Mohr Separations Research, Inc.

Recommended Method for Analyzing Oil Water Separator Effluent Samples

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There are various analytical methods available for use in determining the hydrocarbon content of oil water separator effluent samples. Many of these, especially the gravimetric methods, do not provide answers that are sufficiently accurate for environmental purposes.

MSR recommends that samples should be taken by and analyzed by an independent third party laboratory. ***Analysis should be completed utilizing USEPA test method 1664 or equivalent.*** This is a method that utilizes a hexane extractant and a infrared spectrophotometric analysis instrument. This method gives reliable results and can be performed by almost any environmental laboratory.

Be sure to be careful to take representative samples and ensure that the appropriate chain of custody and preservation if required are observed to ensure accurate and defensible results. Please see the MSR recommended sample procedure for a suggested method of getting good samples. Bad answers are far worse than no answers.

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