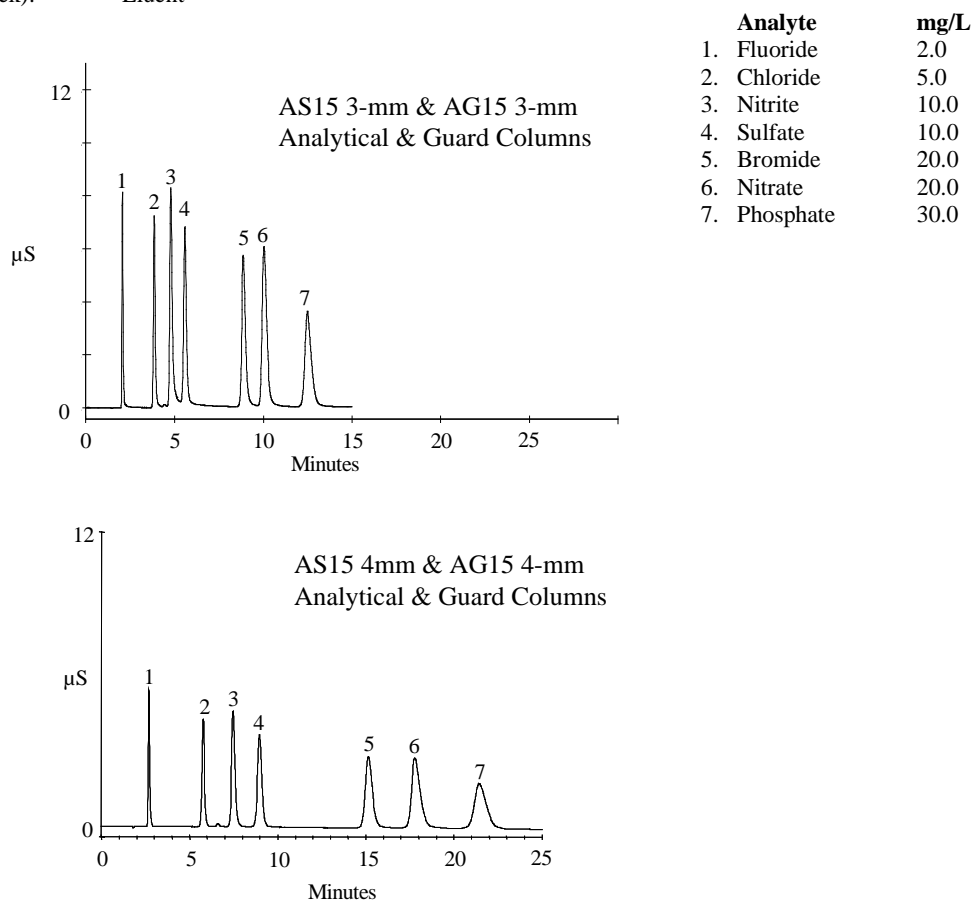


Figure 7
Dionex IonPac AS15 4-mm versus 3-mm Production Test Chromatogram Comparison

5.3. Test Chromatograms at Ambient Temperature

Isocratic elution of seven common anions on the Dionex IonPac AS15 Analytical Column has been optimized at 30°C. It is recommended to operate the AS15 column at elevated temperature (30°C) to ensure reproducible retention times. However, the column can be operated at room temperature. Notice that at room temperature (22°C) the divalent and trivalent ions have shorter retention times with 38 mM NaOH. The optimum eluent for room temperature (22°C) operation is 34 mM NaOH. The optimum eluent may change depending on the laboratory temperature.

Sample Volume:	4-mm: 25 µL Loop + 0.8 µL Injection valve dead volume
Column:	Dionex IonPac AS15 Analytical Column, Dionex IonPac AG15 Guard Column (4-mm)
Eluent:	See Chromatogram
Eluent Flow Rate:	1.2 mL/min (4-mm)
Temperature:	Room Temperature (22°C)
SRS Suppressor:	Anion Self-Regenerating Suppressor, ASRS 300 (4-mm) AutoSuppression Recycle Mode
or MMS Suppressor:	Anion MicroMembrane Suppressor, AMMS 300 (4-mm)
MMS Regenerant:	50 mN H ₂ SO ₄
Expected Background Conductivity:	≤ 3 µS
Long Term Storage Solution (> 1 week):	100 mM Sodium Borate
Short Term Storage Solution (< 1 week):	Eluent

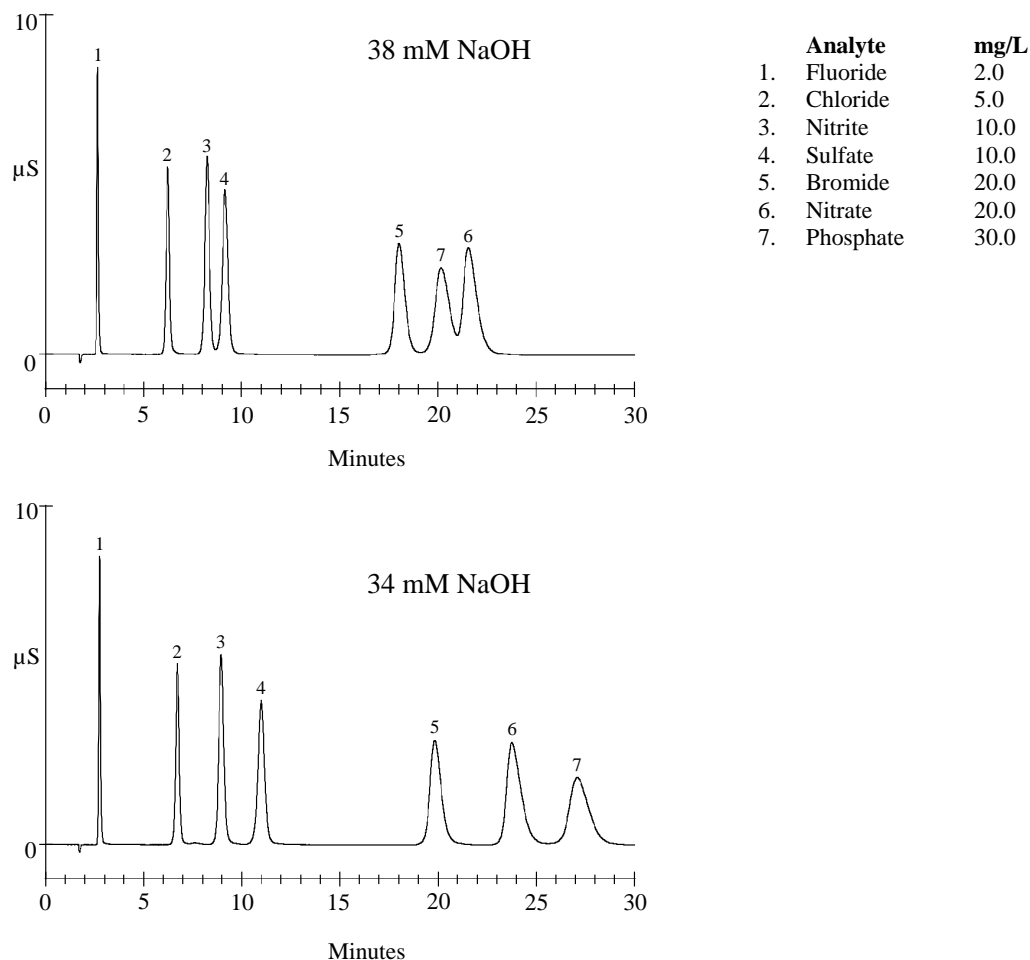


Figure 8
Test Chromatograms at Ambient Temperature

5.4. Fast Run Analysis without Changes in Selectivity

The following chromatograms demonstrate a fast run analysis using the 4-mm AS15 column. By increasing the flow rate, common anion analysis can be completed in well under 20 minutes with no change in selectivity. The AS15 column must be operated at elevated temperature (30°C) to ensure reproducible retention times.

Sample Loop Volume: 25 μ L
Column: Dionex IonPac AS15 Analytical Column + Dionex IonPac AG15 Guard Column (4-mm)
Eluent: 38 mM NaOH
Eluent Flow Rate: 2 mL/min.
Temperature: 30°C
SRS Suppressor: Anion Self-Regenerating Suppressor, ASRS 300 (4-mm)
AutoSuppression Recycle Mode
or MMS Suppressor: Anion MicroMembrane Suppressor, AMMS 300 (4-mm)
MMS Regenerant: 50 mN H₂SO₄
Expected Background Conductivity: ≤ 3 μ S

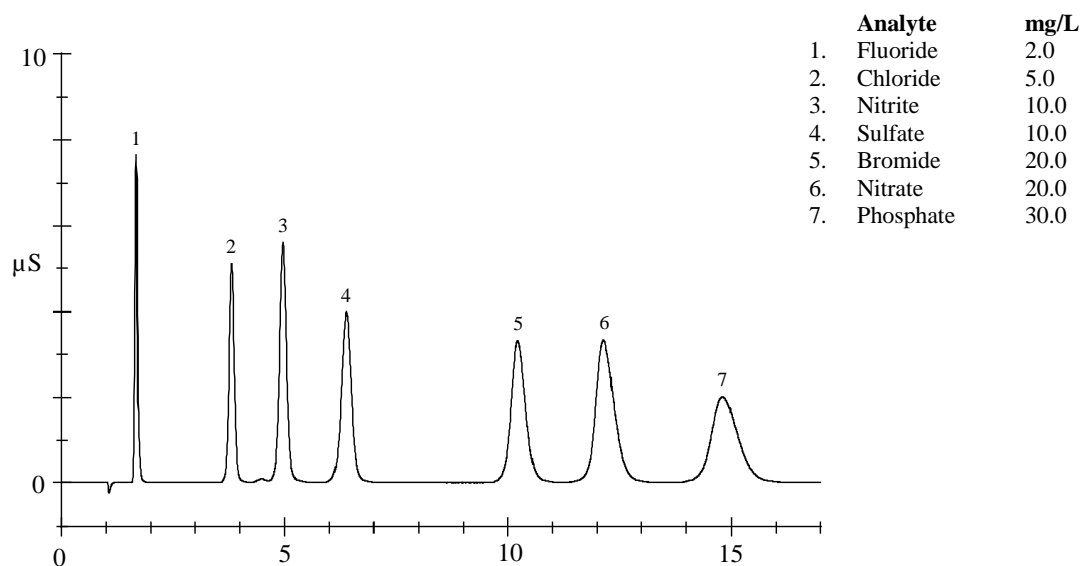


Figure 9
Fast Run Analysis Without Changes in Selectivity

5.5. Effect of Temperature on AS15 Selectivity

These chromatograms demonstrate the effect of temperature on AS15 selectivity and also demonstrates that retention time reproducibility will be affected by changes in operating temperature. The eluent concentrations have been optimized for resolution of 12 inorganic anions and monovalent organic acids at 30°C and at room temperature. The AS15 column must be operated at elevated temperature (30°C) to ensure reproducible retention times.

Sample Volume:	4-mm: 10 µL Loop + 0.8 µL Injection valve dead volume
Column:	Dionex IonPac AS15 Analytical Column + Dionex IonPac AG15 Guard
Column (4-mm)	
Eluent:	See Chromatogram
Eluent Flow Rate:	1.2 mL/min (4-mm)
Temperature:	See Chromatogram
SRS Suppressor:	Anion Self-Regenerating Suppressor, ASRS 300 (4-mm) AutoSuppression Recycle Mode
or MMS Suppressor:	Anion MicroMembrane Suppressor, AMMS 300 (4-mm)
MMS Regenerant:	50 mN H ₂ SO ₄
Expected Background Conductivity:	≤ 3 µS
Long Term Storage Solution (> 1 week):	100 mM Sodium Borate
Short Term Storage Solution (< 1 week):	Eluent

SEE FIGURE ON THE NEXT PAGE.

	Analyte	mg/L
1.	Fluoride	2.0
2.	Glycolate	10.0
3.	Acetate	10.0
4.	Formate	10.0
5.	Chloride	5.0
6.	Carbonate	50.0
7.	Nitrite	10.0
8.	Sulfate	10.0
9.	Oxalate	10.0
10.	Bromide	20.0
11.	Nitrate	20.0
12.	Phosphate	30.0

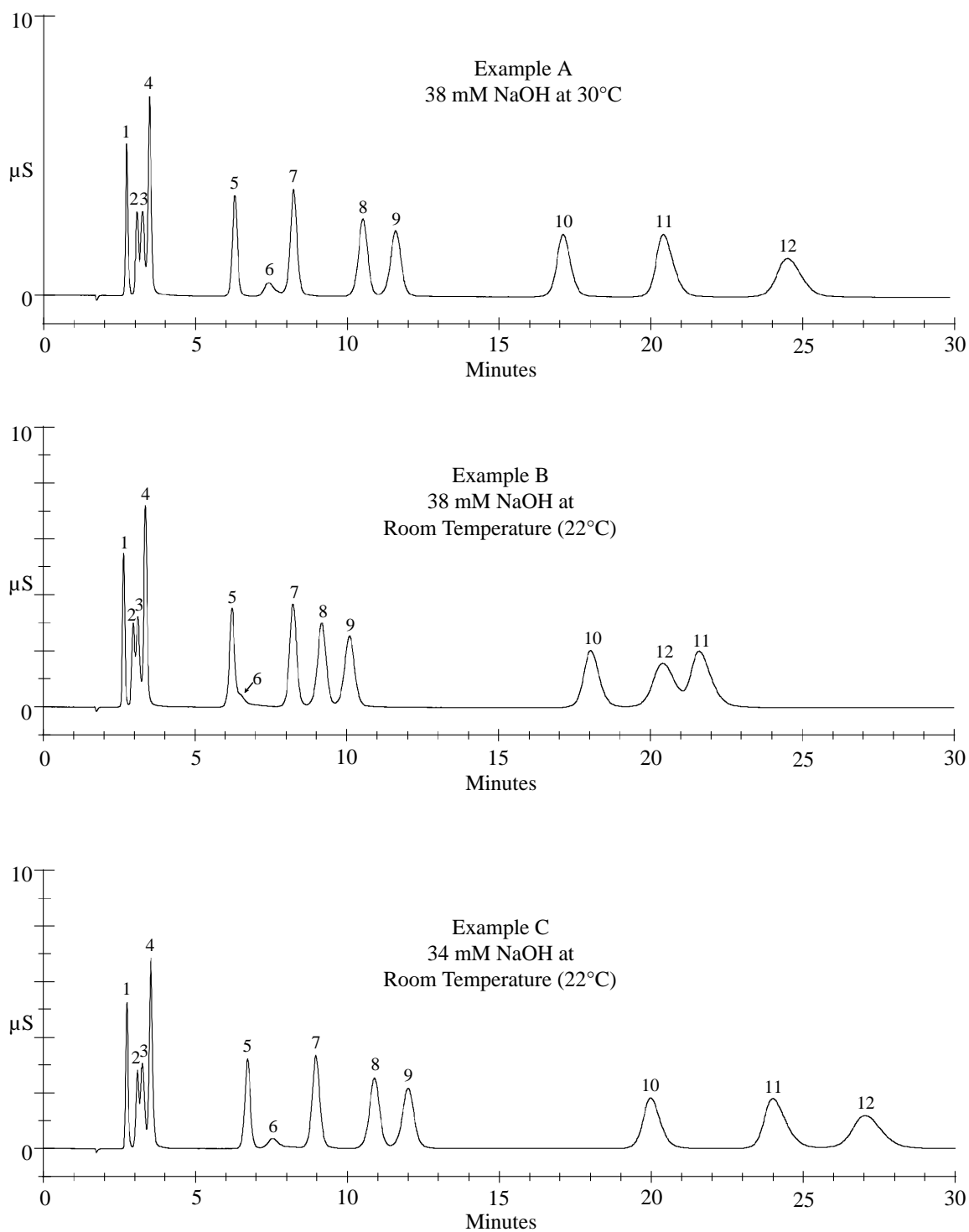


Figure 10
Effect of Temperature on AS15 Selectivity

5.6. Optimized Resolution of Monovalent Organic Acids and Inorganic Anions

Low molecular weight organic acids and mono- and divalent inorganic anions commonly encountered in the chemical, semiconductor, and power generation industries can be determined in a single run on the AS15 column. These chromatograms illustrate the separation of weakly retained anions such as fluoride, glycolate, acetate, and formate on the AS15 using a hydroxide step change or a linear gradient at a controlled temperature of 30°C. The AS15 column must be operated at elevated temperature (30°C) to ensure reproducible retention times.

