

Soyuz 25 Return Samples: Assessment of Air Quality aboard the International Space Station



Six mini-grab sample containers (m-GSCs) were returned aboard Soyuz 25. The toxicological assessment of 6 m-GSCs from the ISS is shown in Table 1. The recoveries of the 3 internal standards, ¹³C-acetone, fluorobenzene, and chlorobenzene, from the GSCs averaged 76, 108 and 88%, respectively. Formaldehyde badges were not returned aboard Soyuz 25.

Table 1. Analytical Summary of ISS Results

Module/ Sample	Date of Sample	NMVOCs ^a (mg/m ³)	Freon 218 (mg/m ³)	T Value ^b (units)	Alcohols (mg/m ³)
Lab	4/13/11	8.2	32	0.26	7.4
JEM	4/13/11	8.9	17	0.30	7.9
SM	4/13/11	9.5	34	0.28	8.3
Columbus	5/4/11	7.5	44	0.30	6.1
SM	5/4/11	7.6	53	0.29	6.2
Lab	5/4/11	8.4	28	0.35	6.7
<i>Guideline</i>		25	<i>none</i>	1.00	<5

^a Non-methane volatile organic hydrocarbons, excluding Freon 218

^b Based on 180-d SMACs and calculated excluding CO₂, formaldehyde, and siloxanes.

Except for the relatively high alcohol values, the air quality parameters are well within bounds for acceptable air quality. Ethanol was the primary cause of the high alcohol levels; however, we are not aware of a new source of this compound. These results validate the elevated ethanol measurements recorded by the Air Quality Monitor and noted in the April and May Environmental Bulletins. The alcohol guideline is intended to protect the water recovery system from risk of overloading. In the 6 air samples, carbon monoxide averaged 1.6 mg/m³, which is down slightly from previous data (enclosed tables). Overall the air quality was consistent between modules and the compound concentrations from this limited number of samples suggest that the air was acceptable for respiration.


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Enclosures

Table 1: Analytical concentrations of compounds found in the Soyuz 25 return m-GSCs

Table 2: T-values of the compounds in table 1

TABLE 1
ANALYTICAL RESULTS OF
SOYUZ 2SS RETURN MINI-GRAB SAMPLE CONTAINER AIR SAMPLES

CHEMICAL CONTAMINANT	CONCENTRATION (mg/m ³)					
	AA05091 S/N 2055 LAB 04/13/11 @ 15:32 GMT	AA05092 S/N 2054 JEM 04/13/11 @ 15:35 GMT	AA05093 S/N 2053 SM 04/13/11 @ 15:40 GMT	AA05094 S/N 2063 COL 05/04/11 @ 13:17 GMT	AA05095 S/N 2040 SM 05/04/11 @ 13:27 GMT	AA05096 S/N 2065 LAB 05/04/11 @ 13:33 GMT
TARGET COMPOUNDS (TOXIC)++++						
1,3-BUTADIENE	<0.050	<0.050	<0.050	<0.050	<0.050	<0.050
ETHYLENE OXIDE	<0.050	<0.050	<0.050	<0.050	<0.050	<0.050
CARBON DISULFIDE	<0.050	<0.050	<0.050	<0.050	<0.050	<0.050
2-METHYL-2-PROPENAL	<0.050	<0.050	<0.050	<0.050	<0.050	TRACE
3-BUTEN-2-ONE	<0.050	<0.050	<0.050	<0.050	<0.050	<0.050
2-ETHOXYETHANOL	<0.050	<0.050	<0.050	<0.050	<0.050	<0.050
DIMETHYLDISULFIDE	<0.050	<0.050	<0.050	<0.050	<0.050	<0.050
OCTAMETHYLCYCLOTETRASILOXANE	##	##	##	##	##	##
NON-TARGET COMPOUNDS++++						
OCTAFLUOROPROPANE++	32	17	34	44	53	28
SULFURHEXAFLUORIDE	0.11	TRACE	0.095	0.085	0.13	0.13
PROPENE	<0.050	<0.050	<0.050	<0.050	<0.050	<0.050
CHLORODIFLUOROMETHANE	<0.050	<0.050	<0.050	<0.050	<0.050	<0.050
CARBOONYLSULFIDE	<0.050	<0.050	<0.050	<0.050	<0.050	<0.050
1-BUTENE	<0.050	<0.050	<0.050	<0.050	<0.050	<0.050
2-METHYL-1,3-BUTADIENE(ISOPRENE)	0.062	0.072	0.071	0.078	0.073	0.096
TRIMETHYLSILANOL	0.20	0.25	0.22	0.23	0.22	0.29
HEXAMETHYLCYCLOTRISILOXANE	##	##	##	##	##	##
LIMONENE	TRACE	0.068	0.10	0.082	0.085	0.074
DECAMETHYLCYCLOPENTASILOXANE	##	##	##	##	##	##
TOTAL ALCOHOLS PLUS ACETONE	7.4	7.9	8.3	6.1	6.2	6.7
TARGET COMPOUNDS (GC)+++						
CARBON MONOXIDE	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.7	1.7	1.8
METHANE	10	9.9	9.9	10.7	10.5	10.5
HYDROGEN	2.2	2.2	2.3	3.2	3.3	3.2
CARBON DIOXIDE	5400	5900	5900	5800	6100	5600
TOTAL CONCENTRATION (NON-METHANE HYDROCARBONS)	41	26	44	51	61	37
TOTAL CONCENTRATION - OFP (NON-METHANE HYDROCARBONS)	8.2	8.9	9.5	7.5	7.6	8.4

