

## **INTERFERENCES IN THE ANALYSIS OF NERVE AGENT DEGRADATION PRODUCTS BY MASS SPECTROMETRY**

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Reliable methods for the detection and unambiguous identification of chemicals relevant to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) are required to assist in the verification of compliance with the CWC. This includes the verification of alleged use or threatened use of chemical warfare agents. The relevant chemicals comprise chemical warfare agents, their synthetic precursors and by-products, and their degradation products. The aim of this work is to determine the specificity of nerve agent degradation products as indicators for the prior presence of chemical warfare agents. The GC/MS and electrospray mass spectra of some nerve agent degradation products were determined and compared with the spectra of chemicals that may be present in the environment from other sources. The interferences provided by different environmental matrices are also discussed.

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