



Application Note AN-NIR-087

Ethanol content in hand sanitizers

Fast and reagent-free ethanol content determination

In 2020, the demand for hand sanitizer skyrocketed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many companies shifted gears, streamlining their operations to produce hand sanitizer in large volumes. As in any product manufacturing process, accurate formulation enables good quality and minimizes waste. The alcohol content in hand sanitizers must be greater than 60% (v/v) to be an effective antiseptic. Reagents commonly used in these solutions are water,

alcohol (commonly ethanol or isopropanol), small amounts of emollient (skin softener, e.g. glycerol), and an oxidizing agent (e.g. hydrogen peroxide) to minimize microbial contamination. A safe and fast way to monitor ethanol content in these sanitizing solutions is with **reagent-free** near-infrared spectroscopy, which provides reliable **results in a few seconds**, quickly indicating when adjustments in formulation are necessary.

EXPERIMENTAL EQUIPMENT

Mixtures of ethanol/water standards with a range of ethanol content from 58% to 82% (v/v) were measured in transmission mode with a DS2500 Liquid Analyzer over the full wavelength range (400–2500 nm). Reproducible spectrum acquisition was achieved using the built-in temperature control at 40 ° C. For convenience, disposable vials with a path length of 8 mm were used, which made cleaning of the sample vessels unnecessary. The Metrohm software package Vision Air Complete was used for all data acquisition and prediction model development.



Figure 1. DS2500 Liquid Analyzer and a sample filled in a disposable vial.

Table 1. Hardware and software equipment overview

| Equipment | Metrohm number |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| DS2500 Liquid Analyzer | 2.929.0010 |
| DS2500 Holder 8 mm vials | 6.7492.020 |
| Disposable vials, 8 mm | 6.7402.000 |
| Vision Air 2.0 Complete | 6.6072.208 |

RESULTS

All 13 measured Vis-NIR spectra (**Figure 2**) were used to create a prediction model for quantification of the ethanol content. The quality of the prediction models was evaluated using correlation diagrams, which display a very

high correlation between VisNIR prediction and primary method values. The respective figures of merit (FOM) display the expected precision of a prediction during routine analysis.

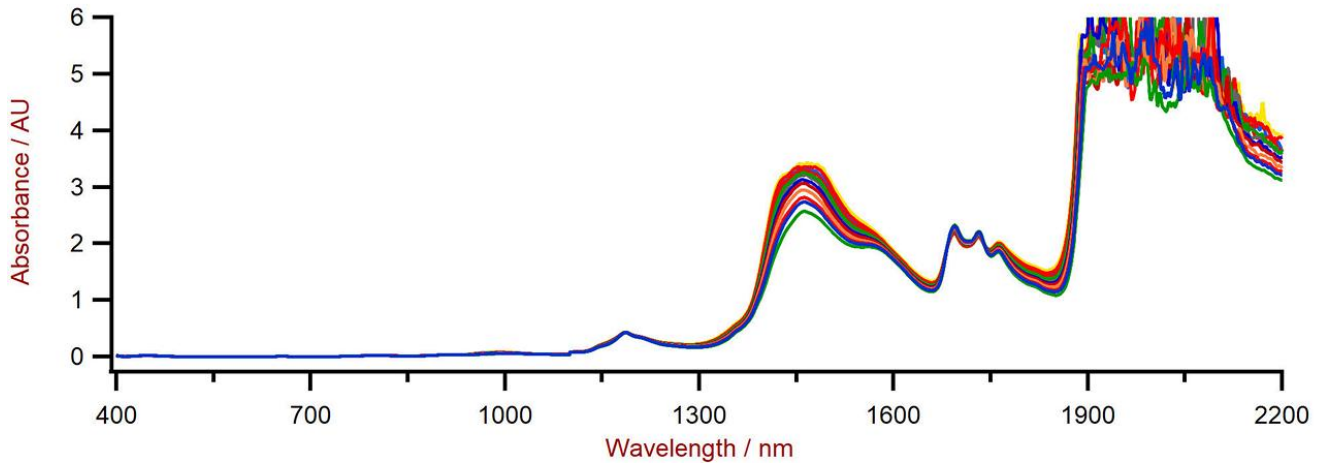


Figure 2. Vis-NIR spectra of hand sanitizers with varying ethanol content measured on a DS2500 Liquid Analyzer.