* FROM GC/FID RESULTS

Present, subject to large, random variability, therefore not quantifiable

++ Measurements are quantified by single-point calibration.

+++ Measurements are calibrated by multi-point initial calibration and verified by mid-point continuing calibration.

++++ Book B-values are used for quantitation. B-values are referenced in the book "Compilation of Mass Spectral Data" by A. Cornu and R. Massot, 1966

< : Value is less than the laboratory report detection limit.

TRACE: Amount detected is sufficient for compound identification only.

TABLE 2
ANALYTICAL RESULTS OF
SOYUZ 25S RETURN MINI-GRAB SAMPLE CONTAINER AIR SAMPLES

CHEMICAL CONTAMINANT	T-VALUE (180-d SMAC)					
	AA05091 S/N 2055 LAB 04/13/11 @ 15:32 GMT	AA05092 S/N 2054 JEM 04/13/11 @ 15:35 GMT	AA05093 S/N 2053 SM 04/13/11 @ 15:40 GMT	AA05094 S/N 2063 COL 05/04/11 @ 13:17 GMT	AA05095 S/N 2040 SM 05/04/11 @ 13:27 GMT	AA05096 S/N 2065 LAB 05/04/11 @ 13:33 GMT
TARGET COMPOUNDS (TO-14/POLAR)						
FREON12	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
CHLOROMETHANE	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
FREON114	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
METHANOL	0.00736	0.00673	0.00787	0.00700	0.00693	0.00633
ACETALDEHYDE	0.03379	0.05334	0.04005	0.03754	0.03411	0.04967
VINYLCHLORIDE	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
BROMOMETHANE	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
ETHANOL *	0.00292	0.00312	0.00316	0.00248	0.00251	0.00277
CHLOROETHANE	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
ACETONITRILE	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
PROPENAL	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
ACETONE	0.00371	0.00520	0.00512	0.00423	0.00413	0.00509
PROPANAL	0.00605	0.00563	0.00745	0.00227	0.00227	0.00227
ISOPROPANOL	0.00401	0.00404	0.00579	0.00111	0.00113	0.00142
FREON11	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
FURAN	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
ACRYLONITRILE	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
PENTANE	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
2-METHYL-2-PROPANOL	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
METHYLACETATE	ND	ND	ND	0.00095	0.00104	0.00104
1,1-DICHLOROETHENE	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
DICHLOROMETHANE	ND	0.00250	0.00250	0.00250	ND	0.00250
3-CHLOROPROPENE	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
FREON113	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
N-PROPANOL	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
1,1-DICHLOROETHANE	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
BUTANAL	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
2-BUTANONE	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
CIS-1,2-DICHLOROETHENE	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
2-METHYLFURAN	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
ETHYLACETATE	0.00031	0.00047	0.00053	0.00140	0.00137	0.00159
HEXANE	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
CHLOROFORM	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
2-BUTENAL	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
1,2-DICHLOROETHANE	0.01563	0.01563	0.01563	0.01563	0.01563	0.01563
1,1,1-TRICHLOROETHANE	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
N-BUTANOL	0.00258	0.00334	0.00400	0.00289	0.00303	0.00401
BENZENE	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
CARBONTETRACHLORIDE	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
2-PENTANONE	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
2-METHYLHEXANE	ND	ND	ND	0.00208	0.00208	0.00208
2,3-DIMETHYLPENTANE	ND	0.00208	0.00208	0.00208	0.00208	0.00208
PENTANAL	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
3-METHYLHEXANE	0.00208	0.00208	0.00208	0.00478	0.00469	0.00561
1,2-DICHLOROPROPANE	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
1,4-DIOXANE	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
TRICHLOROETHENE	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
2,5-DIMETHYLFURAN	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
N-HEPTANE	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
4-METHYL2-PENTANONE	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
CIS-1,3-DICHLOROPROPENE	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
2-PENTENAL	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
TRANS-1,3-DICHLOROPROPENE	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
1,1,2-TRICHLOROETHANE	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
TOLUENE	0.00463	0.00510	0.00504	0.00608	0.00589	0.00670
HEXANAL	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
MESITYLOXIDE	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
1,2-DIBROMOETHANE	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
BUTYLACETATE	ND	ND	0.00013	ND	ND	ND
OCTANE	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
TETRACHLOROETHENE	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
CHLOROBENZENE	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
ETHYLBENZENE	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
M/P-XYLENES	ND	ND	ND	0.00068	0.00068	0.00068
2-HEPTANONE	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
CYCLOHEXANONE	ND	0.00042	0.00042	ND	ND	0.00042
HEPTANAL	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
STYRENE	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
1,1,2,2-TETRACHLOROETHANE	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
O-XYLENE	0.00177	0.00235	0.00288	0.00369	0.00399	0.00373
NONANE	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
1,3,5-TRIMETHYLBENZENE	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
1,2,4-TRIMETHYLBENZENE	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
1,3-DICHLOROBENZENE	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
1,4-DICHLOROBENZENE	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
1,2-DICHLOROBENZENE	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
1,2,4-TRICHLOROBENZENE	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
HEXAChLORO-1,3-BUTADIENE	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND

