Fast Analysis of Light Stabilizers by HPLC with ELSD

Application Note

Author
Graham Cleaver
Agilent Technologies, Inc.

Introduction
Synthetic additives are added to plastics to protect them from degradation by light. There has been a lot of concern about the presence of these compounds in food packaging materials. These molecules contain radical traps in the form of CH₃ and OH groups and, consequently, are important antioxidants, as they are able to eliminate free radicals, which would otherwise cause polymer chain cleavage. Several reviews and papers have been published discussing the possibility that additives may have detrimental effects on health. The additives are discrete, complex, organic compounds, some of which have strong UV chromophores, whereas others do not. The compounds analyzed in this study contain good chromophores and are therefore also suited to UV detection.

However, the Agilent evaporative light scattering detector provides even greater sensitivity than detection by UV. The instrument also gives no solvent peaks and exhibits excellent baseline stability. The Agilent ELSD is renowned for its rugged design and ability to deliver high performance for demanding HPLC or GPC applications. PLRP-S 100Å columns are ideally suited to the analysis of low molecular weight compounds because the very small pore sizes have extremely high surface areas available to the solutes.
**Materials and Reagents**

**Eluent:** 90% THF, 10% Water

**Sample Preparation**

Tinuvin 144 (0.8 µg), Mark LA68 (8.2 µg) and Chimassorb 199FL (1 µg)

**Conditions**

**Flow Rate:** 0.5 mL/min

**Peak Identification**

1. Tinuvin 144
2. Mark LA68
3. Chimassorb 199FL

![Figure 1. Chromatogram showing good separation of the three light stabilizers.](image)

**Conclusion**

The Agilent evaporative light scattering detector and a PLRP-S column efficiently resolved three light stabilizing polymer additives. PLRP-S columns are ideally suited to the analysis of many small molecules. These columns are more retentive for small molecules than the majority of alkyl bonded silicas. PLRP-S media possess a much greater surface area than alkyl bonded silicas and therefore even polar molecules such as carboxylic acids may be retained much longer, resulting in greater resolution. PLRP-S columns used with the Agilent ELSD is an ideal combination for these challenging applications.

**References**
