



Application Note AN-NIR-068

Isocyanates quality control with NIRS

Fast, chemical-free determination of isocyanate content for polyurethane production

Analyzing NCO content in isocyanates as raw materials for polyurethane (PU) is crucial to control properties of the final polymer. Wet analytical methods such as those used in ASTM D7252 are challenging due to the reactivity of these organic species with atmospheric moisture, as well as their toxicity. Furthermore, analysis of NCO content with HPLC (high-performance liquid chromatography)

involves many sample preparation steps and chemical reagents, with each measurement taking up to 20 minutes to complete.

This Application Note demonstrates that near-infrared spectroscopy (NIRS) provides a reagent-free and faster alternative to determine NCO content in isocyanates. The OMNIS NIR Analyzer Liquid analyzes isocyanates in a few seconds without any sample preparation.

EXPERIMENTAL EQUIPMENT

Liquid samples of isocyanates were measured with an OMNIS NIR Analyzer Liquid in transmission mode over a wavelength range of 1000–2250 nm. Reproducible spectrum acquisition was achieved using the built-in temperature control at 30 °C. For convenience, disposable vials with a path length of 8 mm were used. OMNIS Software was used for all data acquisition and prediction model development.



Figure 1. OMNIS NIR Analyzer and a sample filled in a disposable vial.

Table 1. Hardware and software equipment overview.

Equipment	Article number
OMNIS NIR Analyzer Liquid	2.1070.0010
Holder OMNIS NIR, vial, 8 mm	6.07401.070
Disposable vial, 8 mm, transmission	6.7402.240
OMNIS Stand-Alone	6.06003.010
Software license Quant Development	6.06008.002

RESULT

The NIR spectra (**Figure 2**), along with the corresponding reference values, were used to create a prediction model for isocyanate quantitative analysis. The quality of the prediction model was evaluated using the correlation diagram shown in **Figure 3**

which displays a very high correlation between the NIR prediction and the measured values using HPLC. The respective figures of merit (FOM) display the expected precision of a prediction during routine analysis.



Figure 2. Stacked collection of NIR spectra from isocyanate samples analyzed with the OMNIS NIR Analyzer Liquid.

RESULT NCO CONTENT IN ISOCYANATES

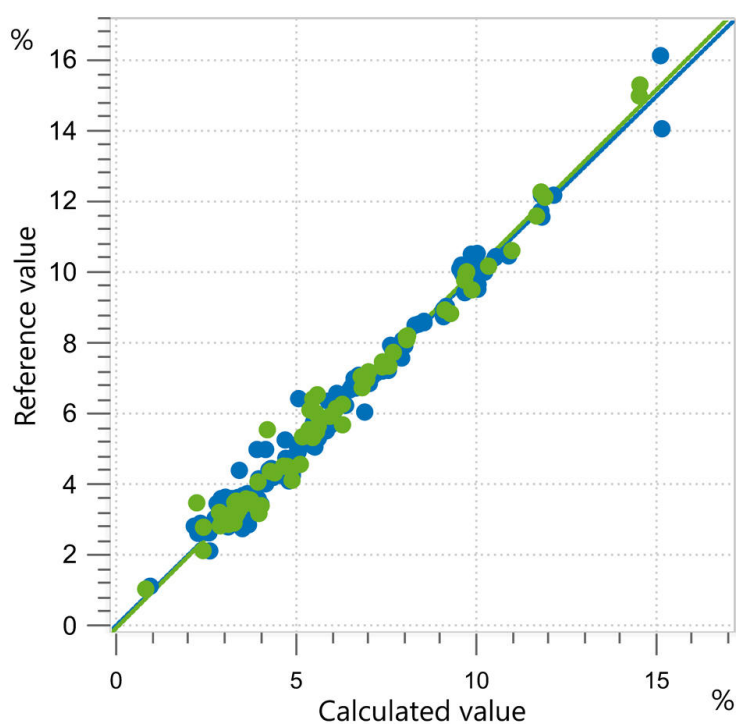


Figure 3. Correlation diagram and the respective figures of merit for the prediction of isocyanate content in polyurethane raw materials using an OMNIS NIR Liquid Analyzer. HPLC was used to evaluate isocyanate group content (% NCO) lab values.

R^2	SEC (%)	SECV (%)	SEP (%)
0.983	0.30	0.33	0.39

CONCLUSION

This Application Note shows the feasibility of using NIR spectroscopy for the quality control of isocyanates for PU production. NCO content can be determined in only a few seconds without any sample preparation. Compared to wet chemical methods (Table 2), the

time to result is a major advantage of NIR spectroscopy. Also, no chemicals are required, helping to better adhere to environmental, chemical, and health regulations.

Table 2. Time to result overview for the analysis of isocyanate content with HPLC.

Parameter	Method	Time to result
Isocyanate content	HPLC	20 min (preparation) + 20 min (HPLC)

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CONFIGURATION



OMNIS NIR Analyzer Liquid

Espectrómetro del infrarrojo cercano para muestras líquidas.

El OMNIS NIR Analyzer es la solución de espectroscopía del infrarrojo cercano (NIRS) desarrollada y producida conforme a los estándares de calidad suizos para los análisis de rutina a lo largo de toda la cadena de producción. El empleo de las tecnologías más avanzadas y la integración en el moderno OMNIS Software se reflejan en la velocidad, la manejabilidad y el uso flexible de estos espectrómetros NIR.

Información general sobre las ventajas del OMNIS NIR Analyzer Liquid:

- Medidas de muestras líquidas en menos de 10 segundos
- Control de temperatura de la muestra: 25 °C...80 °C
- Detección automática de la colocación y la retirada del recipiente de muestras
- Fácil integración en un sistema de automatización o vinculación con otras tecnologías de análisis (titulación)
- Compatible con numerosos recipientes de muestras con distintas longitudes de recorrido



Soporte OMNIS NIR, vial, 8 mm

Soporte de viales para el OMNIS NIR Analyzer para viales desechables de 8 mm (6.7402.240).



Vial desechable, 8 mm, para transmisión, 100 unidades

100 viales desechables de vidrio (borosilicato) con una longitud de recorrido óptico de 8 mm para el análisis de líquidos en transmisión. Los viales desechables se suministran con los correspondientes tapones de cierre (100 unidades).

Compatibles con:

- Soporte OMNIS NIR para vial de 8 mm (6.07401.070)
- Soporte DS2500 para viales desechables de 8 mm (6.7492.020)

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Licencia "Stand-Alone" de OMNIS

Habilita el modo "Stand-Alone" del software OMNIS en un ordenador con Windows™.

Características:

- Se incluye una licencia de los aparatos OMNIS.
- Debe activarse en el portal de licencias de Metrohm.

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Licencia de software de Quant Development

Licencia de software para la creación y edición de modelos de cuantificación en una instalación de OMNIS Software "Stand-Alone".