





AGILENT GPC/SEC POLYMER STANDARDS



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| | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|--|
| 1976 | 1981 | 1984 | 1993 | 1999 |
| <p>PLgel columns, individual standards, and standard kits</p> <p>Polymer Laboratories founded to develop market-leading products for organic GPC/SEC</p>  | <p>PLgel MIXED columns, PL aquagel columns</p> <p>MIXED columns improve data quality, and novel chemistries for analysis of water-soluble polymers</p> | <p>GPC software</p> <p>Dedicated software streamlines GPC/SEC calculations</p>  | <p>EasiCal standards</p> <p>New format shortens sample preparation time and the speed of calibration</p>  | <p>PL-GPC 220 instrument</p> <p>Market-leading high temperature GPC system for even the most difficult samples at temperatures up to 220 °C</p>  |

POLYMER STANDARDS FOR GPC/SEC

Agilent manufactures the widest range of polymer standards on the market. These standards are critical for generating accurate results on:

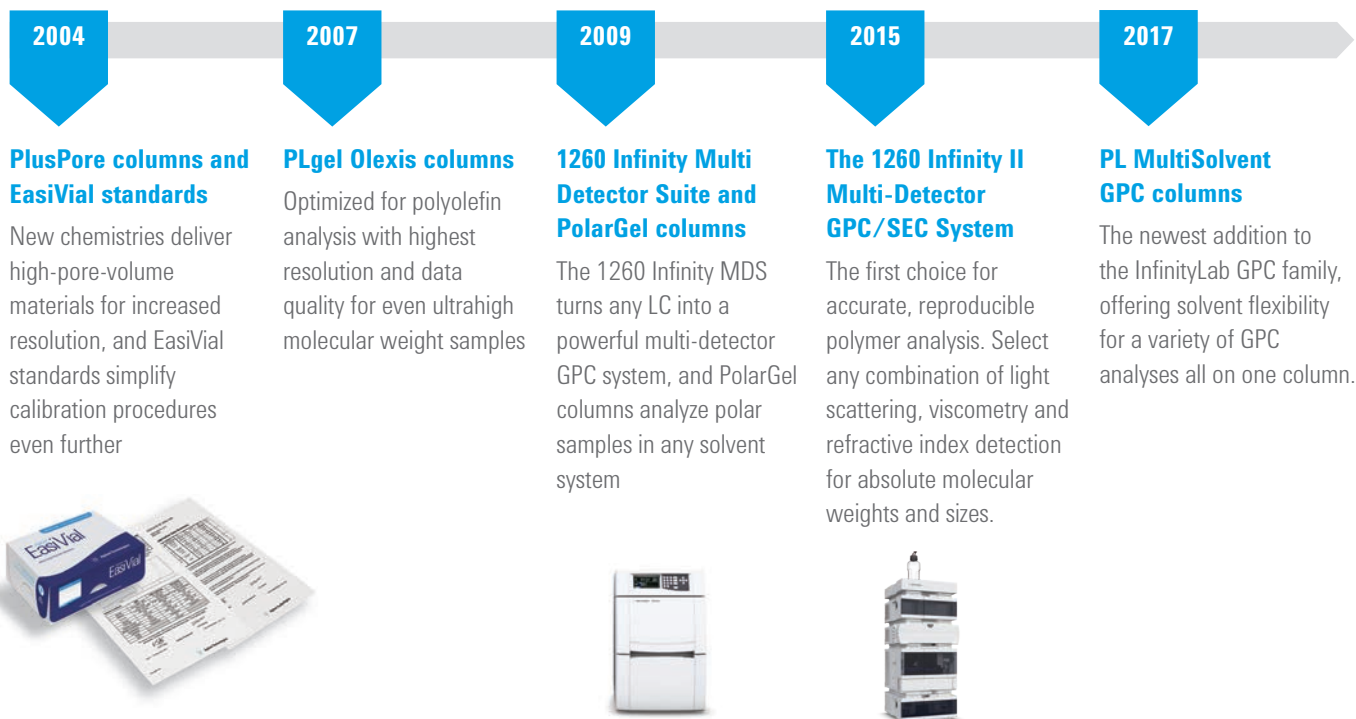
- GPC/SEC systems
- Viscometers
- Light scattering systems

Polymer standards are available in powder form, and in prepared InfinityLab EasiVial and EasiCal formats, which save time by eliminating tedious weighing procedures in the lab.

Ultra-narrow molecular weight (MW) standards are available in 1, 5, and 10 g quantities from Agilent, for further use as model polymers in research and analytical development.

All Agilent standards are manufactured, under ISO 9001:2008 approved quality system. Each is fully traceable with a unique batch number and a complete certification of analysis (COA).

Finally, all COAs include details of the exact method and characterization results for maximum transparency and reproducibility.



POLYMER STANDARDS FOR GPC/SEC

Unbeatable precision and variety

Agilent provides the widest range of MW standards on the market, from 162 to 15 million g/mol.

Even at the highest MWs, Agilent standards are made with the utmost precision, and the polydispersity remains ≤ 1.10 . This low polydispersity means that distorted peaks are easily identified before they can skew the calibration and the measurement.

Individual standards are generally available in 1, 5, and 10 g quantities.

Calibration kits: for column and instrument calibration

For GPC/SEC column calibration, Agilent provides kits covering both a wide range of MWs and a wide variety of solvents.