Sample Loop Volume: 10 µL
 Trap Column: Dionex IonPac ATC-3
 Column: Dionex IonPac AS15 Analytical Column
 + Dionex IonPac AG15 (4-mm) Guard Column
 Eluent: E1: Deionized water
 E2: 38 mM NaOH
 E3: 100 mM NaOH
 Eluent Flow Rate: See chromatogram
 Temperature: 30°C
 SRS Suppressor: Anion Self-Regenerating Suppressor,
 ASRS 300 (4-mm)
 AutoSuppression Recycle Mode
 or MMS Suppressor: Anion MicroMembrane Suppressor, AMMS 300 (4-mm)
 MMS Regenerant: 50 mN H₂SO₄
 Expected Background Conductivity: ≤ 3 µS

Step Gradient

Conditions					Analyte	mg/L
TIME (min)	%E1	%E2	%E3	Comments		
Equilibration					1. Fluoride	2.0
0	90	0	10		2. Glycolate	10.0
5.0	90	0	10		3. Acetate	10.0
Analysis					4. Formate	10.0
5.1	90	0	10	Start isocratic analysis	5. Chloride	5.0
7.0	90	0	10	Inject valve to load position	6. Carbonate	50.0
11.0	90	0	10	End isocratic analysis	7. Nitrite	10.0
11.1	60	0	40	Step change to 40 mM NaOH	8. Sulfate	10.0
					9. Oxalate	10.0
					10. Bromide	20.0
					11. Nitrate	20.0
					12. Phosphate	30.0

Linear Gradient

Conditions				
TIME (min)	%E1	%E2	%E3	Comments
Equilibration				
0	90	0	10	
5.0	90	0	10	
Analysis				
5.1	90	0	10	Start isocratic analysis
7.0	90	0	10	Inject valve to load position
11.0	90	0	10	Start gradient analysis
19.0	55	0	45	

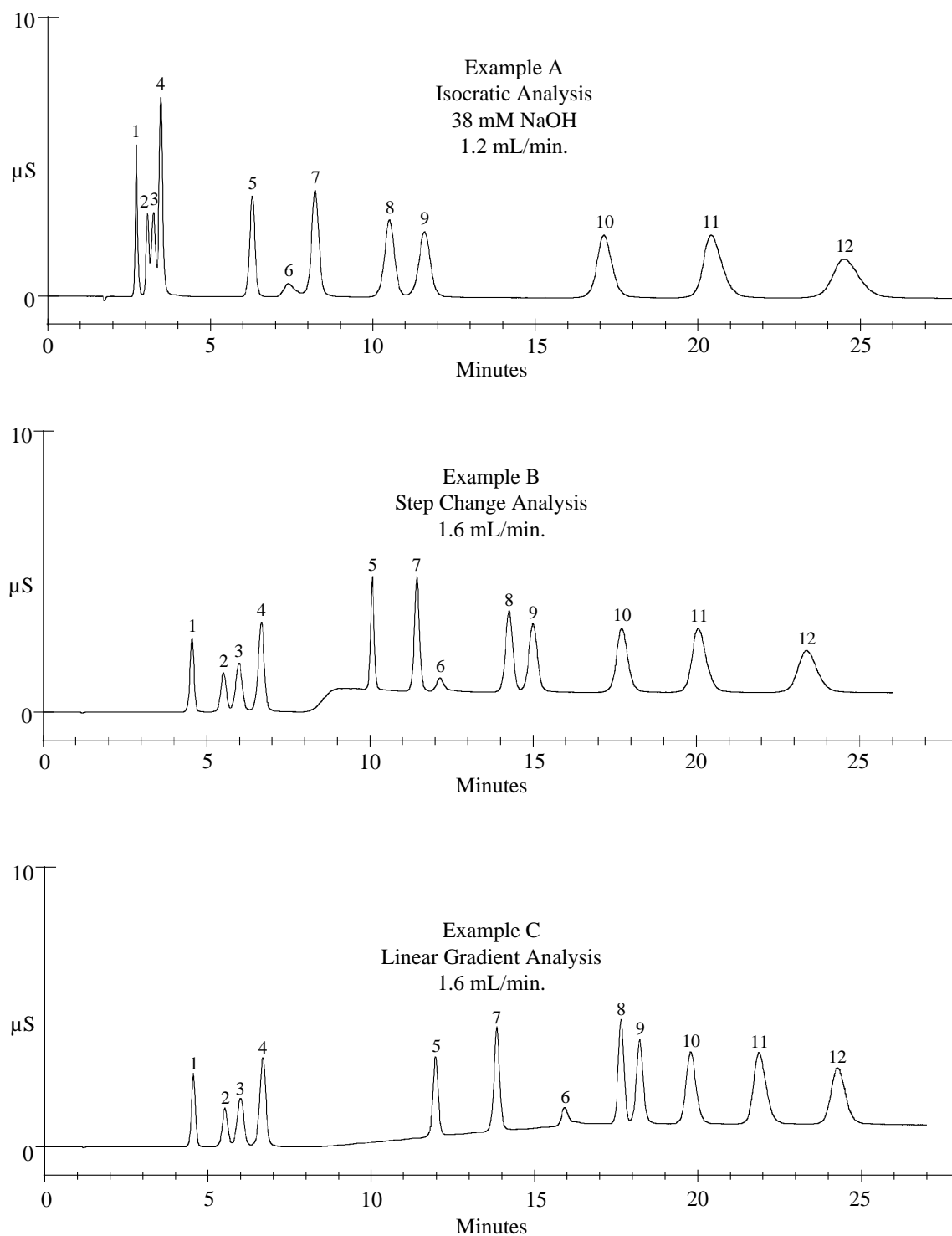


Figure 11
**Optimized Resolution of Monovalent Organic Acids
and Inorganic Anions**

5.7. Large Loop Injection for µg/L (ppb) Level Analysis on 4-mm AS15

High capacity of the AS15 column allows for the determination of trace inorganic anions and low molecular weight organic acids in high purity water matrices using a large loop injection. These chromatograms illustrate the separation of inorganic anions and low molecular weight organic acids in a high purity water sample using a large loop injection with a hydroxide step change or linear gradient coupled with suppressed conductivity detection. Low ppb levels of these analytes can easily be determined using a 2.0 mL injection loop on a 4-mm AS15 column. The hydroxide eluent can be suppressed to a very low background, facilitating trace level analysis. The AS15 column must be operated at elevated temperature (30°C) to ensure reproducible retention times.

Sample Loop Volume:	2 mL
Trap Column:	Dionex IonPac ATC-3
Column: (4-mm)	Dionex IonPac AS15 Analytical Column + Dionex IonPac AG15 Guard Column
Eluent:	E1: Deionized water E2: 38 mM NaOH E3: 100 mM NaOH
Eluent Flow Rate:	See Chromatogram
Temperature:	30°C
SRS Suppressor:	Anion Self-Regenerating Suppressor, ASRS 300 (4-mm) AutoSuppression Recycle Mode
or MMS Suppressor:	Anion MicroMembrane Suppressor, AMMS 300 (4-mm)
MMS Regenerant:	50 mN H ₂ SO ₄ AutoSuppression Recycle Mode
Expected Background Conductivity:	≤ 3 µS

Step Gradient

Conditions					Analyte	µg/L
TIME (min)	%E1	%E2	%E3	Comments		
Equilibration					1. Fluoride	2.0
0	90	0	10		2. Glycolate	4.0
5.0	90	0	10		3. Acetate	4.0
Analysis					4. Formate	2.0
5.1	90	0	10	Start isocratic analysis	5. Chloride	2.0
7.0	90	0	10	Inject valve to load position	6. Carbonate	-
12.0	90	0	10	End isocratic analysis	7. Nitrite	2.0
12.1	60	0	40	Step change to 40 mM NaOH	8. Sulfate	2.0
					9. Oxalate	2.0
					10. Bromide	4.0
					11. Nitrate	4.0
					12. Phosphate	6.0

Linear Gradient

Conditions				
TIME (min)	%E1	%E2	%E3	Comments
Equilibration				
0	90	0	10	
5.0	90	0	10	
Analysis				
5.1	90	0	10	Start isocratic analysis
7.0	90	0	10	Inject valve to load position
11.0	90	0	10	Start gradient analysis
19.0	55	0	45	

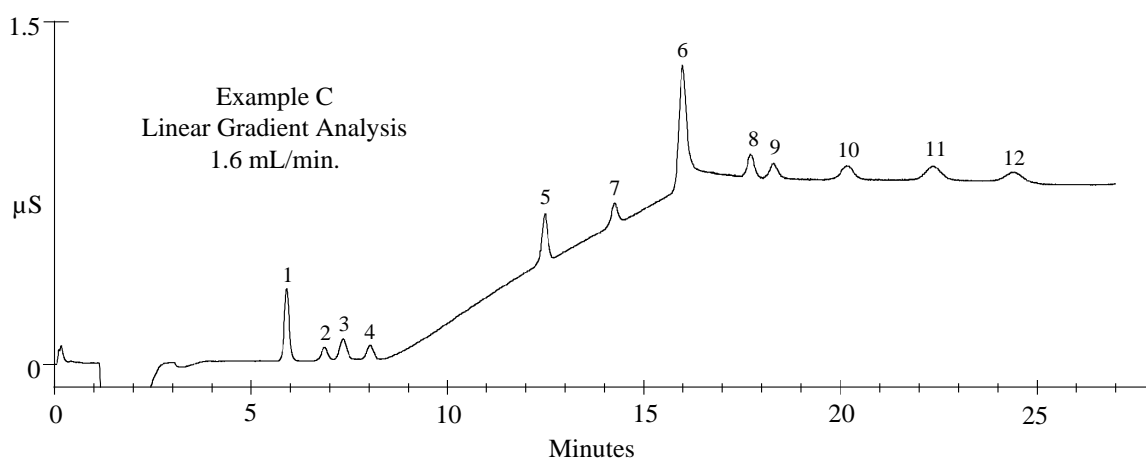
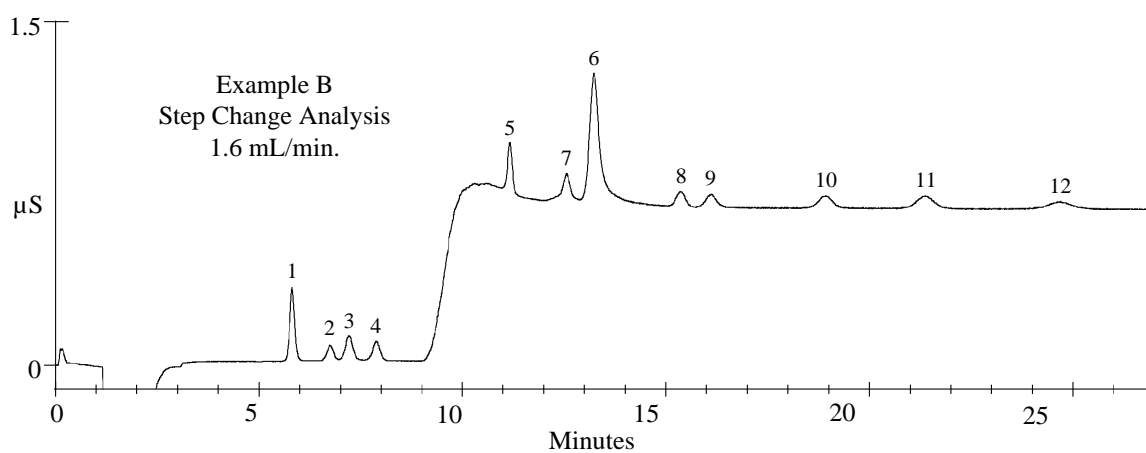
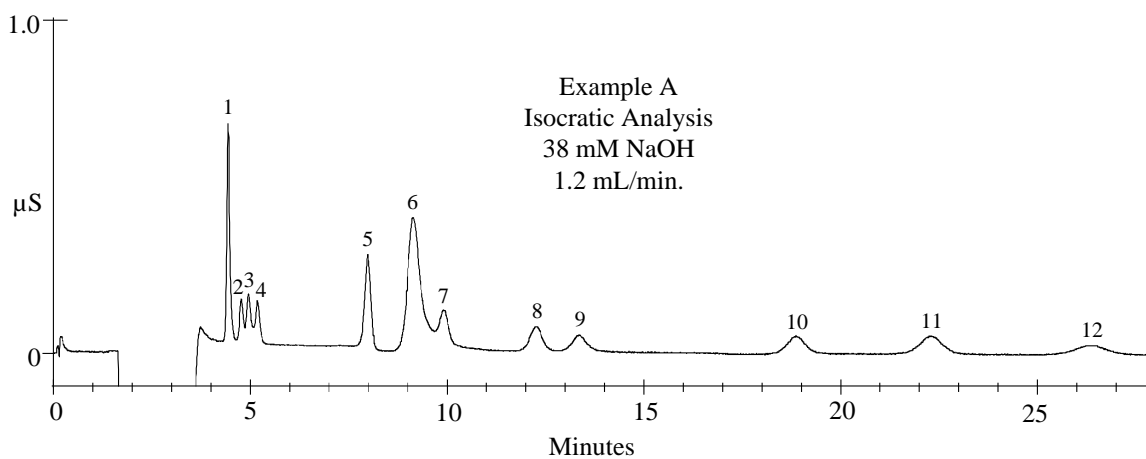


Figure 12
Large Loop Injection for $\mu\text{g/L}$ (ppb) analysis on 4-mm AS15

5.8. Comparison of Conventional Bottle Eluent System and Eluent Generator (EG) System

The following example illustrates a comparison of a gradient delivered using a bottle eluent system and using the Eluent Generator system. When using the conventional gradient delivery, dissolved carbonate causes a baseline shift of approximately 1 μS . The carbonate-free potassium hydroxide gradient produced by the EG40 results in a very low baseline shift ($< 0.1 \mu\text{S}$). This low baseline shift allows easy integration of trace components.