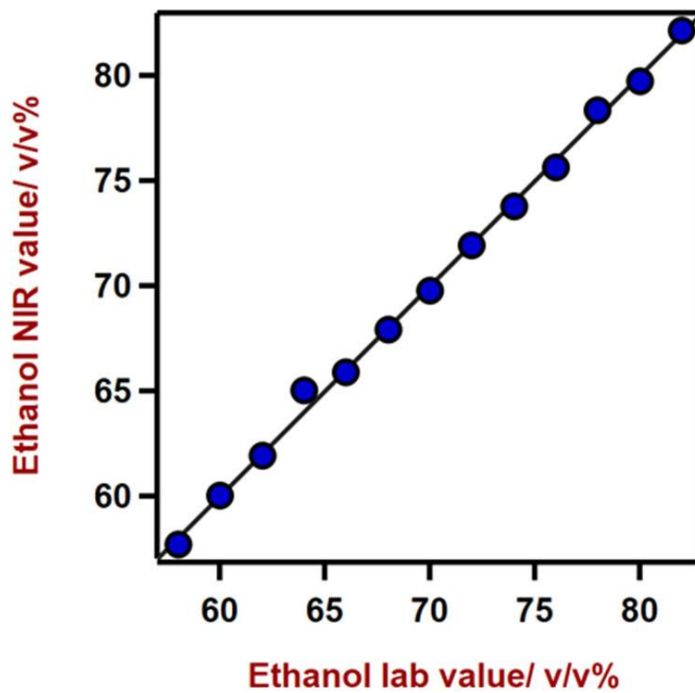


Figure 3. Correlation diagram and the respective figures of merit for the prediction of ethanol content in hand sanitizers using a DS2500 Liquid Analyzer.

Table 2. Figures of merit for the prediction of ethanol content in hand sanitizers using a DS2500 Liquid Analyzer.

| Figures of merit | Value |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| R ² | 0.9977 |
| Standard error of calibration | 0.41 v/v% |
| Standard error of cross-validation | 0.56 v/v% |

CONCLUSION

This application note demonstrates the feasibility of the DS2500 Liquid Analyzer for the determination of ethanol in hand sanitizer products. Vis-NIR spectroscopy enables a fast

determination with high accuracy, and therefore represents a suitable alternative to the standard method.

Table 3. Time to result for the ethanol content determination in hand sanitizers using gas chromatography

| Parameter | Method | Time to result and workflow |
|-----------------|--------|------------------------------------|
| Ethanol content | GC | ~5 min (preparation) + ~5 min (GC) |

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DS2500 Liquid Analyzer 固耐用的近外光,用于生境和室中的量。

DS2500 Liquid Analyzer 是一成熟且活的解决方案,其用于在整个生中行液体常分析。其固耐用的使 DS2500 Liquid Analyzer 不受灰、潮湿、振的影,因此非常用于在劣的生境中使用。

DS2500 Liquid Analyzer 覆盖 400 至 2500 nm 的整个光范,将品加至 80° C 高温,并与各不同的一次性小瓶和石英比色皿兼容。因此,DS2500 Liquid Analyzer 可的个性化品要求,助在一分内得精和具有可重性的果。借助集成的品架装置和自的 Vision Air 件,保了用能松和安全地行操作。

如果是大的品量,可通将流通池与一个 Metrohm 机器人自器搭配使用的方法著提高生率。



Vision Air 2.0 Complete Vision Air – 通用的光分析件。

Vision Air Complete 是用于管范境的先易用的件解决方案。

Vision Air 点一:

- 独特的件用和配的用界面保了直的操作方式
- 操作程的建与方式
- SQL 数据,可安全且地管理数据

Vision Air Complete (66072208) 版本包含所有用于可近外光分析量保程的用:

- 器和数据管理用
- 方法用
- 常分析用

其它 Vision Air Complete 解决方案:

- 66072207 (Vision Air Network Complete)
- 66072209 (Vision Air Pharma Complete)
- 66072210 (Vision Air Pharma Network Complete)



DS2500 8 mm

直径 8 mm 且更加智能的一次性玻璃小瓶支架