Each kit has been preselected to generate an even distribution of points across the chosen MW range.

Each polymer in the kit is individually certified, and all necessary data is provided to generate a calibration curve straight out of the box.

For more information on choosing the correct standards for a particular eluent, see page 15.

Market leading Agilent GPC and SEC columns have set the standard for reliability, speed, and performance for over 40 years:

- Organic GPC/SEC columns, publication 5990-7994EN
- Aqueous and polar GPC/SEC columns, publication 5990-7995EN

Standards selection guide

| Polymer Type | Individual MW | Calibration Kits | InfinityLab EasiCal | InfinityLab EasiVial | Solvent System | | UV/Vis Signal |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Polystyrene | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Primary: | Organic | Strong |
| Polymethylmethacrylate | Yes | Yes | | Yes | Primary: | Polar Organic | Strong |
| | | | | | Secondary: | Organic | |
| Polyethylene glycol/oxide (PEG/PEO) | Yes | Yes | | Yes | Primary: | Aqueous | Weak |
| | | | | | Secondary: | Polar Organic | |
| Polyacrylic acid | Yes | Yes | | | Primary: | Aqueous | Strong |
| | | | | | Secondary: | Polar Organic | |

INFINITYLAB EASIVIAL

Part of the
InfinityLab
family

Just add solvent

- Eliminates analyst hours wasted on tedious weighing procedures
- Widely applicable to room temperature, high temperature, and multidetector GPC
- Each vial contains equidistant peaks that are easily baseline resolved

For organic and aqueous GPC/SEC column calibration, InfinityLab EasiVial is the quickest and most convenient method to deliver an accurate 12-point column calibration.

InfinityLab EasiVial kits are prepared sets of three vials, each containing four standards spaced across the full MW range of the kit.

Simply add solvent and the standards are ready to use. With just one injection from each vial, a column is fully calibrated and ready for data collection.

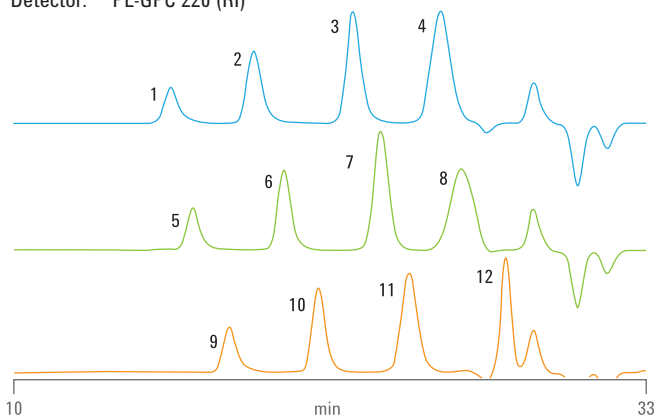
Each kit contains 10 vials of each type (30 total) that are color coded for easy identification. Both 2 and 4 mL vials are available to suite most autosamplers.

Appropriate InfinityLab EasiVial kits are available for all solvent systems: Polystyrene (PS), Polymethylmethacrylate (PMMA), and Polyethylene glycol/oxide (PEG/PEO).

Ultra-narrow range MW standards allow easy identification of column degradation before it can alter results.

Conditions

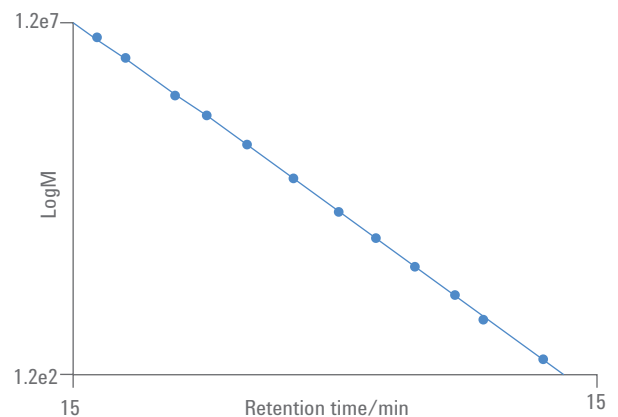
Columns: 3 x PLgel 10 μ m MIXED-B, 7.5 x 300 mm
Eluent: THF
Flow Rate: 1.0 mL/min
Temp: 40 °C
Detector: PL-GPC 220 (RI)



InfinityLab EasiVial PS-H

Peak Identification

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|------------|
| 1. 6,035,000 | 5. 3,053,000 | 9. 915,000 |
| 2. 483,000 | 6. 184,900 | 10. 60,450 |
| 3. 19,720 | 7. 8,450 | 11. 3,370 |
| 4. 1,260 | 8. 580 | 12. 162 |



Tightly characterized standards eliminate error in the calibration curve for high accuracy measurements.