Sample Loop Volume:	2 mL
Trap Columns:	Dionex IonPac ATC-3 (2), 1 after pump; 1 between EG40 degas module and injector
Column:	Dionex IonPac AS15 Analytical Column + Dionex IonPac AG15 Guard Column (4-mm)
Eluent:	See Chromatogram
Eluent Source:	See chromatogram
Eluent Flow Rate:	1.6 mL/min.
Temperature:	30°C
SRS Suppressor:	Anion Self-Regenerating Suppressor, ASRS 300 (4-mm) AutoSuppression Recycle Mode
or MMS Suppressor:	Anion MicroMembrane Suppressor, AMMS 300 (4-mm)
MMS Regenerant:	50 mM H_2SO_4
Expected Background Conductivity:	EG40 eluent: $\leq 1.2 \mu\text{S}$ Bottle eluent: $\leq 3 \mu\text{S}$

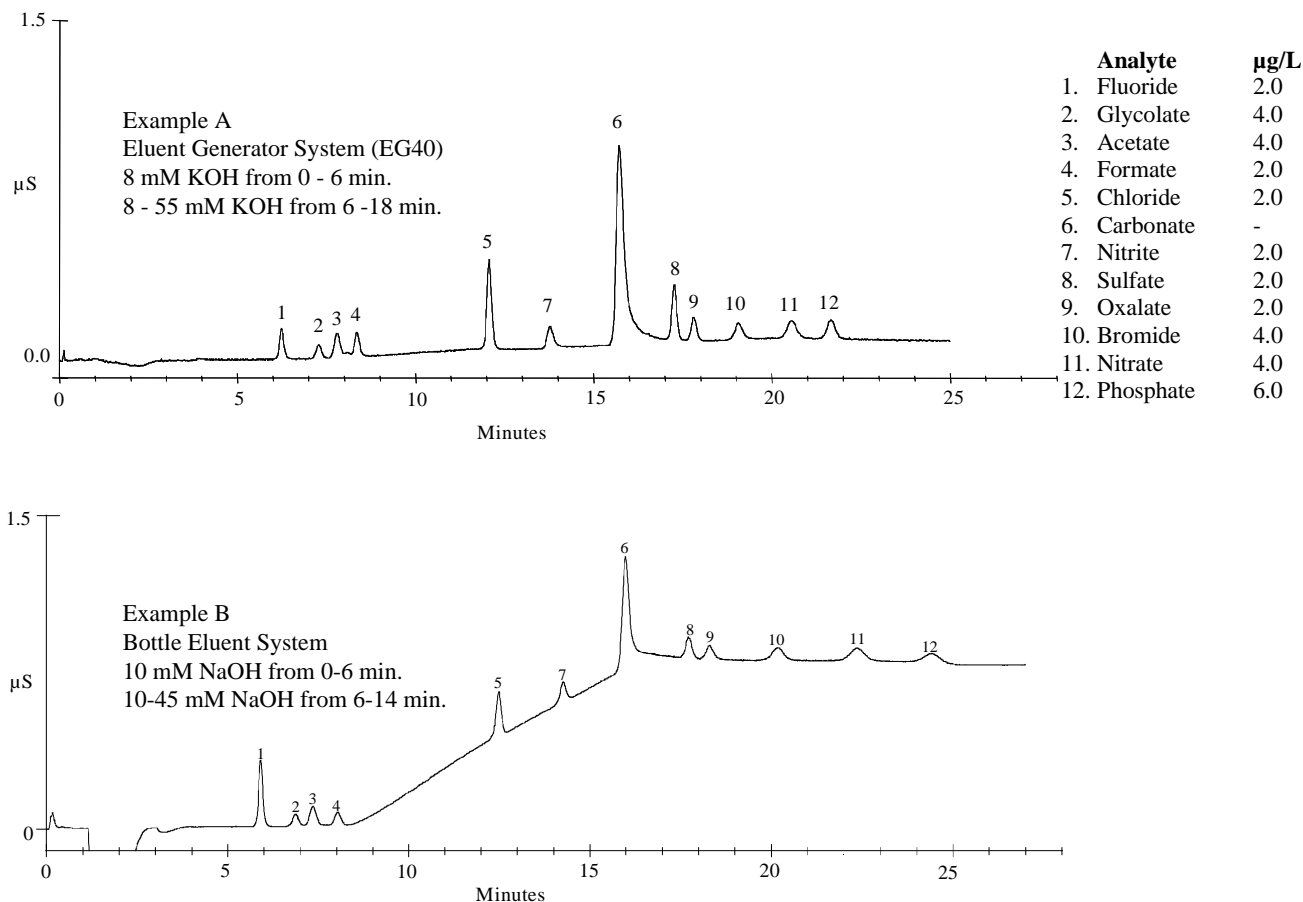


Figure 13
Comparison of Eluent Generator System with Bottle Eluent System

5.9. Large Loop Injection for µg/L (ppb) Level Determination on AS15 2-mm

The high capacity of the AS15 column allows for the determination of trace inorganic anions and low molecular weight organic acids in high purity water matrices using a large loop injection. This chromatogram illustrates the separation of inorganic anions and low molecular weight organic acids in a high purity water sample using a large loop injection with a hydroxide linear gradient coupled with suppressed conductivity detection. Low ppb levels of these analytes can easily be determined using a 1 mL injection loop on a 2-mm AS15 column. Notice the much lower baseline shift produced when using the EG40 as the eluent source. To ensure reproducible retention times, the AS15 column must be operated at an elevated temperature (30°C).

Sample Loop Volume:	1 mL
Trap Columns:	Dionex IonPac ATC-3 (2), 1 after pump; 1 between EG40 degas module and injector
Column:	Dionex IonPac AS15 Analytical Column + Dionex IonPac AG15 Guard Column
(2-mm)	
Eluent Source:	EG
Eluent:	8 mM KOH (0-6 min.) 8-60 mM KOH (6-16 min.)
Eluent Flow Rate:	0.5 mL/min.
Temperature:	30°C
SRS Suppressor:	Anion Self-Regenerating Suppressor, ASRS 300 (2-mm) AutoSuppression External Water Mode
or MMS Suppressor:	Anion MicroMembrane Suppressor, AMMS 300 (2-mm)
MMS Regenerant:	50 mN H ₂ SO ₄
Expected Background Conductivity:	≤ 1.2 µS

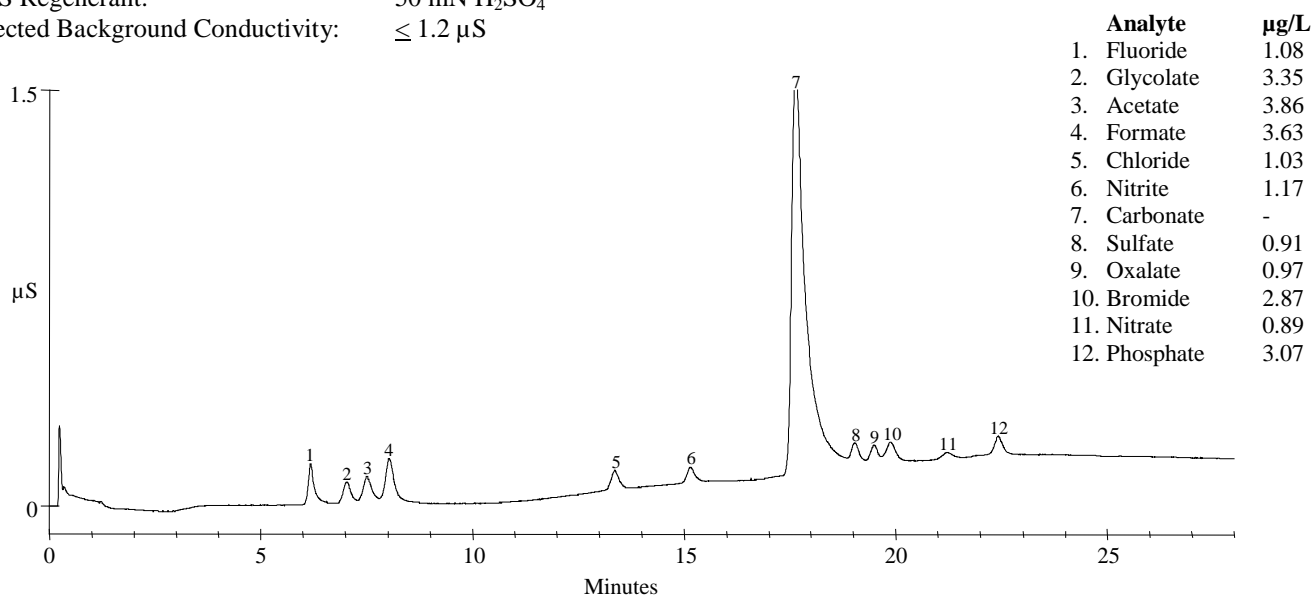


Figure 14
Large Loop Injection for µg/L (ppb) Determination on 2-mm AS15

5.10. Large Loop Injection for µg/L (ppb) Level Analysis on AS15 3-mm

The high capacity of the AS15 column allows for the determination of trace inorganic anions and low molecular weight organic acids in high purity water matrices using a large loop injection. These chromatograms illustrate the separation of inorganic anions and low molecular weight organic acids in a high purity water sample using a large loop injection with an isocratic hydroxide eluent and with a linear hydroxide gradient coupled with suppressed conductivity detection. Notice that by using a hydroxide eluent with a linear gradient, the separation of early eluting monovalent carboxylic acids can be improved. Notice also that the method sensitivity can be improved by increasing the injection loop size but increasing the injection loop size will also affect the retention of all of the analytes, especially the early eluting analytes.

Sample Loop Volume:	See Chromatogram
Trap Columns:	1 Dionex IonPac ATC-3 4-mm (9 x 24 mm) after pump 1 Dionex IonPac ATC-3 2-mm (4 x 35 mm) between the EG degas module and injector
Column: (3-mm)	Dionex IonPac AS15 Analytical Column + Dionex IonPac AG15 Guard Column
Eluent Source:	EG
Eluent:	See Chromatogram
Eluent Flow Rate:	See Chromatogram
Temperature:	30°C
SRS Suppressor:	Anion Self-Regenerating Suppressor, ASRS 300 (2-mm) AutoSuppression External Water Mode
or MMS Suppressor:	Anion MicroMembrane Suppressor, AMMS 300 (2-mm)
MMS Regenerant:	50 mN H ₂ SO ₄
Expected Background Conductivity:	≤ 1.2 µS

SEE FIGURE ON THE NEXT PAGE.

Analyte	µg/L
1. Fluoride	2
2. Glycolate	4
3. Acetate	4
4. Formate	2
5. Chloride	2
6. Nitrite	2
7. Carbonate	-
8. Sulfate	2
9. Oxalate	2
10. Bromide	4
11. Nitrate	4
12. Phosphate	6

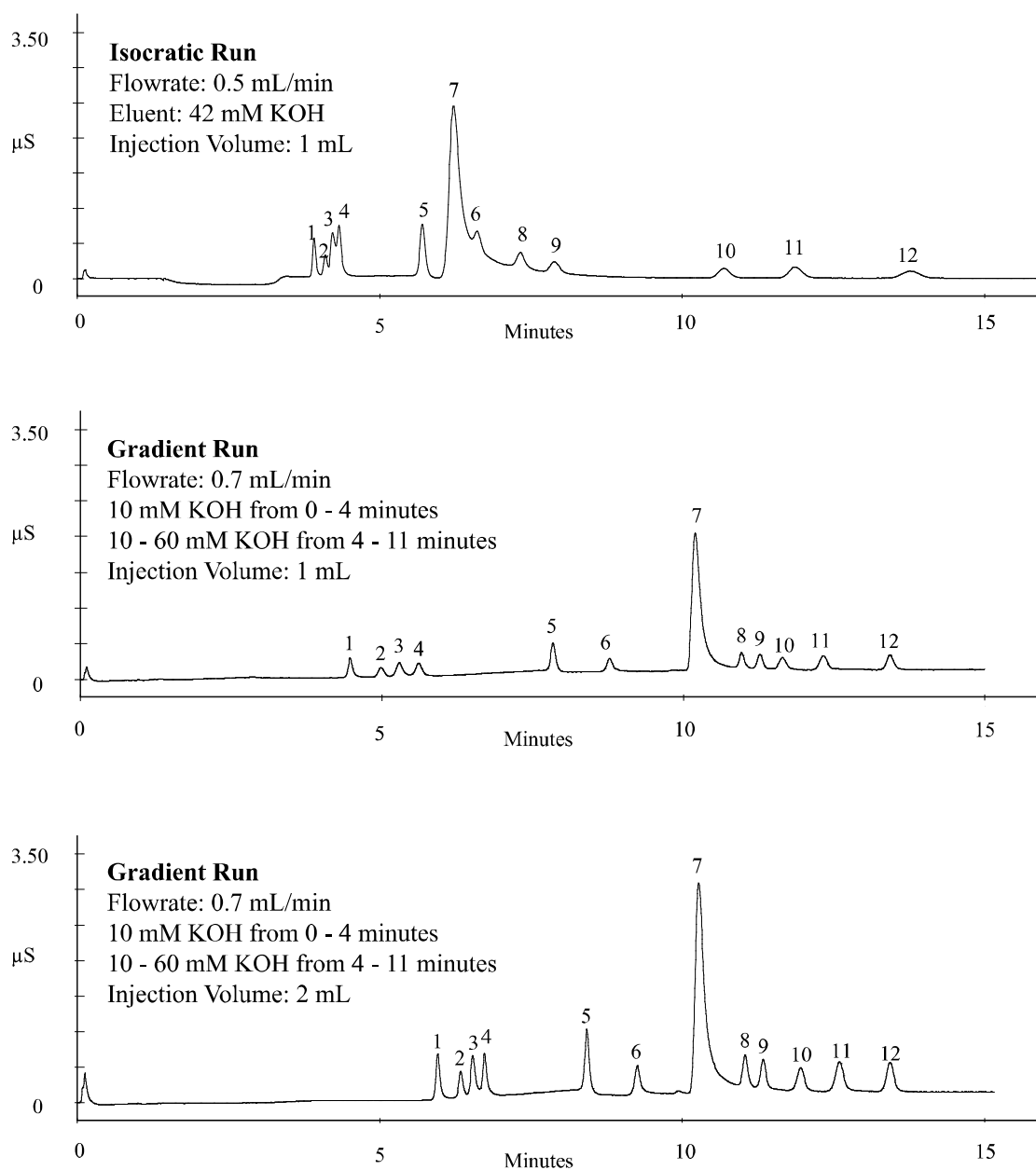


Figure 15
Large Loop Injection for $\mu\text{g/L}$ (ppb) analysis on 3-mm AS15

5.11. Determination of Trace Chloride and Sulfate in High Purity Water

The following chromatogram demonstrates the determination of trace chloride and sulfate in the presence of high levels of carbonate using an optimized eluent system. Increased resolution can be achieved by using a lower flow rate and/or a lower hydroxide concentration.

