
Accurate News

vol. 1 issue 7

Jan. / Feb. 1996

Happy New Year!

"Accurate News" is a publication of Accurate, Inc. Environmental and Laboratory Services

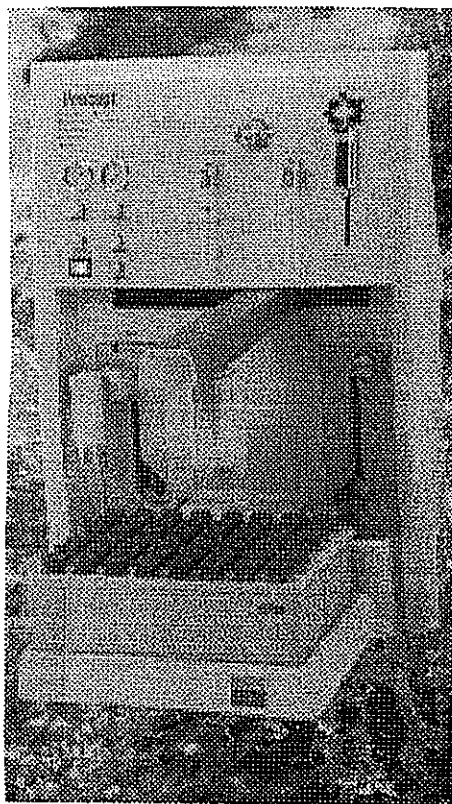
Cutting Edge Technology in Lab Service

In an effort to provide the highest level of quality and service, Accurate, Inc. has always implemented the latest technology. This has never been more true than in our latest instrument purchase. In the summer of 1994, we were the first laboratory in the country to order a new *Precept™ WS-2* autosampler from *Tekmar® - Dohrmann*. This instrument is a programmable robotic vial autosampler for Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) in both water and soil.

When Accurate received this new instrument in the summer of 1995, we became the first to employ this technology in service to our customers.

This is an exciting and innovative piece of equipment. But, what exactly does this new gizmo do for our customers? Well, *Tekmar®*, the maker of the *Precept™*, claims improved reproducibility and recovery, lower carryover, and enhanced productivity. What this means is that the *Precept™* offers

higher quality analysis as it is able to keep samples cool while they are waiting to be analyzed then raise their temperatures just before analysis. And, with the *Precept™*, the vial is never exposed to headspace before analysis. So, when working in



conjunction with the *Tekmar 3000 Purge and Trap*, these unique features contribute to a greater retention of volatile materials increasing the detector
(cont. on back; see Edge.)

Field Notes

In this edition I want to update you on our pickup routes which Accurate, Inc. maintains each week. These routes have proven to be quite popular with many of our customers. But, for those unfamiliar with the routes, I will take this opportunity to explain the advantages of the pickup service.

This service--unique to Accurate, Inc.--spares you the often frustrating task of sending your samples through the mail. Think of the time you spend packaging the containers, ice and cooler then mailing them only to discover the lab did not receive your sample within its critical holding time.

However, if you take advantage of Accurate's pickup service we can ensure that your samples arrive on time because they will be picked up at your door and transported safely on ice, meeting the temperature preservation requirement.

Our service also alleviates the worry about Chain-of-Custody documentation because the samples are relinquished and received, person to person,
(cont. on back; see Field.)

(Edge, cont.)

response.

The *Precept*[™] also can be programmed to add spikes and internal standards and make automatic dilutions of samples.

With this new instrument Accurate, Inc. can perform analysis more consistently and timely improving QC without slowing turnaround time.

Of course, the instrument has many other features--too numerous to discuss here--which will allow us to continue to improve analysis of VOCs in all sample types.

David Kidd, Organics lab manager, explains, "since we never have to open the vial, there is less variability from one analyst to another improving the consistency. Also, the *Precept*[™], along with changes to our GC program, has greatly increased our sample throughput. This means we can return results to our customers more quickly even when we are really busy."

_____ by George Drye, Lab Manager.
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Accurate, Inc.

(Field, cont.)

from you to the laboratory. Most of all, our pickup service provides you the personalized care you deserve.

You should know that we have expanded our routes recently. We now have seven routes. Here is a list of our route days and their outer destinations:

Tuesday

Route #1-Stillwater to Tulsa, Pryor, Muskogee, and Henryetta areas.

Route #2-Stillwater to Arkansas City, KS and Wichita, KS areas.

Wednesday

Route #1-Stillwater to Tulsa, Pryor, Vinita, Bartlesville, Ponca City areas.

Route #2-Stillwater to OKC, Lawton and Duncan areas.

Route #3-Stillwater to Arkansas City, KS and Wichita, KS areas.

Thursday

Route #1-Stillwater to Hennesey, Enid and Ponca City areas.

Route #2-Stillwater to OKC, Ardmore, Ada and Seminole areas.

On these routes you will meet (or you may already know) John Mantooth and Chris Willard. They strive to make our pickup service as convenient and efficient as possible.

If we may add you to our route service, please call. We are eager to serve.

_____ by John Russell, Field Services Manager



Hexane Method on Hold Again in 1996

You may recall that in the 4th issue of "Accurate News" for July/August I wrote about the proposed replacement of the current *Freon based* methods for Oil and Grease and TPH with the new *hexane based* method (1664). Because the EPA has mandated the elimination of Freon, this new method was proposed to take the place of 413.1 and 418.1 by the end of 1995.

However, the EPA again has delayed in the process of approving this new hexane based method. So, it had to allow the use of Freon for at least one more year.

Approval of Method 1664 does not appear to be imminent. However, the tax on Freon is set to increase again this year, so we are all between a rock and a hard place. Our only alternative is to use Freon and pay more for it.

As a result, laboratories are faced with quickly rising costs, but they have been trying to hold the line on price increases for these tests. However, it is probably only a matter of time before this price control will be just too difficult to maintain.

_____ by George Drye, Lab Manager