INFINITYLAB EASIVIAL

Part of the
InfinityLab
family

Specifications

| InfinityLab EasiVial color | InfinityLab EasiVial PS-H | InfinityLab EasiVial PS-M | InfinityLab EasiVial PS-L | InfinityLab EasiVial PM | InfinityLab EasiVial PEG/PEO | InfinityLab EasiVial PEG |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Nominal Mp (g/mol) | | | | | | |
| Red | 1,300 | 1,000 | 580 | 2,000 | 600 | 282 |
| | 20,000 | 7,000 | 3,000 | 30,000 | 13,000 | 1,000 |
| | 500,000 | 50,000 | 10,000 | 300,000 | 130,000 | 7,000 |
| | 7,000,000 | 500,000 | 50,000 | 1,500,000 | 1,500,000 | 30,000 |
| Yellow | 580 | 370 | 370 | 1,000 | 194 | 194 |
| | 10,000 | 3,000 | 2,000 | 13,000 | 4,000 | 600 |
| | 200,000 | 30,000 | 7,000 | 130,000 | 70,000 | 4,000 |
| | 3,000,000 | 200,000 | 30,000 | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 | 20,000 |
| Green | 162 | 162 | 162 | 500 | 106 | 106 |
| | 5,000 | 1,300 | 1,000 | 7,000 | 1,500 | 400 |
| | 70,000 | 13,000 | 5,000 | 70,000 | 30,000 | 1,500 |
| | 1,000,000 | 100,000 | 20,000 | 500,000 | 500,000 | 13,000 |

PS = polystyrene

PM = polymethylmethacrylate

H = standards to high molecular weight

M = standards to medium molecular weight

L = standards to low molecular weight



Agilent InfinityLab Maximize Your LC Workflow Efficiency

How can you make your LC workflow more efficient, so you can spend more time on your analytical priorities?

Find out—with Agilent InfinityLab—an optimized portfolio of LC instruments, columns, and supplies designed to work together in perfect harmony.

Learn more at:

www.agilent.com/chem/infinitylab

INFINITYLAB EASIVIAL

Part of the
InfinityLab
family

Ordering information

InfinityLab EasiVial pre-weighed calibration kits

| Description | Vial Volume (mL) | Quantity (Vials / Kit) | Part No. |
|------------------|------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| EasiVial PEG/PEO | 2 | 30 | PL2080-0201 |
| EasiVial PEG/PEO | 4 | 30 | PL2080-0200 |
| EasiVial PEG | 2 | 30 | PL2070-0201 |
| EasiVial PEG | 4 | 30 | PL2070-0200 |
| EasiVial PM | 2 | 30 | PL2020-0201 |
| EasiVial PM | 4 | 30 | PL2020-0200 |
| EasiVial PS-H | 2 | 30 | PL2010-0201 |
| EasiVial PS-H | 4 | 30 | PL2010-0200 |
| EasiVial PS-M | 2 | 30 | PL2010-0301 |
| EasiVial PS-M | 4 | 30 | PL2010-0300 |
| EasiVial PS-L | 2 | 30 | PL2010-0401 |
| EasiVial PS-L | 4 | 30 | PL2010-0400 |
| PEG/PEO Tri-Pack | 2 | 90 | PL2080-0202 |
| PEG/PEO Tri-Pack | 4 | 90 | PL2080-0203 |
| PEG Tri-Pack | 2 | 90 | PL2070-0202 |
| PEG Tri-Pack | 4 | 90 | PL2070-0203 |
| PMMA Tri-Pack | 2 | 90 | PL2020-0202 |
| PMMA Tri-Pack | 4 | 90 | PL2020-0203 |
| PS-H Tri-Pack | 2 | 90 | PL2010-0202 |
| PS-H Tri-Pack | 4 | 90 | PL2010-0203 |
| PS-M Tri-Pack | 2 | 90 | PL2010-0302 |
| PS-M Tri-Pack | 4 | 90 | PL2010-0303 |
| PS-L Tri-Pack | 2 | 90 | PL2010-0402 |
| PS-L Tri-Pack | 4 | 90 | PL2010-0403 |

See also

Organic GPC/SEC columns,
publication 5990-7994EN



Aqueous and polar GPC/SEC columns,
publication 5990-7995EN



Stir-in calibration standards

- Easy three-step process with no fuss
- Cost effective format saves money
- Only two injections for improved productivity

The InfinityLab EasiCal system for organic solvents consists of two different combs, each with ten detachable spatulas supporting a mixture of five polymer standards. The thin film of polymer (approximately 5 mg) on the tip of the PTFE spatulas rapidly dissolves when immersed in solvent to provide two GPC/SEC calibration solutions. A single pack provides ten spatulas of each type, with MW standards selected to provide equidistant calibration points for greater accuracy.

See also

Organic GPC/SEC columns, publication 5990-7994EN

Aqueous and polar GPC/SEC columns, publication 5990-7995EN

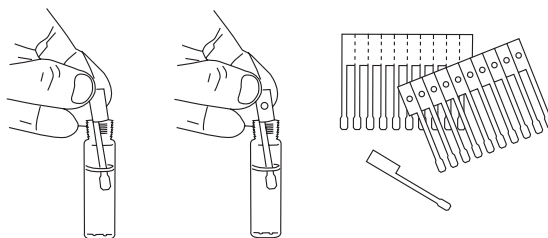
Ordering information

InfinityLab EasiCal pre-prepared polystyrene kits

| Polystyrene PS-1 | | Polystyrene PS-2 | |
|---|--|-----------------------------|--|
| Part No. PL2010-0501 (1/pk) | | Part No. PL2010-0601 (1/pk) | |
| Part No. PL2010-0505 (5/pk) | | Part No. PL2010-0605 (5/pk) | |
| Spatula A, Constituent Polymers Nominal Mp (g/mol) | | | |
| 3,000 | | 1,300 | |
| 30,000 | | 5,000 | |
| 130,000 | | 20,000 | |
| 700,000 | | 100,000 | |
| 7,000,000 | | 400,000 | |
| Spatula B, Constituent Polymers Nominal Mp (g/mol) | | | |
| 580 | | 580 | |
| 10,000 | | 3,000 | |
| 70,000 | | 10,000 | |
| 300,000 | | 50,000 | |
| 2,500,000 | | 200,000 | |

