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Development of a WD-XRF analysis method of minor and trace elements in liquid petroleum products

Maria Fernanda Gazulla Barreda
Instituto de Tecnología Cerámica, Spain

The developed methodology permits the analysis of minor and trace elements in liquid petroleum products, with varying oxygen content between 0 and 3.4 % and varying C/H ratio between 7 and 9, by wavelength-dispersive X-ray fluorescence (WD-XRF) spectrometry, necessary to determine the properties that indicate the function and performance of the product in service.The proposed methodology allows the analysis of a set of elements: Al, Ba, Ca, Cr, Cu, Fe, Mg, Mn, Ni, P, Pb, S, Si, Ti, V and Zn, by WD-XRF in different materials in a huge range of concentrations, with high accuracy and in only 20 minutes. The method was fine-tuned by optimizing the measurement conditions and calculating the detection and quantification limits (1.4 mg•kg-1 for S and 0.5 mg•kg-1 for the rest of elements). The validation was carried out by using a series of reference materials and the uncertainty of the method was calculated according to the expression: $U = k \cdot \sqrt{u_{V_R}^2 + u_{V_L}^2 + u_{REPRO}^2}$, where U_{V_R} is the uncertainty of the certified value of the reference material, is the uncertainty of the measurement of the reference material, is the uncertainty of the measurement of the sample, and k is a coverage factor.Sulphur analysis was also performed by combustion and IR detection apart from WD-XRF and the results obtained by both techniques were compared. The matrix of the samples analyzed and the standards used was also analyzed by determining C, H, N and O.

Biography

Maria Fernanda Gazulla Barreda completed her Ph.D. on Chemistry (Chemical Engineering) in 2005 from Jaime I University of Castellón (Spain). She is the head of the Area for the Analyses and Tests of the Instituto de Tecnología Cerámica (ITC), a research institute focused on spearheading technology innovation and design processes in the Spanish industry. She has published 65 papers in reputed journals, 2 books and 57 communications at conferences and symposia on different subjects. She has participated in more than 75 R&D and Technology and Consultancy conduced at ITC and given more than 30 conferences and courses about chemical characterization.

marife.gazulla@itc.uji.es