Sample Loop Volume:	1 mL
Trap Columns:	Dionex IonPac ATC-3 (2), 1 after pump; 1 between EG degas module and injector
Column:	Dionex IonPac AS15 Analytical Column + Dionex IonPac AG15 Guard Column
(2-mm)	
Eluent Source:	EG
Eluent:	40 mM KOH
Eluent Flow Rate:	0.5 mL/min.
Temperature:	30°C
SRS Suppressor:	Anion Self-Regenerating Suppressor, ASRS 300 (2-mm) AutoSuppression Recycle Mode
or MMS Suppressor:	Anion MicroMembrane Suppressor, AMMS 300 (2-mm)
MMS Regenerant:	50 mN H ₂ SO ₄
Expected Background Conductivity:	≤ 1.2 µS

Analyte	µg/L
1. Chloride	1
2. Carbonate	1000
3. Sulfate	1

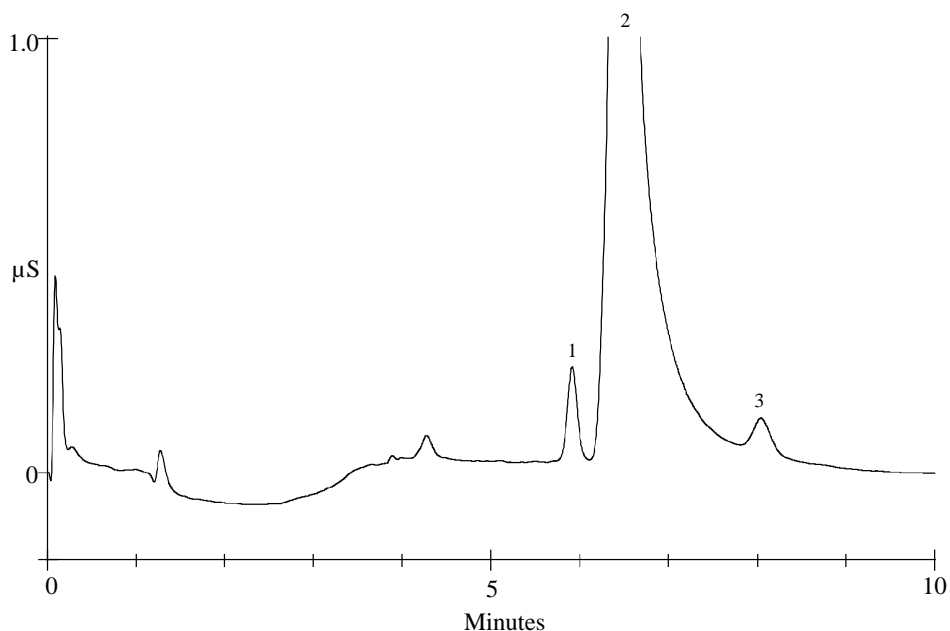


Figure 16
Determination of Trace Chloride and Sulfate in High Purity Water

5.12. Determination of Trace Chloride and Sulfate in Water with High Levels of Carbonate

The following chromatogram demonstrates the determination of trace chloride and sulfate in the presence of very high levels of carbonate using an optimized eluent system. Increased resolution of chloride and sulfate can be achieved by using either a hydroxide gradient or by using the higher capacity 4-mm AS15 column.

Sample Loop Volume: See Chromatogram
 Trap Columns: 1 Dionex IonPac ATC-3 4-mm (9 x 24 mm) after pump
 1 Dionex IonPac ATC -3 2-mm (4 x 35 mm) between the EG40 degas module and injector
 Column: See Chromatogram
 Eluent Source: EG
 Eluent: See Chromatogram
 Eluent Flow Rate: See Chromatogram
 Temperature: 30°C
 SRS Suppressor: Anion Self-Regenerating Suppressor, ASRS 300 (2-mm or 4-mm)
 AutoSuppression Recycle Mode
 or MMS Suppressor: Anion MicroMembrane Suppressor, AMMS 300 (2-mm or 4-mm)
 MMS Regenerant: 50 mN H₂SO₄
 Expected Background Conductivity: ≤ 1.2 µS

Analyte	mg/L
1. Chloride	0.001
2. Carbonate	500
3. Sulfate	0.001

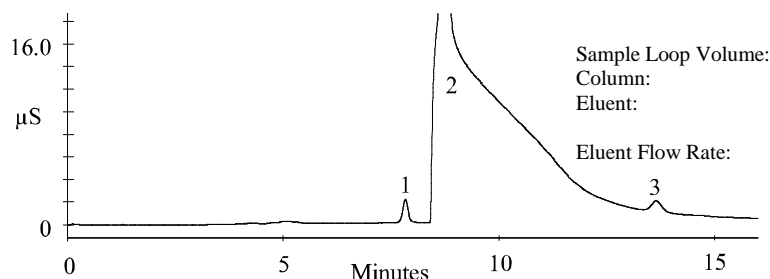
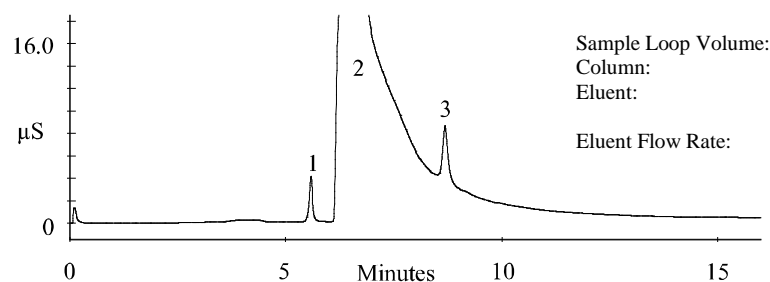
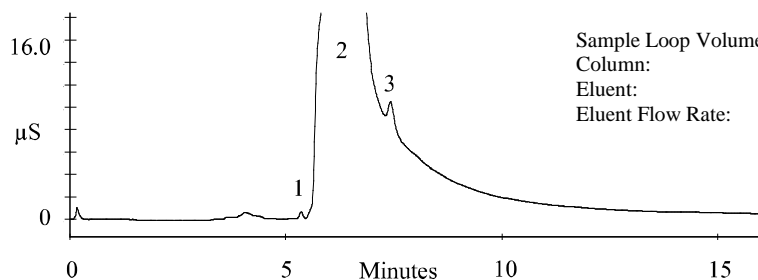


Figure 17
 Determination of Trace Chloride and Sulfate in with High Levels of Carbonate

5.13. Determination of Inorganic Anions and Low Molecular Weight Organic Acids in High Purity Water using Preconcentration Using NaOH Eluent

The following chromatogram demonstrates the determination of inorganic anions and low molecular weight organic acids in high purity water using the Dionex IonPac AS15 2-mm column and AG15 2-mm column with a TAC-LP1 concentrator column. Using a 10 mL sample volume, low ppt levels of inorganic anions and low molecular weight organic acids can routinely be measured in power plant and semiconductor pure water.

Sample Volume:	10 mL
Trap Column:	Dionex IonPac ATC-3
Column:	Dionex IonPac AS15 Analytical Column + Dionex IonPac AG15 Guard Column (2-mm)
Concentrator Column:	Dionex IonPac TAC-LP1
Eluent:	10 mM NaOH, step to 40 mM NaOH at 6 min.
Eluent Flow Rate:	0.4 mL/min.
Temperature:	30°C
SRS Suppressor:	Anion Self-Regenerating Suppressor, ASRS 300 (2-mm) AutoSuppression External Water Mode
or MMS Suppressor:	Anion MicroMembrane Suppressor, AMMS 300 (2-mm)
MMS Regenerant:	50 mN H ₂ SO ₄
Expected Background Conductivity:	≤ 3 µS

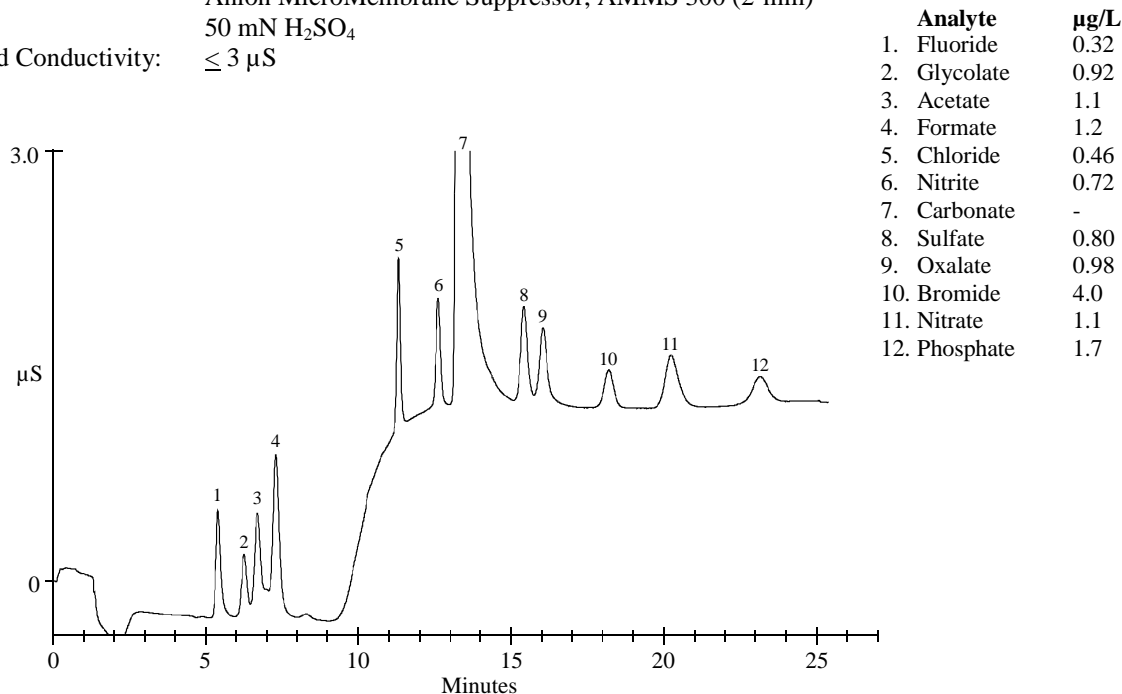


Figure 18
Determination of Inorganic Anions and Low Molecular Weight Organic Acids in High Purity Water using Preconcentration

5.14. Determination of Inorganic Anions and Low Molecular Weight Organic Acids in High Purity Water using Preconcentration and Using an Eluent Generator

The following chromatogram demonstrates the determination of inorganic anions and low molecular weight organic acids in high purity water using the Dionex IonPac AS15 2-mm column and AG15 2-mm column with an AC15 concentrator column. Using a 20 mL sample volume concentrated on the AC15 Concentrator Column, low ppt levels of inorganic anions and low molecular weight organic acids can routinely be measured in power plant and semiconductor pure water.

Trap Column:	Dionex IonPac ATC-3
Sample Volume:	20 mL
Column:	Dionex IonPac AS15 Analytical Column + Dionex IonPac AG15 Guard Column (2-mm)
Concentrator Column:	Dionex IonPac AC15 (2-mm)
Eluent Source:	EG
Eluent:	See table
Eluent Flow Rate:	0.5 mL/min.
Temperature:	30°C
SRS Suppressor:	Anion Self-Regenerating Suppressor, ASRS 300 (2-mm) AutoSuppression External Water Mode
or MMS Suppressor:	Anion MicroMembrane Suppressor, AMMS 300 (2-mm)
MMS Regenerant:	50 mN H ₂ SO ₄
Expected Background Conductivity:	≤ 0.6 µS

Analyte	µg/L	Time (min)	Eluent Conc. (mM)	Comments
1. Fluoride	0.1	Initial	10	Initial idle conditions
2. Acetate	0.1	0.0	10	
3. Formate	0.1	0.1	100	Reconditioning step
4. Chloride	0.1	0.9	100	Reconditioning step
5. Nitrite	0.1	1.0	10	Re-equilibration
6. Carbonate	-	10.0	10	Start isocratic analysis
7. Sulfate	0.1	14.0	10	Begin gradient analysis
8. Oxalate	0.1	24.0	40	
9. Bromide	0.1	28.0	60	End gradient
10. Nitrate	0.1			
11. Phosphate	0.1			

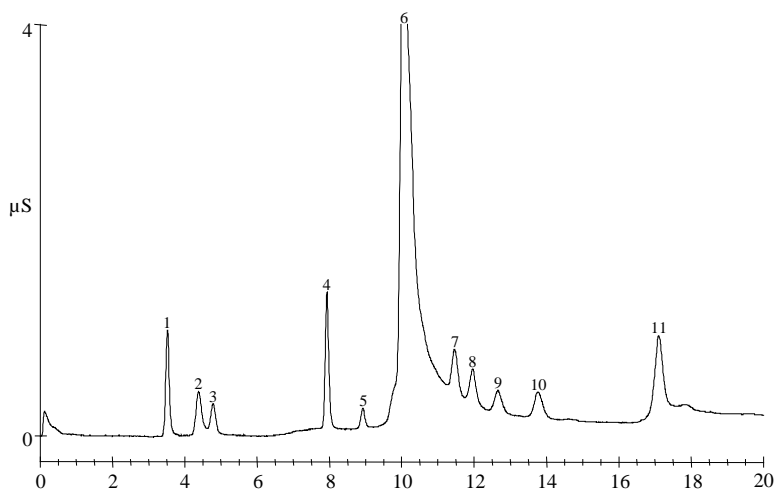


Figure 19
Determination of Inorganic Anions and Low Molecular Weight Organic Acids in High Purity Water using Preconcentration

5.15. Separation of Inorganic Anions and Organic Acids Including Thiosulfate

Low molecular weight organic acids and inorganic anions commonly encountered in industrial process solutions and chemicals can be resolved using an AS15 column. Weakly retained anions such as acetate, formate, propionate, and butyrate are resolved using 8 mM KOH, while highly retained anions such as sulfite, sulfate, oxalate, and thiosulfate are eluted with a KOH gradient.