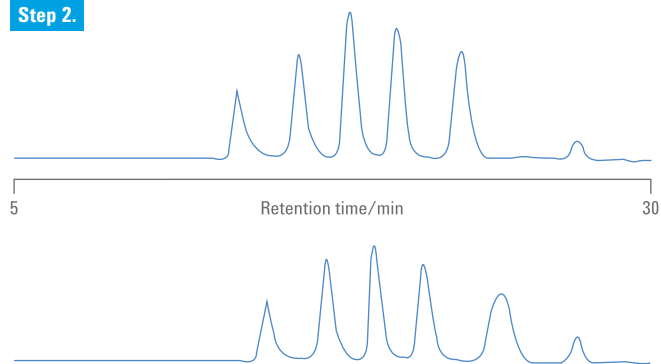
Column calibration for GPC/SEC is as easy as 1, 2, 3...

Step 1.



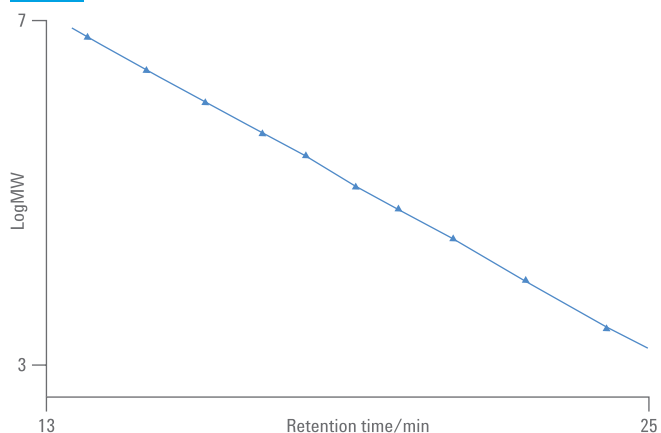
Place one spatula of each type into appropriate volume of solvent

Step 2.



Chromatograph each solution, only two injections required

Step 3.



Generate a 10 point calibration curve

POLYSTYRENE STANDARDS

The first choice standard for most organic applications

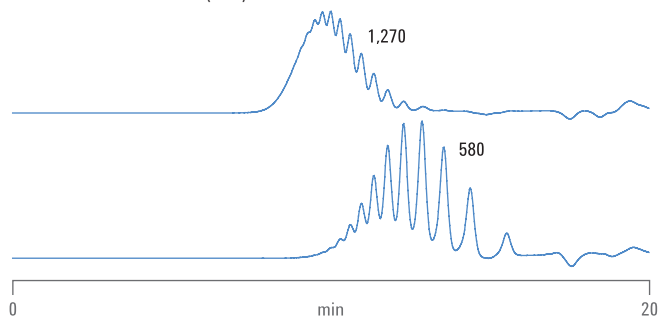
- Compatible with most organic solvents
- Certificate of Analysis meets international protocols
- Widest range of available MW standards for organic solvents

Polystyrene standards are the first choice for many organic solvents for conventional GPC column calibration, and light scattering detectors and viscometers.

The Agilent polystyrene standards cover a MW range from 162 to 15 million g/mol, with MW standards selected to provide equidistant calibration points for greater accuracy.

Conditions

Columns: 2 x InfinityLab OligoPore, 7.5 x 300 mm
Eluent: THF
Flow Rate: 1.0 mL/min
Detector: PL-GPC 50 (DRI)



Polystyrene standards

Ordering information

Polystyrene individual molecular weights

| Polymer | Nominal Mp (g/mol) | Nominal Mw/Mn | Part No. |
|------------|--------------------|---------------|-------------|
| 162 | 1.00 | | PL2012-1001 |
| 370 | 1.11 | | PL2012-0001 |
| 580 | 1.11 | | PL2012-2001 |
| 1,000 | 1.09 | | PL2012-3001 |
| 1,300 | 1.07 | | PL2012-4001 |
| 2,000 | 1.05 | | PL2012-5001 |
| 3,000 | 1.04 | | PL2012-6001 |
| 5,000 | 1.03 | | PL2012-7001 |
| 7,000 | 1.04 | | PL2012-8001 |
| 10,000 | 1.02 | | PL2012-9001 |
| 20,000 | 1.02 | | PL2013-1001 |
| 30,000 | 1.02 | | PL2013-2001 |
| 50,000 | 1.03 | | PL2013-3001 |
| 70,000 | 1.03 | | PL2013-4001 |
| 100,000 | 1.02 | | PL2013-5001 |
| 130,000 | 1.01 | | PL2013-6001 |
| 200,000 | 1.05 | | PL2013-7001 |
| 300,000 | 1.03 | | PL2013-8001 |
| 500,000 | 1.03 | | PL2013-9001 |
| 700,000 | 1.03 | | PL2014-0001 |
| 1,000,000 | 1.05 | | PL2014-1001 |
| 1,500,000 | 1.04 | | PL2014-2001 |
| 2,000,000 | 1.04 | | PL2014-3001 |
| 2,500,000 | 1.05 | | PL2014-4001 |
| 4,000,000 | 1.04 | | PL2014-6001 |
| 7,000,000 | 1.04 | | PL2014-7001 |
| 10,000,000 | 1.06 | | PL2014-8001 |
| 15,000,000 | 1.05 | | PL2014-9001 |

Part numbers are given for 1 g quantities. (Part numbers for 5 g and 10 g quantities are obtained by replacing the last two digits, 01, with 05 or 10, respectively).