TABLE 2
ANALYTICAL RESULTS OF
SOYUZ 25S RETURN MINI-GRAB SAMPLE CONTAINER AIR SAMPLES

CHEMICAL CONTAMINANT	T-VALUE (180-d SMAC)					
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TARGET COMPOUNDS (TOXIC)						
1,3-BUTADIENE	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
ETHYLENE OXIDE	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
CARBON DISULFIDE	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
2-METHYL-2-PROPENAL	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	0.01471
3-BUTEN-2-ONE	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
2-ETHOXYETHANOL	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
DIMETHYLDISULFIDE	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
OCTAMETHYLCYCLOTETRASILOXANE	##	##	##	##	##	##
NON-TARGET COMPOUNDS						
OCTAFLUOROPROpane++	0.00038	0.00020	0.00040	0.00052	0.00062	0.00033
SULFURHEXAFLUORIDE	0.00009	0.00002	0.00008	0.00007	0.00011	0.00011
PROPENE	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
CHLORODIFLUOROMETHANE	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
CARBONYLSULFIDE	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
1-BUTENE	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
2-METHYL-1,3-BUTADIENE(ISOPRENE)	0.02074	0.02403	0.02371	0.02613	0.02449	0.03198
TRIMETHYLSILANOL	0.04880	0.06307	0.05420	0.05873	0.05580	0.07291
HEXAMETHYLCYCLOTRISILOXANE	##	##	##	##	##	##
LIMONENE	0.00022	0.00059	0.00089	0.00071	0.00074	0.00064
DECAMETHYLCYCLOPENTASILOXANE	##	##	##	##	##	##
TARGET COMPOUNDS (GC)						
CARBON MONOXIDE	0.09201	0.09014	0.09065	0.10005	0.10162	0.10357
METHANE	0.00287	0.00281	0.00283	0.00305	0.00301	0.00299
HYDROGEN	0.00643	0.00649	0.00676	0.00952	0.00965	0.00930
CARBON DIOXIDE	0.41258	0.45710	0.45764	0.44409	0.47137	0.43419
TOTAL T-VALUE	0.66896	0.75646	0.74189	0.74026	0.75897	0.78435
TOTAL T-VALUE - OFP	0.66858	0.75626	0.74148	0.73974	0.75835	0.78401

Present, subject to large, random variability, therefore not quantifiable

< : Value is less than the laboratory report detection limit.

TRACE: Amount detected is sufficient for compound identification only.