Sample Loop Volume:	5 μ L
Trap Columns:	1 Dionex IonPac ATC-3 4-mm after pump 1 Dionex IonPac ATC-3 2-mm between the EG degas module and injector
Column: (2-mm)	Dionex IonPac AS15 Analytical Column + Dionex IonPac AG15 Guard Column
Eluent:	8 mM KOH (0 - 6 min.) 8 - 60 mM KOH (6 - 16 min.)
Eluent Source:	EG
Eluent Flow Rate:	0.5 mL/min.
Temperature:	30°C
SRS Suppressor:	Anion Self-Regenerating Suppressor, ASRS 300 (2-mm) AutoSuppression Recycle Mode
or MMS Suppressor:	Anion MicroMembrane Suppressor, AMMS 300 (2-mm)
MMS Regenerant:	50 mN H ₂ SO ₄
Expected Background Conductivity:	≤ 1.2 μ S

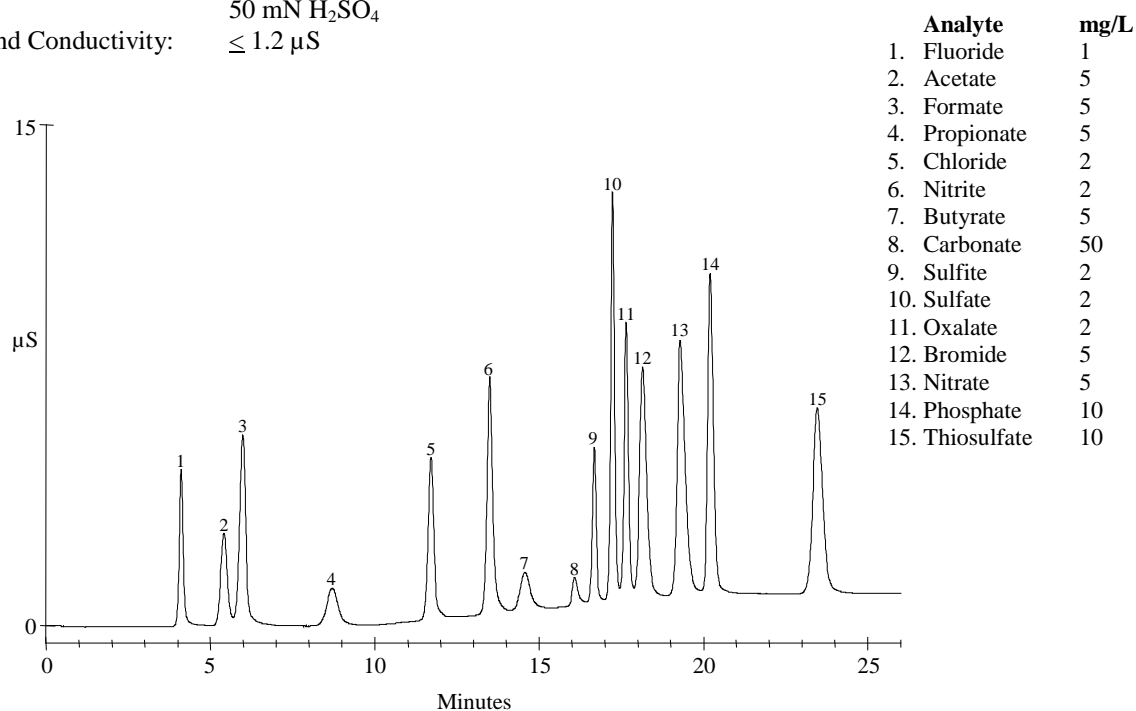


Figure 20
Separation of Inorganic Anions and Organic Acids including Thiosulfate

5.16. Determination of Inorganic Anions and Low Molecular Weight Organic Acids Using an Dionex IonPac AS15-5 μ m (3 x 150 mm) Column

Low molecular weight organic acids and inorganic anions commonly encountered in industrial process solutions and chemicals can be resolved using an AS15 column. Weakly retained anions such as acetate, formate, propionate, and butyrate are resolved using 10 mM KOH, while highly retained anions such as sulfite, sulfate, oxalate, and thiosulfate are eluted with a KOH gradient.

Sample Loop Volume:	5 μ L
Trap Columns:	1 Dionex IonPac ATC-3 4-mm (9 x 24 mm) after pump 1 Dionex IonPac ATC-3 2-mm (4 x 35 mm) between the EG degas module and injector
Column:	Dionex IonPac AS15 Analytical Column + Dionex IonPac AG15 Guard Column (3-mm)
Eluent:	10 mM KOH from 0 - 4 minutes 10 - 60 mM KOH from 4 - 9 minutes
Eluent Source:	EG
Eluent Flow Rate:	0.7 mL/min.
Temperature:	30°C
SRS Suppressor:	Anion Self-Regenerating Suppressor, ASRS 300 (2-mm) AutoSuppression Recycle Mode
or MMS Suppressor:	Anion MicroMembrane Suppressor, AMMS 300 (2-mm)
MMS Regenerant:	50 mN H ₂ SO ₄
Expected Background Conductivity:	≤ 2 μ S

Analyte	mg/L	Analyte	mg/L
1. Fluoride	1	11. Butyrate	5
2. Quinate	5	12. Carbonate	50
3. Glycolate	5	13. Sulfite	2
4. Acetate	5	14. Sulfate	2
5. Lactate	5	15. Oxalate	2
6. Formate	5	16. Bromide	5
7. Propionate	5	17. Nitrate	5
8. Chloride	2	18. Phosphate	10
9. Bromate	5	19. Chlorate	10
10. Nitrite	2	20. Thiosulfate	10

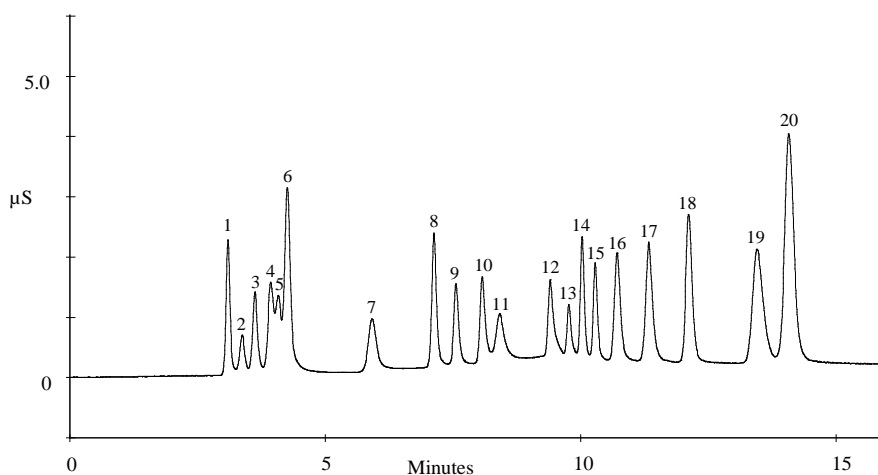


Figure 21
Determination of Inorganic Anions and Low Molecular Weight Organic Acids
Using an Dionex IonPac AS15-5 μ m (3 x 150 mm) Column

5.17. Analysis of an Industrial Waste Sample

Analysis of waste water can be accomplished on either the Dionex IonPac AS15 4-mm + Dionex IonPac AG15 4-mm column set or the Dionex IonPac AS15 3-mm + Dionex IonPac AG15 3-mm column set. The higher capacity Dionex IonPac AS15 4-mm + Dionex IonPac AG15 4-mm columns offer the best resolution of common inorganic anions in a complex samples such as waste water.

Sample Loop Volume:	See Chromatogram
Sample Preparation:	Industrial waste water, 1:10 dilution
Column:	See Chromatogram
Eluent:	See Chromatogram
Eluent Source:	EG
Eluent Flow Rate:	See Chromatogram
Temperature:	30°C
SRS Suppressor:	Anion Self-Regenerating Suppressor, ASRS 300 (2-mm or 4-mm) AutoSuppression Recycle Mode
or MMS Suppressor:	Anion MicroMembrane Suppressor, AMMS 300 (2-mm or 4-mm)
MMS Regenerant:	50 mN H ₂ SO ₄
Expected Background Conductivity:	≤ 2 µS

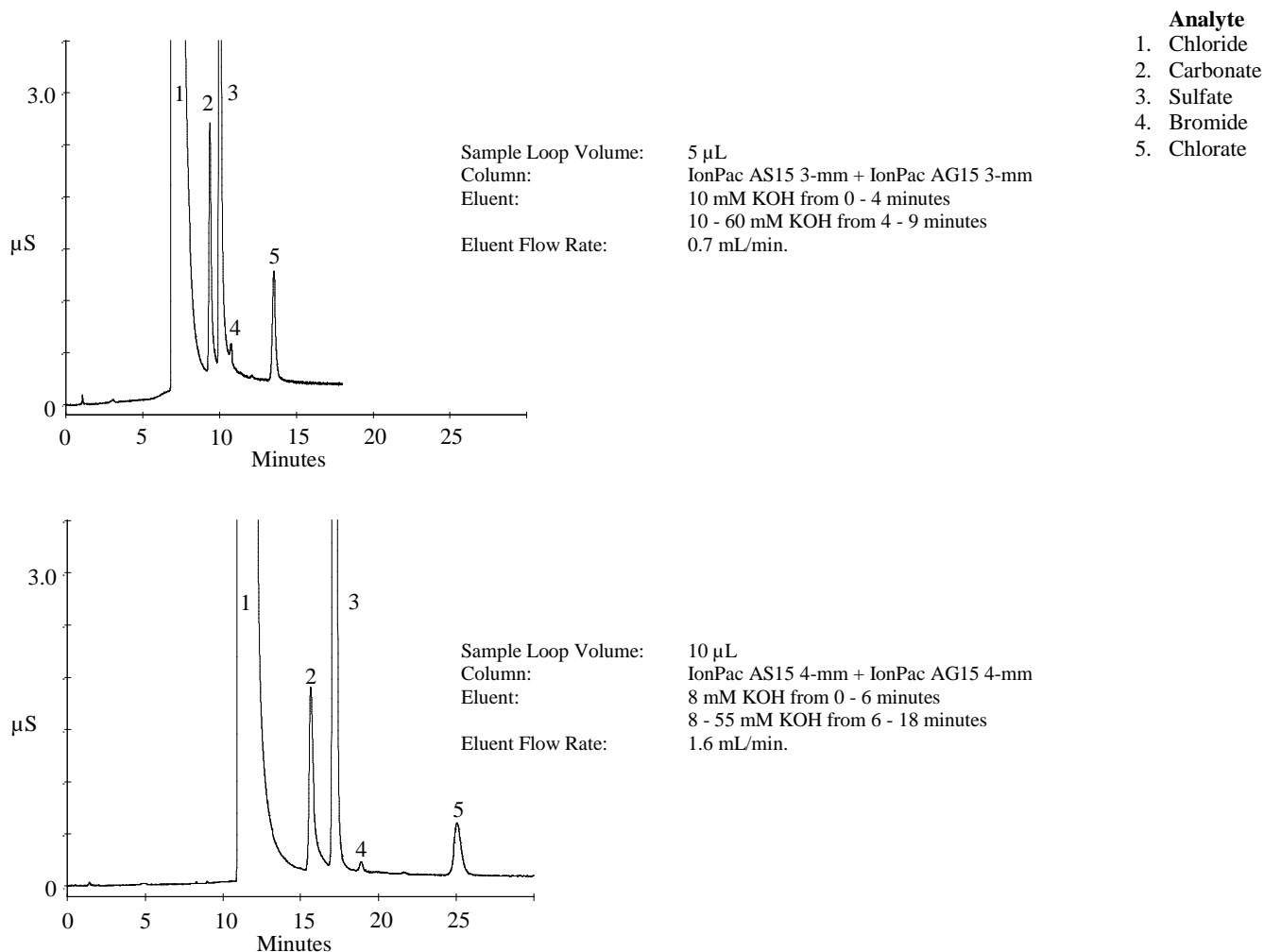


Figure 22
Separation of Common Anions in an Industrial Waste Sample

5.18. Separation of Inorganic Anions at Trace Concentrations on a Dionex IonPac AS15 Capillary Column

The following chromatogram demonstrates the determination of inorganic anions in spiked deionized water using the Dionex IonPac AS15 0.4-mm column and AG15 0.4-mm column with an MAC-100 concentrator column. Using a 180 μ L sample volume concentrated on the MAC-100 Concentrator Column, low ppt levels of inorganic anions can routinely be measured. The capillary format offers excellent reproducibility, reduced eluent consumption and lower operating costs.

Column: Dionex IonPac AS15 column (0.4 \times 250 mm)
 Eluent Source: Capillary EGC-KOH cartridge
 Eluent: 7 mM KOH (0 to 10 minutes), 7 to 32 mM KOH (10 to 16 minutes),
 32 to 50 mM KOH (16 to 30 minutes), 50 to 65 mM
 (30 to 33 minutes), 7 mM KOH (33 to 38 minutes)
 Flow Rate: 12 μ L/min
 Temperature: 30 $^{\circ}$ C
 Detection: Suppressed conductivity, ACES 300, Anion Capillary
 Electrolytic Suppressor, AutoSuppression recycle mode
 Concentrator: IonSwift™ MAC-100 Concentrator (0.5 mm \times 80 mm)
 Injection Volume: 180 μ L
 Sample: A: Deionized water
 B: Deionized water spiked with 0.5 μ g/L Fluoride, 2.5 μ g/L chloride,
 nitrite, bromide, nitrate, and phosphate, 5.0 μ g/L sulfate

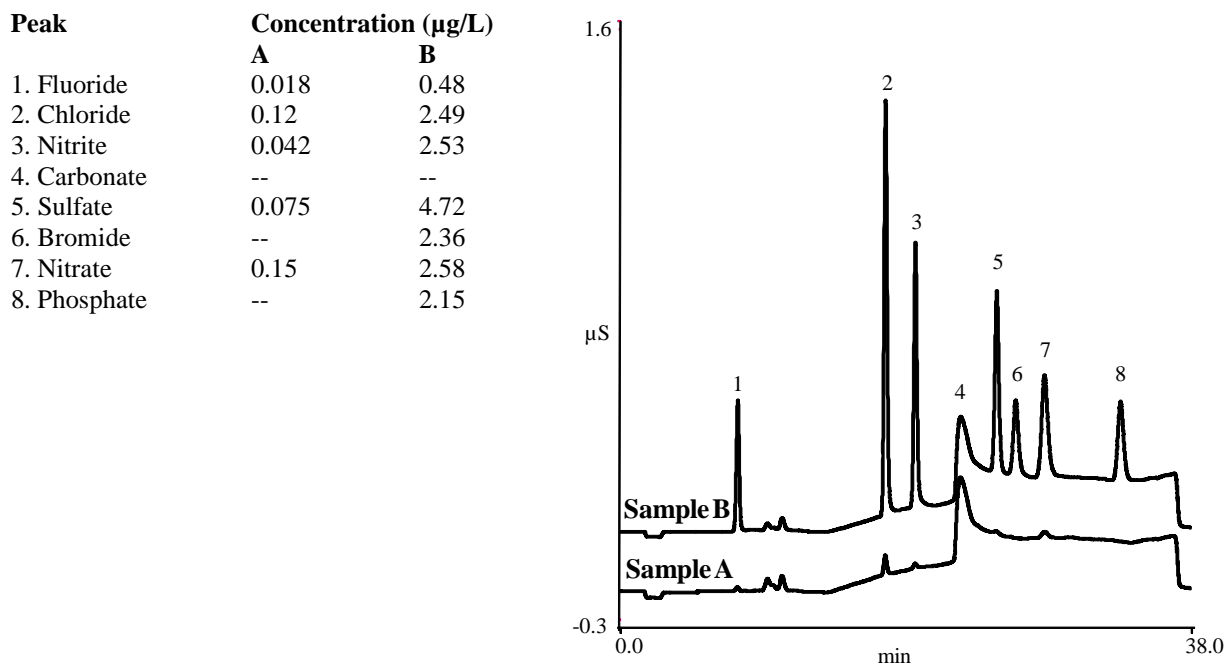


Figure 23
 Inorganic Anions at Trace Levels Separated on the AS15 Capillary Column

5.19. Cleanup after Humic Acid Samples

Solvent compatibility of the Dionex IonPac AS15 permits the use of organic solvents to effectively remove organic contaminants from the column. An AS15 column, after losing over 40% of its original capacity due to fouling with humic acid samples, can easily be restored to 95% of its original performance by cleaning for 3 hours with 80% tetrahydrofuran/20% 1.0 M HCl.