POLYSTYRENE STANDARDS

Ordering information

Polystyrene calibration kits, (all kits 10 x 0.5 g)

| S-H-10 Part No. PL2010-0103 | S-H2-10 Part No. PL2010-0104 | S-M-10 Part No. PL2010-0100 | S-M2-10 Part No. PL2010-0102 | S-L-10 Part No. PL2010-0101 | S-L2-10 Part No. PL2010-0105 |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| Constituent Polymer Nominal Mp (g/mol) | | | | | |
| 300,000 | 1,000 | 580 | 580 | 162 | 162 |
| 500,000 | 3,000 | 1,300 | 1,300 | 370 | 370 |
| 700,000 | 10,000 | 5,000 | 3,000 | 580 | 580 |
| 1,000,000 | 30,000 | 10,000 | 5,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| 2,000,000 | 70,000 | 30,000 | 10,000 | 2,000 | 1,300 |
| 3,000,000 | 200,000 | 70,000 | 20,000 | 3,000 | 2,000 |
| 4,000,000 | 700,000 | 200,000 | 30,000 | 5,000 | 3,000 |
| 7,000,000 | 2,000,000 | 500,000 | 70,000 | 7,000 | 5,000 |
| 10,000,000 | 4,000,000 | 1,000,000 | 130,000 | 13,000 | 7,000 |
| 15,000,000 | 15,000,000 | 3,000,000 | 300,000 | 20,000 | 10,000 |

POLYMETHYLMETHACRYLATE STANDARDS

Extreme versatility in solvent choice

- Solubility range across wide range of nonpolar and polar organic solvents
- First choice for calibration in polar organic solvents
- Certificate of analysis meets international protocols

Polymethylmethacrylate (PMMA) standards are available as a secondary standard option for organic solvents and as the preferred standard for polar organics such as DMSO, DMAc, DMF, and HFIP.

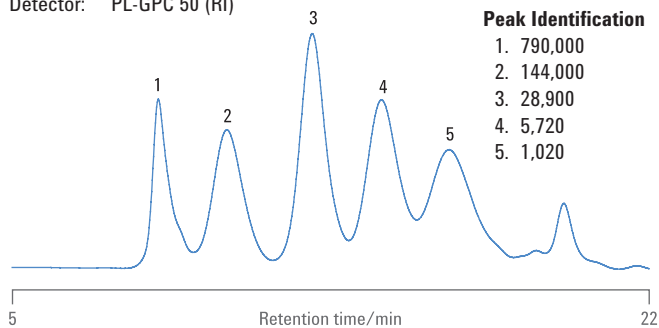
The MWs of these standards are selected to provide equidistant calibration points for greater accuracy, covering MWs of 600 to 1.5 million g/mol.

See also

InfinityLab EasiVial calibration kit, pre-weighed to save time, page 5 Organic GPC/SEC columns, publication 5990-7994EN
Aqueous and polar GPC/SEC columns, publication 5990-7995EN

Conditions

Columns: 2 x PL HFIPgel, 7.5 x 300 mm
Eluent: HFIP + 20 mM NaTFAc
Flow Rate: 1.0 mL/min
Temp: 40 °C
Detector: PL-GPC 50 (RI)



Agilent Polymethylmethacrylate standards

POLYMETHYLMETHACRYLATE STANDARDS

Ordering information

Polymethylmethacrylate calibration kits, (all kits 10 x 0.5 g)

| M-L-10 Part No. PL2020-0100 | M-M-10 Part No. PL2020-0101 |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Constituent Polymer Nominal Mp (g/mol) | |
| 500 | 1,000 |
| 1,000 | 2,000 |
| 2,000 | 5,000 |
| 3,000 | 10,000 |
| 5,000 | 30,000 |
| 7,000 | 70,000 |
| 10,000 | 130,000 |
| 20,000 | 300,000 |
| 30,000 | 700,000 |
| 50,000 | 1,500,000 |

Polymethylmethacrylate individual molecular weights

| Polymer Nominal Mp (g/mol) | Nominal Mw/Mn | Part No. |
|----------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| 500 | 1.19 | PL2022-2001 |
| 1,000 | 1.26 | PL2022-3001 |
| 2,000 | 1.08 | PL2022-5001 |
| 3,000 | 1.08 | PL2022-6001 |
| 5,000 | 1.09 | PL2022-7001 |
| 7,000 | 1.08 | PL2022-8001 |
| 10,000 | 1.03 | PL2022-9001 |
| 13,000 | 1.03 | PL2023-0001 |
| 20,000 | 1.03 | PL2023-1001 |
| 30,000 | 1.02 | PL2023-2001 |
| 50,000 | 1.02 | PL2023-3001 |
| 70,000 | 1.02 | PL2023-4001 |
| 100,000 | 1.02 | PL2023-5001 |
| 130,000 | 1.05 | PL2023-6001 |
| 200,000 | 1.02 | PL2023-7001 |
| 300,000 | 1.02 | PL2023-8001 |
| 500,000 | 1.06 | PL2023-9001 |
| 700,000 | 1.03 | PL2024-0001 |
| 1,000,000 | 1.09 | PL2024-1001 |
| 1,500,000 | 1.09 | PL2024-2001 |

Part numbers are given for 1 g quantities. (Part numbers for 5 g and 10 g quantities are obtained by replacing the last two digits, 01, with 05 or 10, respectively).

