



Jones Environmental Forensics

SARA - Saturates, Aromatics, Resins and Asphaltenes

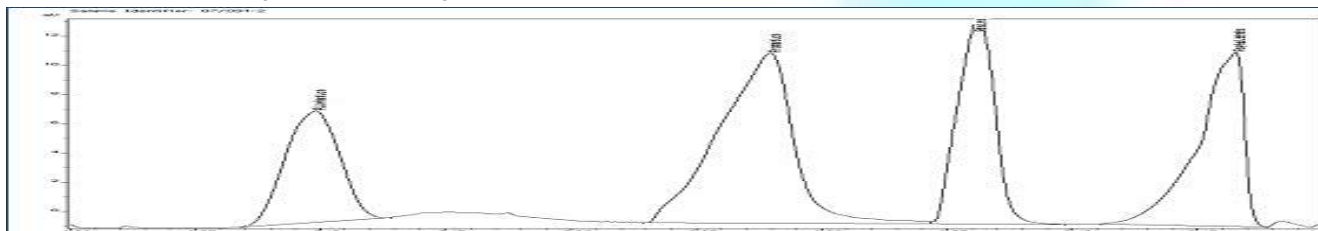
A technique finding increasing application in the characterization of weathered hydrocarbon wastes and tarry material is Iatroscan™ Thin Layer Chromatography with Flame Ionization Detection (TLC-FID).

By facilitating the rapid component class fingerprinting of a wide variety of solvent extractable hydrocarbons from soils, products from petroleum or coal tar contaminated sites, TLC-FID allow waste extracts or products to be classified according to their composition.

TLC-FID is particularly useful in separating maltenes and asphaltenes in bitumen and asphalt and NSO compounds in coal tar. Other chromatographic techniques do not detect these compounds due to them being retained on the chromatographic column or in the case of the TPHCWG approach where they are physically removed prior to analysis.

The TLC-FID method is based upon polarity and affinity chromatography. The soil extract or product is dissolved in a non-polar solvent and injected onto silica rods. The non-polar species have more affinity for the solvent and move up the rod by capillary action. The rods are placed in a bath containing a polar solvent and the aromatic species, which have more affinity for this solvent than the silica, move up the rods. This process is continued until the resins (NSOs) and asphaltenes are separated. The rods are then placed on a FID scanner to quantify the chromatography. The separation of the class components into the following fractions provide a bulk composition of the material tested.

- **Saturates** – aliphatic compounds
- **Aromatics** - includes mono-aromatics and polycyclic aromatics
- **Resins** - heterocyclic (NSO) compounds such as acids, bases, phenolics, naturally occurring compounds (humic acids)
- **Asphaltenes** - high molecular weight complex matrix



Typical SARA chromatogram of bitumen



Typical SARA chromatogram of fresh lube oil

For further information please contact us via our website www.jones-forensics.com
Jim Jones (07767617274) jim@jones-forensics.com
Janet Jones (07718976066) janet@jones-forensics.com
Unit 3 Deeside Point, Zone 3 Deeside Industrial Park, Deeside, CH5 2UA, UK
Tel: 01244 833 780 Fax: 01244 833 781