Sample Loop: 25 μ L
 Column: Dionex IonPac AS15 Analytical Column 4-mm
 Eluent: 38 mM NaOH
 Flow Rate: 1.2 mL/min.
 Temperature: 30°C
 SRS Suppressor: Anion Self-Regenerating Suppressor,
 ASRS 300 (4-mm)
 AutoSuppression Recycle Mode
 or MMS Suppressor: Anion MicroMembrane Suppressor,
 AMMS 300 (4-mm)
 MMS Regenerant: 50 mN H₂SO₄
 Expected Background Conductivity: ≤ 3 μ S

Analyte	mg/L
1. Fluoride	2.0
2. Chloride	5.0
3. Nitrite	10.0
4. Sulfate	10.0
5. Bromide	20.0
6. Nitrate	20.0
7. Phosphate	30.0

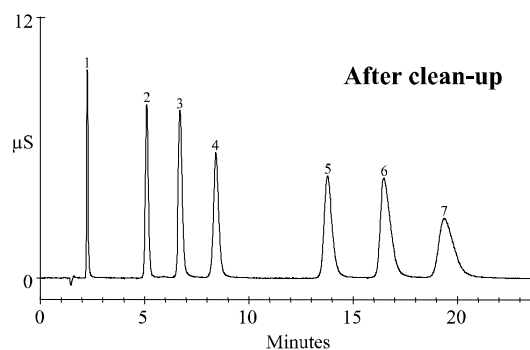
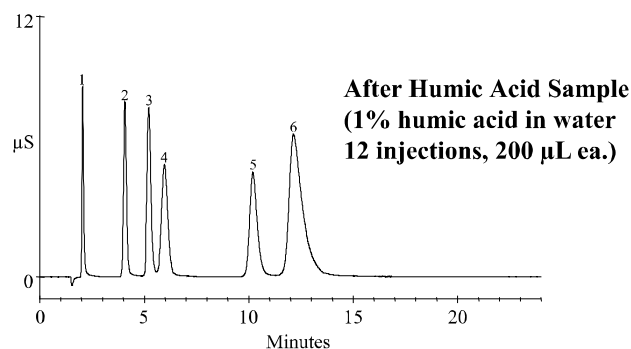
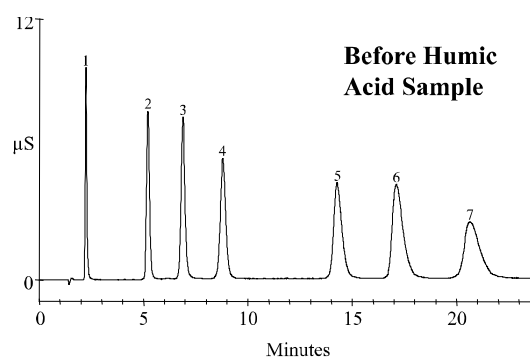


Figure 24
Clean-up After Humic Acid Sample

SECTION 6 – TROUBLESHOOTING GUIDE

The purpose of the Troubleshooting Guide is to help you solve operating problems that may arise while using Dionex IonPac AS15 columns. For more information on problems that originate with the Ion Chromatograph (IC) or the suppressor, refer to the Troubleshooting Guide in the appropriate operator's manual. If you cannot solve the problem on your own, contact the Dionex North America Technical Call Center at 1-800-DIONEX-0 (1-800-346-6390) or the nearest Dionex Office (see, "Dionex Worldwide Offices" on the Dionex Reference Library CD-ROM).

Table 6
AS15/AG15 Troubleshooting Summary

Observation	Cause	Action	Reference Section
High Back Pressure	Unknown	Isolate Blocked Component	6.1.1
	Plugged Column Bed Supports	Replace Bed Supports	6.1.2
	Other System Components	Unplug, Replace	Component Manual
High Background Conductivity	Contaminated Eluents	Remake Eluents	6.2, 6.2.1
	Contaminated Column	Clean Column	6.2.2, 6.2.3
	Contaminated ASRS, ACES or AMMS	Clean Suppressor	6.2.5, Component Manual
	Contaminated Hardware	Clean Component	6.2.4, Component Manual
Poor Resolution	Poor Efficiency Due to Large System Void Volumes	Replumb System	6.3.1.A,
	Column Headspace	Replace Column	6.3.1.B
Short Retention Times	Flow Rate Too fast	Recalibrate Pump	6.3.2.A
	Conc. Incorrect Eluents	Remake Eluents	6.3.2.B
	Column Contamination	Clean Column	6.3.2.C, 6.3.2.D,
Poor Front End	Conc. Incorrect Eluents	Remake Eluents	6.3.3.A
Resolution	Column Overloading	Reduce Sample Size	6.3.3.B, 3.3.1, 3.3.2
	Sluggish Injection Valve	Service Valve	6.3.3.C, Component Manual
	Large System Void Volumes	Replumb System	6.3.3.D, Component Manual
Spurious Peaks	Sample Contaminated	Pretreat Samples	6.3.4.A, 6.3.4.B
	Sluggish Injection Valve	Service Valve	6.3.3.C, Component Manual

6.1. High Back Pressure

6.1.1. Finding the Source of High System Pressure

Total system pressure for the 2-mm or 4-mm Dionex IonPac AG15 Guard Column plus the 2-mm or 4-mm AS15 Analytical Column when using the test chromatogram conditions should be equal to or less than 1,450 psi.

Total system pressure for the 3-mm Dionex IonPac AG15 Guard Column plus the 3-mm AS15 Analytical Column when using the test chromatogram conditions should be equal to or less than 1,850 psi.

Total system pressure for the 0.4-mm Dionex IonPac AG15 Capillary Guard Column plus the 0.4-mm AS15 Capillary Column when using the test chromatogram conditions should be equal to or less than 2,640 psi.

If the system pressure is higher than 1,450 psi for 2-mm or 4-mm systems, or 1,850 psi for 3-mm systems, or 2,640 psi for capillary systems, it is advisable to determine the cause of the high system pressure. The system should be operated with a High-Pressure In-Line Filter (P/N 044105) which is positioned between the Gradient Pump pressure transducer and the injection valve. Make sure you have one in place and that it is not contaminated.

- A. Make sure that the pump is set to the correct eluent flow rate. Higher than recommended eluent flow rates will cause higher pressure. Measure the pump flow rate if necessary with a stop watch and graduated cylinder.
- B. Determine which part of the system is causing the high pressure. High pressure could be due to a plugged tubing or tubing with collapsed walls, an injection valve with a clogged port, a column with particulates clogging the bed support, a clogged High-Pressure In-Line Filter, the suppressor or the detector cell.

To determine which part of the chromatographic system is causing the problem, disconnect the pump eluent line from the injection valve and turn the pump on. Watch the pressure; it should not exceed 50 psi. Continue adding system components (injection valve, column(s), suppressor and detector) one by one, while monitoring the system pressure. The pressure should increase up to a maximum when the Guard/Capillary Guard and Analytical/Capillary columns are connected (see Table 6, "Typical AS15/AG15 Operating Back Pressures").

The Anion Self-Regenerating Suppressor-300 may add up to 100 psi (0.69 MPa). No other components should add more than 100 psi (0.69 MPa) of pressure. Refer to the appropriate manual for cleanup or replacement of the problem component.

6.1.2. Replacing Column Bed Support Assemblies

If the column inlet bed support is determined to be the cause of the high back pressure, it should be replaced. To change the inlet bed support assembly, refer to the following instructions, using one of the two spare inlet bed support assemblies included in the Ship Kit.

- a) Disconnect the column from the system.
- b) Carefully unscrew the inlet (top) column fitting. Use two open-end wrenches.
- c) Remove the bed support. Turn the end fitting over and tap it against a benchtop or other hard, flat surface to remove the bed support and seal assembly. If the bed support must be pried out of the end fitting, use a sharp pointed object such as a pair of tweezers, but be careful that you do not scratch the walls of the end fitting. Discard the old bed support assembly.
- d) Place a new bed support assembly into the end fitting. Make sure that the end of the column tube is clean and free of any particulate matter so that it will properly seal against the bed support assembly. Use the end of the column to carefully start the bed support assembly into the end fitting.

Table 7
Product Information

Product	Dionex IonPac AS15 4-mm Columns (P/N)	Dionex IonPac AS15 3-mm Columns (P/N)	Dionex IonPac AS15 2-mm Columns (P/N)	Dionex IonPac AS15 0.4-mm Columns (P/N)
Analytical Column	053940	057594	053941	075663
Guard Column	053942	057597	053943	075662
Concentrator Column	055694	055695	055695	N/A
Bed Support Assembly	042955	056823	044689	N/A
End Fitting	052809	052809	043278	N/A



CAUTION

If the column tube end is not clean when inserted into the end fitting, particulate matter may obstruct a proper seal between the end of the column tube and the bed support assembly. If this is the case, additional tightening may not seal the column but instead damage the column tube or the end fitting.

- e) Screw the end fitting back onto the column. Tighten it finger-tight, then an additional 1/4 turn (25 in x lb). Tighten further only if leaks are observed.
- f) Reconnect the column to the system and resume operation.



NOTE

Replace the outlet bed support ONLY if high pressure persists after replacement of the inlet fitting.

6.2. High Background or Noise

In a properly working system, the background conductivity level for the standard eluent system is shown below:

Table 8
Background Conductivity

Eluent	Expected Background Conductivity
38 mM NaOH (Bottle Eluent)	$\leq 3 \mu\text{S}$
40 mM EGC KOH	$\leq 1.0 \mu\text{S}$

6.2.1. Preparation of Eluents

- Make sure that the eluents and the regenerant (if used) are made correctly.
- Make sure that the eluents are made from chemicals with the recommended purity.
- Make sure that the deionized water used to prepare the reagents has a specific resistance of 18.2 megohm-cm.

6.2.2. A Contaminated Trap Column

High background may be caused by contamination of the ATC-HC or ATC-3 with carbonate or other anions from the eluent. Clean the ATC-HC or 4-mm ATC-3 with 100 mL of 2.0 M NaOH or 50 mL for the 2-mm ATC-3. Rinse the ATC-HC or 4-mm ATC-3 immediately with 20 mL of eluent or 10 mL of eluent for the 2-mm ATC-3 into a beaker prior to use.

6.2.3. Contaminated CR-ATC Column

For RFIC-EG operation, use a CR-ATC Trap Column. Install a CR-TC Anion Trap Column (P/N 060477 or 072078) if using an Eluent Generator with EGC KOH cartridge. If the CR-ATC becomes contaminated, please refer to Section 6, Clean-Up, in the CR-ATC Product Manual (Document No. 031910).

6.2.4. A Contaminated Guard/Capillary Guard or Analytical/Capillary Column

Remove the Dionex IonPac AG15 Guard/Capillary Guard and AS15 Analytical/Capillary Columns from the system. If the background conductivity decreases, the column(s) is (are) the cause of the high background conductivity. Clean or replace the AG15 at the first sign of column performance degradation (compared to the original test chromatogram) to eliminate downtime. Clean the column(s) as instructed in, "Column Cleanup" (See "Column Care").

6.2.5. Contaminated Hardware

To eliminate the hardware as the source of the high background conductivity, bypass the columns and the Anion Self-Regenerating Suppressor. Pump deionized water with a specific resistance of 18.2 megohm-cm through the system. The background conductivity should be less than 2 μS . If it is not, check the detector/conductivity cell calibration by injecting deionized water directly into it. See the appropriate manual for details.

6.2.6. A Contaminated ASRS 300, ACES 300 or AMMS 300 Suppressor

If the above items have been checked and the problem persists, the Anion Self-Regenerating Suppressor, Anion Capillary Electrolytic Suppressor or the Anion MicroMembrane Suppressor is probably causing the problem. For details on Anion Self-Regenerating Suppressor operation, refer to the Anion Self-Regenerating Suppressor 300 Product Manual (Document No. 031956). For details on Anion Membrane Suppressor 300 operation, refer to the Product Manual (Document No. 031727) for assistance.

For details on Anion Capillary Electrolytic Suppressor (ACES 300) operation, refer to the Product Manual (Document No. 065386) for assistance.

- A. Check the power level and alarms on the SRS Control.
- B. Check the regenerant flow rate at the REGEN OUT port of the ASRS or ACES if operating in the AutoSuppression External Water mode, or the Chemical Suppression mode of the AMMS. Check the eluent flow rate.
- C. If you are using an AutoRegen Accessory with the ASRS (in the Chemical Suppression Mode) or the AMMS, prepare fresh regenerant solution. Test both the suppressor and the AutoRegen Regenerant Cartridge for contamination.
 1. If the background conductivity is high after preparing fresh regenerant and bypassing the AutoRegen Regenerant Cartridge, you probably need to clean or replace your ASRS or AMMS.
 2. If the background conductivity is low when freshly prepared regenerant is run through the ASRS or AMMS without an AutoRegen Accessory in-line, test the AutoRegen Regenerant Cartridge to see if it is expended. Connect the freshly prepared regenerant to the AutoRegen Regenerant Cartridge. Pump approximately 200 mL of regenerant through the AutoRegen Regenerant Cartridge to waste before recycling the regenerant back to the regenerant reservoir. If the background conductivity is high after placing the AutoRegen Accessory in-line, you probably need to replace the AutoRegen Regenerant Cartridge. Refer to the "AutoRegen Regenerant Cartridge Refill Product Manual" (Document No. 032852) for assistance.

6.3. Poor Peak Resolution

Poor peak resolution can be due to any or all of the following factors.

6.3.1. Loss of Column Efficiency

- A. **Peak Fronting:** Check to see if headspace has developed in the Guard/Capillary Guard or Analytical/Capillary Column. This is usually due to improper use of the column such as submitting it to high pressures. Remove the column's top end fitting (see Section 6.1.2, "Replacing Column Bed Support Assemblies"). If the resin does not fill the column body all the way to the top, it means that the resin bed has collapsed, creating a headspace. The column must be replaced.
- B. **Symmetric Inefficient Peaks:** Extra-column effects can result in sample band dispersion, making the peaks' elution less efficient. Make sure you are using PEEK tubing with an ID of no greater than 0.010" for 4-mm systems or no greater than 0.005" for 3-mm and 2-mm systems to make all eluent liquid line connections between the injection valve and the detector cell inlet. Cut the tubing lengths as short as possible. Check for leaks. Do not cut tubing for 0.4-mm capillary systems; always use the pre-cut tubing provided by Dionex.

6.3.2. Poor Resolution Due to Shortened Retention Times

Even with adequate system and column efficiency, resolution of peaks will be compromised if analytes elute too fast.