POLYETHYLENE GLYCOL/OXIDE STANDARDS

Use with aqueous and organic solvents

- Preferred standard for aqueous and polar protic solvents such as methanol
- Uncharged polymer prevents interaction with a wide range of particles
- MWs selected to provide equidistant calibration points for greater accuracy

Polyethylene glycol/oxide standards are the primary choice for calibration in water, water mixtures, and protic solvents such as methanol.

The MW of these standards is selected to provide equidistant calibration points for greater accuracy, covering MWs of 106 to 1.5 million g/mol.

See also

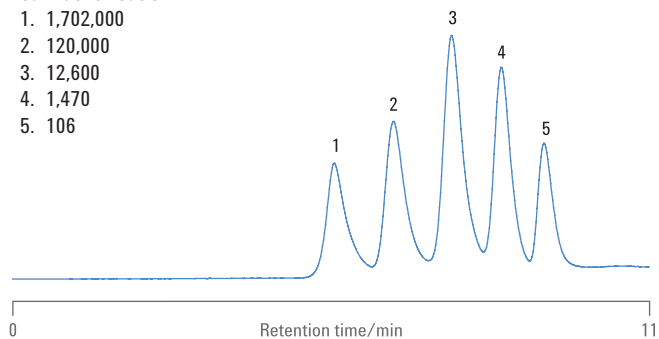
InfinityLab EasiVial calibration kit, pre-weighed to save time, page 5
Organic GPC/SEC columns, publication 5990-7994EN
Aqueous and polar GPC/SEC columns, publication 5990-7995EN

Conditions

Column: PL aquagel-OH MIXED 8 μ m, 7.5 x 300 mm
Eluent: Water
Flow rate: 1.0 mL/min
Detector: PL-GPC 50 (RI)

Peak Identification

1. 1,702,000
2. 120,000
3. 12,600
4. 1,470
5. 106



Agilent Polyethylene glycol/oxide standards

POLYETHYLENE GLYCOL/OXIDE STANDARDS

Ordering information

Polyethylene glycol/oxide calibration kits

| PEG-10 (10 x 0.5 g) Part No. PL2070-0100 | PEO-10 (10 x 0.2 g) Part No. PL2080-0101 |
|---|---|
| Constituent Polymer Nominal Mp (g/mol) | |
| 106 | 20,000 |
| 194 | 30,000 |
| 400 | 50,000 |
| 600 | 70,000 |
| 1,000 | 130,000 |
| 1,500 | 200,000 |
| 4,000 | 300,000 |
| 7,000 | 500,000 |
| 13,000 | 700,000 |
| 20,000 | 1,000,000 |

Polyethylene glycol/oxide individual molecular weights

| Polymer Nominal Mp (g/mol) | Nominal Mw/Mn | Part No. |
|----------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| 106 | 1 | PL2070-1001 |
| 194 | 1 | PL2070-2001 |
| 238 | 1 | PL2071-2001 |
| 282 | 1 | PL2071-3001 |
| 420 | 1.09 | PL2070-3001 |
| 600 | 1.06 | PL2070-4001 |
| 1,000 | 1.04 | PL2070-5001 |
| 1,500 | 1.04 | PL2070-6001 |
| 4,000 | 1.03 | PL2070-7001 |
| 7,000 | 1.04 | PL2070-8001 |
| 10,000 | 1.05 | PL2070-9001 |
| 13,000 | 1.07 | PL2071-0001 |
| 20,000 | 1.07 | PL2071-1001 |
| 20,000 | 1.05 | PL2083-1001 |
| 30,000 | 1.07 | PL2083-2001 |
| 50,000 | 1.05 | PL2083-3001 |
| 70,000 | 1.05 | PL2083-4001 |
| 100,000 | 1.06 | PL2083-5001 |
| 130,000 | 1.07 | PL2083-6001 |
| 200,000 | 1.07 | PL2083-7001 |
| 300,000 | 1.07 | PL2083-8001 |
| 500,000 | 1.06 | PL2083-9001 |
| 700,000 | 1.07 | PL2084-0001 |
| 1,000,000 | 1.12 | PL2084-1001 |
| 1,500,000 | 1.13 | PL2084-2001 |

Part numbers are given for 1 g quantities. (Part numbers for 5 g and 10 g quantities are obtained by replacing the last two digits, 01, with 05 or 10, respectively).

POLYACRYLIC ACID STANDARDS

Aqueous calibration standards with a chromophore

- Detectable by UV/Vis
- Aqueous polymers 1,000–2,000,000 g/mol MW
- Anionic polymer

Ordering information

Polyacrylic Acid - Na salt calibration kit

| PAA-10 (all kits 10 x 0.2 g) | |
|--|--|
| Constituent Polymer Nominal Mp (g/mol) | |
| 1,000 | |
| 3,000 | |
| 7,000 | |
| 13,000 | |
| 30,000 | |
| 70,000 | |
| 100,000 | |
| 300,000 | |
| 700,000 | |
| 1,000,000 | |

Polyacrylic Acid - Na salt, individual molecular weights (0.2 g)

| Polymer Nominal Mp (g/mol) | Part No. |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| 1,000 | PL2142-3000 |
| 1,000 | PL2142-3001 |
| 2,000 | PL2142-5000 |
| 3,000 | PL2142-6000 |
| 3,000 | PL2142-6001 |
| 5,000 | PL2142-7000 |
| 5,000 | PL2142-7001 |
| 7,000 | PL2142-8000 |
| 7,000 | PL2142-8001 |
| 13,000 | PL2143-0000 |
| 30,000 | PL2143-2000 |
| 30,000 | PL2143-2001 |
| 50,000 | PL2143-3000 |
| 50,000 | PL2143-3001 |
| 70,000 | PL2143-4000 |
| 70,000 | PL2143-4001 |
| 100,000 | PL2143-5000 |
| 100,000 | PL2143-5001 |
| 130,000 | PL2143-6000 |
| 130,000 | PL2143-6001 |
| 200,000 | PL2143-7000 |
| 200,000 | PL2143-7001 |
| 300,000 | PL2143-8000 |
| 300,000 | PL2143-8001 |
| 500,000 | PL2143-9000 |
| 500,000 | PL2143-9001 |
| 700,000 | PL2144-0000 |
| 1,000,000 | PL2144-1000 |
| 1,000,000 | PL2144-1001 |
| 1,500,000 | PL2144-2001 |
| 2,000,000 | PL2144-3000 |
| 2,000,000 | PL2144-3001 |

TECHNIQUE REVIEW

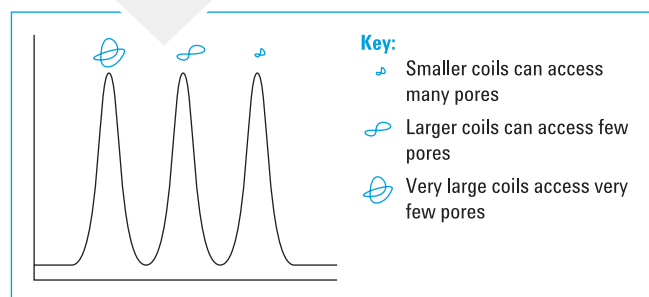
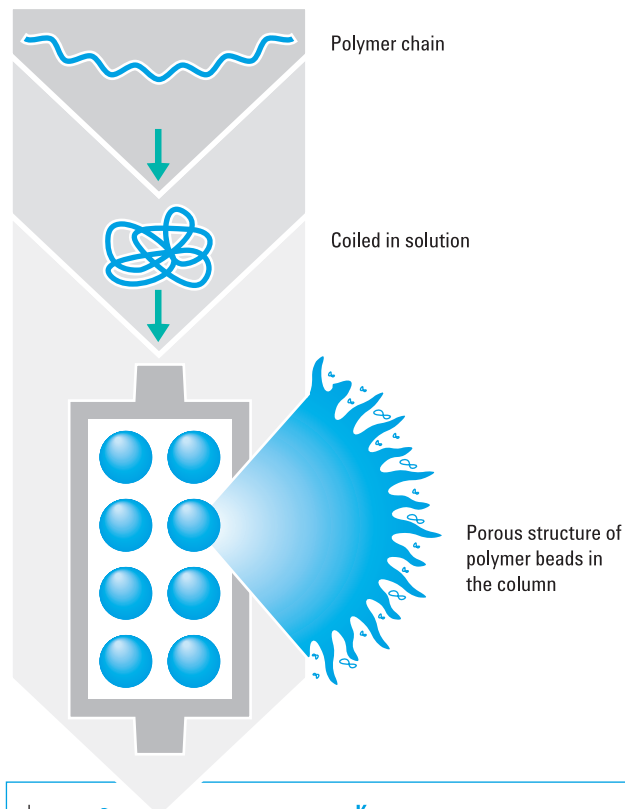
Gel permeation chromatography (GPC) and size exclusion chromatography (SEC) are liquid chromatographic techniques that separate individual polymer chains based on their size in solution.

GPC and SEC are techniques for measuring the molecular weight (MW) distribution of natural and synthetic polymers. The MW distribution affects many of the physical parameters of these materials such as strength, toughness, and chemical resistance.

GPC is used to describe the analysis of polymers in organic solvents, such as tetrahydrofuran. Alternatively SEC is used to describe the analysis of polymers in water and water-based solvents, such as buffer solutions. GPC and SEC are the only established methods for obtaining a comprehensive understanding of the MW distribution of a polymer.

The mechanism of GPC and SEC

1. Polymer molecules are dissolved in solution to form spherical coils, the size of which depend on the MW.
2. These polymer coils are then introduced to the eluent flowing through a column.
3. These columns are packed with insoluble porous beads that have a well-defined pore structure.
4. The size of the pores on the beads is similar to that of polymer coils.
5. The polymer coils can therefore diffuse in and out of the pores.
6. This results in the elution of polymers based on size – large coils elute first as they cannot fit in as many pores, and smaller coils elute last.
7. This size separation can then be used to calculate molecular weight by the use of a calibration curve constructed using of polymer standards.