- A. Check the flow rate. See if the eluent flow rate is equivalent to the flow rate specified by the analytical protocol. Measure the eluent flow rate after the column using a stopwatch and graduated cylinder. Check the flow rate of the pump. If the flow rate is higher than the set flow rate, it will cause longer retention time as it will dilute the eluent generated by the eluent generator. If the flow rate is lower than the set flow rate, it will cause shorter run times as the eluent will be more concentrated than needed for the separation.
- B. Check to see if the eluent compositions and concentrations are correct. An eluent that is too concentrated will cause the peaks to elute faster. Prepare fresh eluent. If you are using a gradient pump to proportion the eluent, components

from two or three different eluent reservoirs, the resulting eluent composition may not be accurate enough for the application. Use one reservoir containing the correct eluent composition to see if this is the problem. This may be a problem when one of the proportioned eluents is less than 5%.

- C. Column contamination can lead to a loss of column capacity. This is because all of the anion exchange sites will no longer be available for the sample ions. For example, polyvalent anions from the sample or metals may concentrate on the column. Refer to, "Column Cleanup" (see "Column Care"), for recommended column cleanup procedures. Possible sources of column contamination are impurities in chemicals and in the deionized water used for eluents or components of the sample matrix. Be especially careful to make sure that the recommended chemicals are used. The deionized water should have a specific resistance of 18.2 megohm-cm.
- D. Diluting the eluent will improve peak resolution, but will also increase the analytes' retention times. If a 10% dilution of the eluent is not sufficient to obtain the desired peak resolution, or if the resulting increase in retention times is unacceptable, clean the column (see, "Column Cleanup" in "Column Care").

After cleaning the column, reinstall it in the system and let it equilibrate with eluent for about 30 minutes. No water wash is necessary. The column is equilibrated when consecutive injections of the standard give reproducible retention times. The original column capacity should be restored by this treatment, since the contaminants should be eluted from the column. If you need assistance in solving resolution problems, contact the Dionex North America Technical Call Center at 1-800-Dionex-0 (1-800-346-6390) or the nearest Dionex Office (see, "DIONEX Worldwide Offices").

6.3.3. Loss of Front End Resolution

If poor resolution or efficiency is observed for the peaks eluting near the system void volume compared to the later eluting peaks, check the following:

- A. Improper eluent concentration may be the problem. Remake the eluent as required for your application. Ensure that the water and chemicals used are of the required purity.
- B. Column overloading may be the problem. Reduce the amount of sample ions being injected onto the analytical column by either diluting the sample or injecting a smaller volume onto the column.
- C. Sluggish operation of the injection valve may be the problem. Check the air pressure and make sure there are no gas leaks or partially plugged port faces. Refer to the valve manual for instructions.
- D. Improperly swept out volumes anywhere in the system prior to the guard and analytical columns may be the problem. Swap components, one at a time, in the system prior to the analytical column and test for front-end resolution after every system change.

6.3.4. Spurious Peaks

- A. The columns may be contaminated. If the samples contain an appreciable level of polyvalent ions and the column is used with a weak eluent system, the retention times for the analytes will then decrease and be spurious, inefficient (broad) peaks that can show up at unexpected times. Clean the column as indicated in "Column Cleanup" (see "Column Care").

If you need assistance in determining the best way to clean strongly retained solutes in your specific sample matrix from the Dionex IonPac AS15 columns, contact the North America Technical Call Center at 1-800-DIONEX-0 (1-800-346-6390) or the nearest DIONEX Office (see, "DIONEX Worldwide Offices").

- B. The injection valve may need maintenance. When an injection valve is actuated, the possibility of creating a baseline disturbance exists. This baseline upset can show up as a peak of varying size and shape. This will occur when the injection valve needs to be cleaned or re-torqued (see valve manual). Check to see that there are no restrictions in the tubing connected to the valve. Also check the valve port faces for blockage and replace them if necessary. Refer to the Valve Manual for troubleshooting and service procedures. Small baseline disturbances at the beginning or at the end of the chromatogram can be overlooked as long as they do not interfere with the quantification of the peaks of interest.

6.3.5. Poor Efficiency Using Capillary Columns

Incorrectly installed fittings on capillary tubing can increase void volumes, causing chromatograms with tailing peaks.

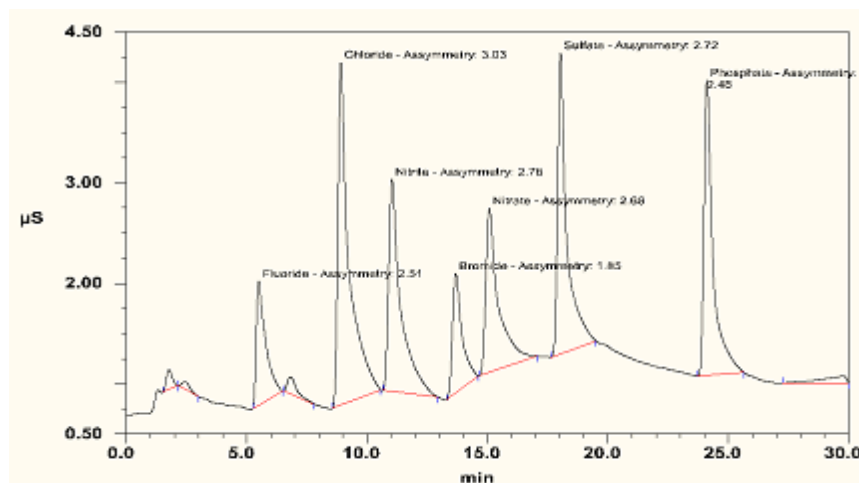


Figure 25
Tailing Peaks Caused by Incorrectly Installed
Capillary Tubing Fittings

When connecting a capillary tube fitting, make sure that the ferrule and fitting bolt are at least 2 mm (0.1 in) from the end of the tubing before you insert the tubing into the port. Do not place the ferrule and fitting bolt flush with the end of the tubing. Figure 26 illustrates the correct and incorrect placement of the ferrule and fitting bolt on the tubing.

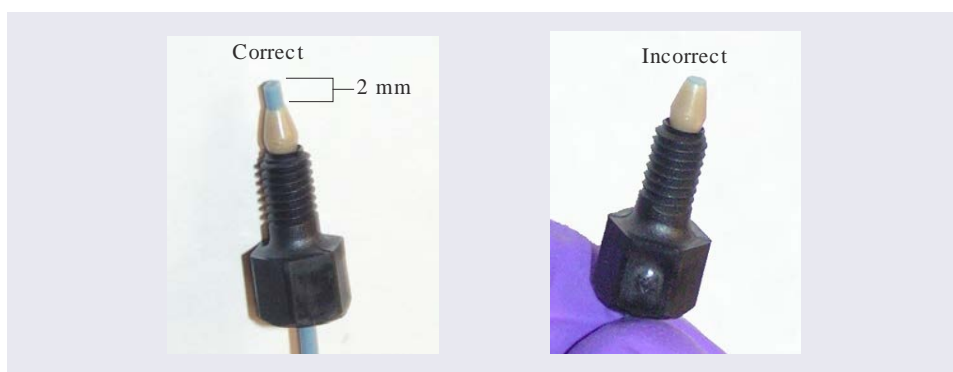


Figure 26
Correct and Incorrect Ferrule and
Fitting Bolt Placement for Capillary Tubing Connections

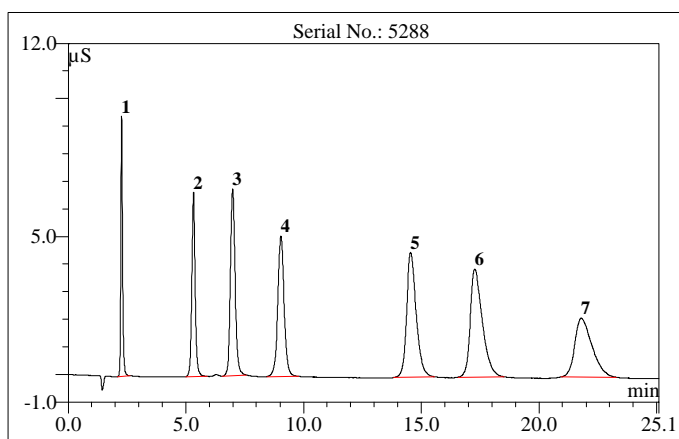
APPENDIX A - QUALITY ASSURANCE REPORTS

Quality Assurance Report – Dionex IonPac AS15 Analytical Column 4-mm
Quality Assurance Report – Dionex IonPac AS15-5 μ m Analytical Column 3-mm
Quality Assurance Report – Dionex IonPac AS15 Analytical Column 2-mm
Quality Assurance Report – Dionex IonPac AS15 Capillary Column 0.4-mm

IonPac® AS15
Analytical (4 x 250 mm)
Product No. 053940

Date: 06-Mar-10 11:09
Serial No. : 005288
Lot No. : 009-11-131

Eluent: 38 mM NaOH
Flow Rate: 1.2 mL/min
Temperature: 30 °C
Detection: Suppressed Conductivity
Suppressor: Anion Self-Regenerating Suppressor (ASRS® 300 4mm)
 AutoSuppression® Recycle Mode
Applied Current: 113 mA
Injection Volume: 25 µL
Storage Solution: 100 mM Sodium Tetraborate



No.	Peak Name	Ret.Time (min)	Asymmetry (AIA)	Resolution (EP)	Efficiency (EP)	Concentration (mg/L)
1	Fluoride	2.27	1.5	16.14	5261	2.0
2	Chloride	5.32	1.2	5.51	7025	5.0
3	Nitrite	6.99	1.2	4.98	6342	10.0
4	Sulfate	9.04	1.1	9.31	5805	10.0
5	Bromide	14.55	1.6	3.38	6672	20.0
6	Nitrate	17.27	1.9	4.07	5842	20.0
7	Phosphate	21.80	1.8	n.a.	4335	30.0

QA Results:

Analyte	Parameter	Specification	Results
Sulfate	Efficiency	>=3600	Passed
Sulfate	Asymmetry	1.0-1.8	Passed
Sulfate	Retention Time	7.9-9.4	Passed
	Pressure	<=1430	951

Production Reference:

Datasource: QAR

Directory: Anion\AS15

Sequence: AS15_4X250MM

Sample No.: 2

6.80 DU10a Build 2826(171948) (Demo-Installation)

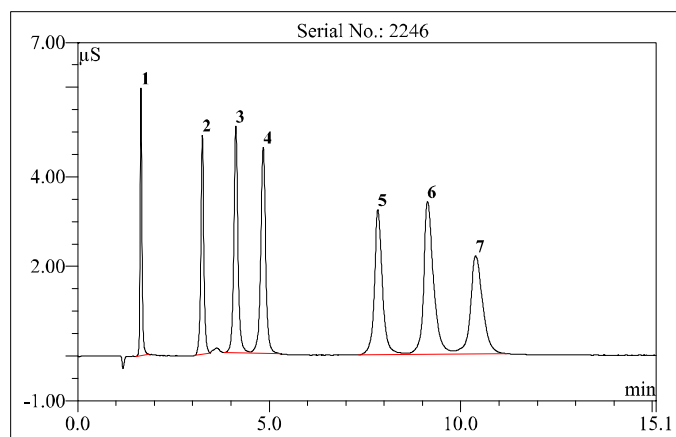
Chromeleon® Dionex Cop. 1994-2011

066752-03(QAR)

IonPac® AS15 5 µm
Analytical (3 x 150 mm)
Product No. 057594

Date: 09-Aug-10 14:39
Serial No. : 002246
Lot No. : 009-11-061

Eluent: 40 mM NaOH
Flow Rate: 0.5 mL/min
Temperature: 30 °C
Detection: Suppressed Conductivity
Suppressor: Anion Self-Regenerating Suppressor (ASRS® 300 2mm)
 AutoSuppression® Recycle Mode
Applied Current: 50 mA
Injection Volume: 5 µL
Storage Solution: 100 mM Sodium Tetraborate



No.	Peak Name	Ret.Time (min)	Asymmetry (AIA)	Resolution (EP)	Efficiency (EP)	Concentration (mg/L)
1	Fluoride	1.65	1.4	14.39	5915	2.0
2	Chloride	3.25	1.1	5.51	8994	5.0
3	Nitrite	4.12	1.2	3.62	8305	10.0
4	Sulfate	4.84	1.0	10.77	8005	10.0
5	Bromide	7.83	1.3	3.39	8442	20.0
6	Nitrate	9.13	1.7	2.61	7321	20.0
7	Phosphate	10.39	1.3	n.a.	5877	30.0

QA Results:

Analyte	Parameter	Specification	Results
Sulfate	Efficiency	>=5400	Passed
Sulfate	Asymmetry	1.0-1.8	Passed
Sulfate	Retention Time	4.63-6.28	Passed
	Pressure	<=1760	1118

Production Reference:

Datasource: Archive-Con

Directory CON-2010\COLUMN\CPC\CPC_5

Sequence: 833848_AS15_3X150MM

Sample No.: 33

6.80 DU10a Build 2826 (171948) (Demo-Installation)

Chromeleon® Dionex Corp. 1994-2011

066693-03 (QAR)

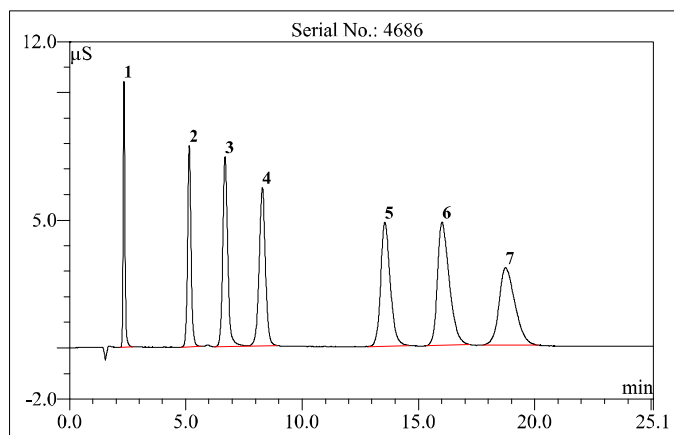
IonPac® AS15
Analytical (2 x 250 mm)
Product No. 053941

Date: 01-Feb-10 12:49

Serial No. : 004686

Lot No. : 009-11-028

Eluent: 38 mM NaOH
Flow Rate: 0.30 mL/min
Temperature: 30 °C
Detection: Suppressed Conductivity
Suppressor: Anion Self-Regenerating Suppressor (ASRS® 300 2mm)
 AutoSuppression® Recycle Mode
Applied Current: 29 mA
Injection Volume: 5 µL
Storage Solution: 100 mM Sodium Tetraborate



No.	Peak Name	Ret.Time (min)	Asymmetry (AIA)	Resolution (EP)	Efficiency (EP)	Concentration (mg/L)
1	Fluoride	2.34	1.3	14.60	5581	2.0
2	Chloride	5.15	1.0	4.93	6258	5.0
3	Nitrite	6.69	1.2	3.84	5406	10.0
4	Sulfate	8.29	1.0	8.83	4944	10.0
5	Bromide	13.55	1.4	3.03	5608	20.0
6	Nitrate	16.02	1.8	2.57	5006	20.0
7	Phosphate	18.75	1.5	n.a.	3731	30.0