Mechanism of gel permeation chromatography/size exclusion chromatography (GPC/SEC)

When to calibrate

Small shifts in retention time can cause large inaccuracies in measured molecular weight. Common sources of retention time shifts are:

- New connections
- Column aging
- Replaced parts
- Pump flow stability

Best practice is to calibrate at the beginning and end of a sample set, before data is analyzed. This practice catches inaccuracies early, minimizing the number of samples that potentially need to be rerun.

At minimum, a system should be calibrated at startup, and weekly thereafter.

For more information, refer to "*Calibrating GPC columns: A Guide to Best Practice*," publication 5991-2720EN.

What standards should I use?

| Question | Answer | Recommendation | Comments |
|---|--|--|--|
| 1. What is the eluent? <i>Standards are polymers, so the choice of standard mainly reflects solubility in the chosen eluents.</i> | Water or water buffer with up to 50% methanol | Polyethylene glycol/oxide (PEG/PEO) or Polyacrylic acid | These standards perform in all water-based systems in convenient InfinityLab EasiVial format |
| | Typical organic solvent such as THF, chloroform, toluene | Polystyrene (PS) or polymethylmethacrylate (PMMA) | Polystyrene is the most commonly used standard in convenient InfinityLab EasiVial format |
| | Polar organics such as DMF, DMSO, NMP | Polymethylmethacrylate (PMMA) or Polyethylene glycol/oxide (PEG/PEO) | Polymethylmethacrylate is soluble in various polar organic solvents and is available in InfinityLab EasiVial format |
| 2. What format of standards are recommended? <i>Different formats of standards are available depending on customer preference.</i> | For general calibration curve generation in a laborsaving format | InfinityLab EasiVial or InfinityLab EasiCal | InfinityLab EasiVial offers a wider range of polymer types, while InfinityLab EasiCal can be used in any type of vial or container |
| | If accurate concentrations are required | InfinityLab EasiVial or individual standards | InfinityLab EasiVials offer an easy pre-weighed option, while individual standards are available in larger quantities for concentrated solutions and custom combinations |

AGILENT PUBLICATIONS

Further reading

| GPC/SEC publication | Publication number |
|--|--------------------|
| Primers | |
| An introduction to gel permeation chromatography and size exclusion chromatography | 5990-6969EN |
| Calibrating GPC/SEC columns - a guide to best practice | 5991-2720EN |
| Step-by-step method development in GPC | 5991-7272EN |
| Polymer-to-solvent reference Table for GPC/SEC | 5991-6802EN |
| Instrument setup for fast GPC | 5991-7191EN |
| Application compendia | |
| Analysis of polymers by GPC/SEC - energy & chemicals applications | 5991-2517EN |
| Analysis of polymers by GPC/SEC - food applications | 5991-2029EN |
| Analysis of polymers by GPC/SEC - pharmaceutical applications | 5991-2519EN |
| Excipient analysis by GPC/SEC and other LC techniques | 5990-7771EN |
| Biodegradable polymers - analysis of biodegradable polymers by GPC/SEC | 5990-6920EN |
| Analysis of engineering polymers by GPC/SEC | 5990-6970EN |
| Analysis of elastomers by GPC/SEC | 5990-6866EN |
| Analysis of polyolefins by GPC/SEC | 5990-6971EN |
| Low molecular weight resins - Analysis of low molecular weight resins and prepolymers by GPC/SEC | 5990-6845EN |
| Product guides | |
| Aqueous and polar GPC/SEC columns | 5990-7995EN |
| Organic GPC/SEC columns | 5990-7994EN |

AGILENT GPC/SEC ANALYSIS SYSTEMS

The Agilent 1260 Infinity II GPC/SEC system and 1260 Infinity II Multi-Detector GPC/SEC system are part of Agilent InfinityLab, an optimized portfolio of LC instruments, columns and supplies that work together seamlessly for maximum efficiency and performance.



The Agilent 1260 Infinity II GPC/SEC system has been designed to meet the challenges of today's polymer analyst.

The system features the new Infinity II refractive index detector for exceptional improvements in resolution and speed. The newly developed vialsampler offers higher unattended sample throughput, while the multicolumn thermostat provides accurate temperature control to minimize detector noise and baseline drift. The updated isocratic pump allows for extra flow precision to maximize reproducibility and accuracy in MW measurements.



The Agilent 1260 Infinity II Multi-Detector GPC/SEC system is the first choice for accurate, reproducible polymer analysis. Select any combination of light scattering, viscometry and refractive index detection for absolute molecular weights and sizes.

The system provides a wealth of information regarding polymer structure and it is also possible to identify and quantify properties such as branching which can influence processing and physical properties. Precise temperature control minimizes equilibration time and maximizes sample throughput.



Innovative InfinityLab supplies that simplify your work

- Handle mobile phases with ease using ergonomic, easy-grip solvent bottles
- Prevent harmful solvents from leaching into the air with InfinityLab Stay Safe caps
- Safely control solvent drainage with InfinityLab Anti-Drain Fitting
- Ensure leak free column connections with InfinityLab Quick Connect Fittings

Calibration is key to generating reliable and accurate GPC data.
To learn more, refer to the primer:

Calibrating GPC Columns—A Guide to Best Practice

Publication 5991-2720EN



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