QA Results:

Analyte	Parameter	Specification	Results
Sulfate	Efficiency	>=3600	Passed
Sulfate	Asymmetry	1.0-1.8	Passed
Sulfate	Retention Time	7.93-9.58	Passed
	Pressure	<=1430	983

Production Reference:

Datasource: Archive-Con

Directory CON-2010\COLUMN\CPF\CPF_4

Sequence: 743729_AS15_2X250

Sample No.: 24

6.80 DU10a Build 2826 (171948) (Demo-Installation)

Chromleon® Dionex Corp. 1994-2011

066750-03 (QAR)

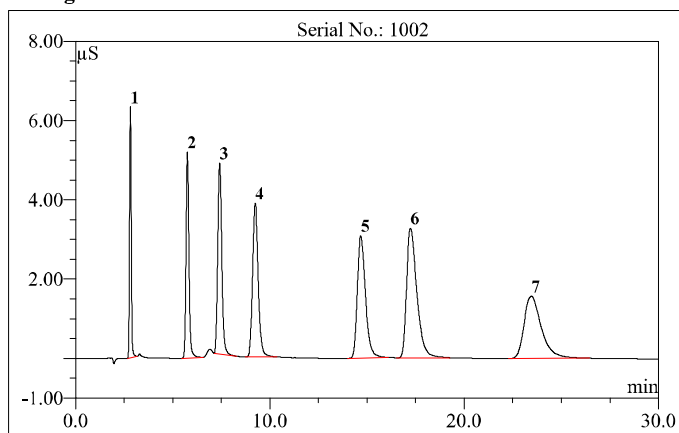
IonPac® AS15
Capillary (0.4 x 250 mm)
Product No. 075662

Date: 09-Feb-11 13:43

Serial No. : 001002

Lot No. : 007-08-167B

Eluent: 38 mM KOH
Eluent Source: EGC-KOH (Capillary)
Flow Rate: 0.012 mL/min
Temperature: 30 °C
Detection: Suppressed Conductivity
Suppressor: Anion Capillary Electrolytic Suppressor (ACES 300)
 AutoSuppression® Recycle Mode
Applied Current: 10 mA
Injection Volume: 400 nL
Storage Solution: 100 mM Sodium Tetraborate



No.	Peak Name	Ret.Time (min)	Asymmetry (AIA)	Resolution (EP)	Efficiency (EP)	Concentration (mg/L)
1	Fluoride	2.81	1.2	13.89	5577	1.0
2	Chloride	5.75	1.2	5.10	7060	2.5
3	Nitrite	7.41	1.3	4.11	6163	5.0
4	Sulfate	9.24	1.3	8.66	5163	5.0
5	Bromide	14.67	1.6	3.05	6222	10.0
6	Nitrate	17.23	1.9	5.00	5393	10.0
7	Phosphate	23.45	1.7	n.a.	3641	15.0

QA Results:

Analyte	Parameter	Specification	Results
Sulfate	Efficiency	>=3600	Passed
Sulfate	Asymmetry	1.0-1.8	Passed
Sulfate	Retention Time	7.9-9.4	Passed
	Pressure	<=2200	1540

Production Reference:

Datasource: Column

Directory: Capillary\Cap_Anion-3

Sequence: AS15_p4X250MM_VAL_01-06-2011

Sample No.: 110

6.80 DU10a Build 2826 (171948) (Demo-Installation)

Chromeleon® Dionex Corp. 1994-2011

075606-01 (QAR)

APPENDIX B – COLUMN CARE

B.1 Recommended Operation Pressures

Operating a column above its recommended pressure limit can cause irreversible loss of column performance. The maximum recommended operating pressure for Dionex IonPac AS15 columns is 4,000 psi (27.57 MPa).

B.2 Column Start-Up

The column is shipped using the eluent as the storage solution.

Prepare the eluent shown on the test chromatogram, install the column in the chromatography module and test the column performance under the conditions described in the test chromatogram. Continue making injections of the test standard until consecutive injections of the standard give reproducible retention times. Equilibration is complete when consecutive injections of the standard give reproducible retention times.

B.3 Column Storage

For short-term storage (< 1 week), use Eluent, for long-term storage (> 1 week), use 100 mM Sodium Borate for the column storage solution. Flush the column for a minimum of 10 minutes with the storage solution. Cap both ends securely, using the plugs supplied with the column.

B.4 Column Cleanup

The following column cleanup protocols have been divided into three general isocratic protocols to remove acid-soluble, base-soluble, or organic contaminants. They can be combined into one gradient protocol if desired; however, the following precautions should be observed.



WARNING

- *Always ensure that the cleanup protocol used does not switch between eluents which may create high pressure eluent interface zones in the column.*
- *High pressure zones can disrupt the uniformity of the packing of the column bed and irreversibly damage the performance of the column.*
- *High pressure zones in the column can be created by pumping successive eluents through the column that are not miscible, that have eluent components in one eluent that will precipitate out in the other eluent or by using an acid eluent followed by a base eluent which may create a neutralization pressure band.*
- *The precipitation of the salts in solvents during column rinses can result in very high pressure zones. High viscosity mixing zones can be created between two eluents having solvents with a very high energy of mixing.*

When in doubt, always include short column rinse steps to reduce the solvent content of the eluent to $\leq 5\%$ levels and the ionic strength of the eluent to ≤ 50 mM levels to avoid creating high pressure zones in the column that may disrupt the uniformity of the column packing.

B.4.1 Choosing the Appropriate Cleanup Solution

Contamination	Solution
Hydrophilic Contamination of Low Valence	Concentrated hydroxide solutions such as a 10X concentrate of the most concentrated eluent used in the application is sufficient to remove hydrophilic contamination of low valence.
High Valence Hydrophilic Ions Contamination	Concentrated acid solutions such as 1 to 3 M HCl will remove high valence hydrophilic ions by ion suppression and elution by the chloride ion.
Metal Contamination	Metal contamination often results in asymmetric peak shapes and/or variable analyte recoveries. For example, iron or aluminum contamination often results in tailing of sulfate and phosphate. Aluminum contamination can also result in low phosphate recoveries.
	Concentrated acid solutions such as 1 to 3 M HCl remove a variety of metals. If after acid treatment, the chromatography still suggests metal contamination, treatment with chelating acids such as 0.2 M oxalic acid is recommended.
Nonionic and Hydrophobic Contamination	Organic solvents can be used alone if the contamination is nonionic and hydrophobic. The degree of nonpolar character of the solvent should be increased as the degree of hydrophobicity of the contamination within the range of acceptable solvents.
Ionic and Hydrophobic Contamination	Concentrated acid solutions such as 1 to 3 M HCl can be used with compatible organic solvents to remove contamination that is ionic and hydrophobic. The acid suppresses ionization and ion exchange interactions of the contamination with the resin.
	A frequently used cleanup solution is 200 mM HCl in 80% acetonitrile. This solution must be made immediately before use because the acetonitrile will decompose in the acid solution during long term storage.

B.6 Column Cleanup Procedure

- A. Prepare a 500 mL solution of the appropriate cleanup solution using the guidelines in, "Choosing the Appropriate Cleanup Solution."
- B. Disconnect the ASRS 300, ACES 300 or AMMS 300 from the Dionex IonPac AS15 Column. If your system is configured with both a guard/capillary guard column and an analytical/capillary column, reverse the order of the guard/capillary guard and analytical/capillary column in the eluent flow path. Double check that the eluent flows in the direction designated on each of the column labels.



CAUTION

When cleaning an analytical column and a guard column or capillary and capillary guard column in series, ensure that the guard column is placed after the analytical or capillary column in the eluent flow path. Contaminants that have accumulated on the guard column can be eluted onto the analytical or capillary column and irreversibly damage it. If in doubt, clean each column separately.

If the acid/solvent clean-up is used, an overnight (24-48 hours) column equilibration with eluent is required to achieve a flat baseline in the beginning of the chromatogram. This longer equilibration procedure will allow quantification of trace anions when using large loop injection.

- C. Set the pump flow rate to:
 - 1.0 mL/min for an AS15 4-mm Analytical or Guard Column.
 - 0.5 mL/min for an AS15 3-mm Analytical or Guard Column.
 - 0.25 mL/min for an AS15 2-mm Analytical or Guard Column.
 - 0.012 mL/min for an AS15 0.4-mm Capillary or Capillary Guard Column
- D. Rinse the column for 15 minutes with deionized water before pumping the chosen cleanup solution over the column.
- E. Pump the cleanup solution through the column for at least 60 minutes.
- F. Rinse the column for 15 minutes with deionized water before pumping eluent over the column.
- G. Equilibrate the column(s) with eluent before resuming normal operation for at least 60 minutes.
- H. Reconnect the ASRS 300, ACES 300 or AMMS 300 to the AS15 Analytical or Capillary Column and place the guard column in line between the injection valve and the analytical/capillary column if your system was originally configured with a guard/capillary guard column.

APPENDIX C – COMPARISON OF ION CHROMATOGRAPHY SYSTEMS

Table B1
Configuration

CONFIGURATION	2-mm	3-mm	4-mm	0.4-mm
Eluent Flow Rate	0.25 mL/min	0.5 mL/min	1.0 µL/min	0.012 µL/min
Injection Loop	2 - 15 µL Use the Rheodyne Microinjection Valve, Model No. 9126 DIONEX P/N 044697) for full loop injections <15 µL.	5 - 25 µL Use the Rheodyne Microinjection Valve, Model No. 9126 DIONEX P/N 044697) for full loop injections <15 µL.	10 - 50 µL	0.4 µL (typical)
SRS Suppressor	ASRS 300 2mm (P/N 061562)	ASRS 300 2mm (P/N 061562)	ASRS 300 2mm (P/N 061561)	N/A
MMS Suppressor	AMMS 300 (P/N 056751)	AMMS 300 (P/N 056751)	AMMS 300 (P/N 056750)	N/A
MMS Regenerant Flow	25 – 100% of 4-mm System	25 – 100% of 4-mm System	Typically 10 – 15 mL/min	N/A
ACES Suppressor	N/A	N/A	N/A	ACES 300 (P/N 072052)
<p>NOTE: <i>Do not run suppressors over 40°C. If application requires a higher temperature, place suppressor outside of chromatographic oven.</i></p>				
System Void Volume	Eliminate switching valves, couplers and the GM-3 Gradient Mixer. Use only the 2 mm GM-4 Mixer (P/N 049135).	Eliminate switching valves, couplers and the GM-3 Gradient Mixer. Use only the 2 mm GM-4 Mixer (P/N 049135).	Minimize dead volumes. Switching valves, couplers can be used. Use the GM-2, GM-3 or recommended gradient mixers.	Use only in an IC system equipped for capillary analysis.
Pumps	<p>Use the GS50/GP50/GP40/IP20/IP25 in Microbore Configuration with a Microbore GM-4 (2 mm) Gradient Mixer.</p> <p>No External gradient Mixer is required for GS50/GP50/GP40 Pump when performing gradient analysis.</p> <p>The GPM-2 can be used for 2 mm isocratic chromatography at flow rates of 0.5 mL/min or greater but cannot be used for 2 mm gradient chromatography</p>	<p>Use the GS50/GP50/GP40/IP20/IP25 in Microbore Configuration with a Microbore GM-4 (2 mm) Gradient Mixer.</p> <p>No External gradient Mixer is required for GS50/GP50/GP40 Pump when performing gradient analysis.</p> <p>The GPM-2 can be used for 2 mm isocratic chromatography at flow rates of 0.5 mL/min or greater but cannot be used for 2 mm gradient chromatography</p>	<p>Use the GP40/GP50/IP20/IP25 in Standard-Bore Configuration.</p> <p>The GM-3 Gradient Mixer should be used for gradient analysis on systems other than the GP40/GP50/IP20/IP25 and the DX-300 HPLC Pump.</p>	Use only a pump designed for capillary flow rates such as the ICS-5000 capillary pump.
<p>NOTE: <i>Use of an EGC-KOH cartridge (P/N 074532 or 072076 in conjunction with a CR-ATC P/N 060477 or 072078) for gradient applications is highly recommended for minimum baseline change when performing eluent step changes or gradients.</i></p>				

CONFIGURATION	2-mm	3-mm	4-mm	0.4-mm
Chromatographic Module	A thermally controlled column oven such as the LC25, LC30, ICS-10, 11, 15, 16, 20, 2100, 3000, 5000 DC	A thermally controlled column oven such as the LC25, LC30, ICS-10, 11, 15, 16, 20, 2100, 3000, 5000 DC	A thermally controlled column oven such as the LC25, LC30, ICS-10, 11, 15, 16, 20, 2100, 3000, 5000 DC	A thermally controlled column compartment such as the ICS-5000 DC or IC-Cube.
Detectors	<p>AD20/AD25 Cell (6-mm, 7.5 µL, P/N 046423)</p> <p>VDM-2 Cell (3-mm, 2.0 µL) (P/N 043120)</p> <p>CD20, CD25, CD25A, ED40, ED50, or ED50A</p> <p>Conductivity Cell with DS3 P/N 044130 or Conductivity Cell with shield P/N 044132</p> <p>CDM-2/CDM-3 Cell P/N 042770</p> <p>Replace the TS-1 with the TS-2 (P/N 043117) on the CDM-2 or the CDM-3. The TS-2 has been optimized for 2-mm operation. Do not use the TS-2 or the TS-1 with the ED40/ED50/ED50A or the CD20/CD25/CD25A.</p> <p>Ensure 30–40 psi back pressure.</p>	<p>AD20/AD25 Cell (6-mm, 7.5 µL, P/N 046423)</p> <p>VDM-2 Cell (3-mm, 2.0 µL) (P/N 043120)</p> <p>CD20, CD25, CD25A, ED40, ED50, or ED50A</p> <p>Conductivity Cell with DS3 P/N 044130 or Conductivity Cell with shield P/N 044132</p> <p>CDM-2/CDM-3 Cell P/N 042770</p> <p>Replace the TS-1 with the TS-2 (P/N 043117) on the CDM-2 or the CDM-3. The TS-2 has been optimized for 2-mm operation. Do not use the TS-2 or the TS-1 with the ED40/ED50/ED50A or the CD20/CD25/CD25A.</p> <p>Ensure 30–40 psi back pressure.</p>	<p>AD20/AD25 Cell (10-mm, 9 µL, P/N 049393)</p> <p>VDM-2 Cell (6-mm, 10 µL) P/N 043113</p> <p>CD20, CD25, CD25A, ED40, ED50, or ED50A</p> <p>Conductivity Cell with DS3 P/N 044130 or with shield P/N 044132</p> <p>CDM-2/CDM-3 Cell P/N 042770</p> <p>Either the TS-1 with the TS-2 can be used with the CDM-2 or the CDM-3. Do not use the TS-2 or the TS-1 with the ED40/ED50/ED50A or the CD20/CD25/CD25A.</p> <p>Ensure 30–40 psi back pressure.</p>	Use only a conductivity detector designed for capillary flow rates such as the ICS-5000 Capillary CD.