



## ASTM D7900 Standard Test Method for Determination of Light Hydrocarbons in Stabilized Crude Oils by Gas Chromatography.

**KEY WORDS: DHA, D7900, Gasoline, Naphtha, Crude Oils, Engine Fuels.**

### INTRODUCTION

SCION Instruments offers the solution for detailed hydrocarbon analysis (DHA) of stabilized crudes. A stabilized crude oil is known for having a Reid Vapor pressure equivalent or less than 82.7 kPa. Crude oils consist of hundreds of hydrocarbon compounds in which the boiling point distribution of these crude oils is an important parameter in the petroleum industry.

ASTM D7900 describes the standard test method to determine the boiling point range distribution of hydrocarbons in crude oil up to n-nonane (n-C<sub>9</sub>). It is possible to combine the results of this method with the test results of ASTM D7169 and IP 545 to give a full boiling point distribution.

This application is applicable on the SCION Instruments 4X6 and the new 8X00 GC-platform, Figure 1 shows the new SCION Instruments 8X00 GC platform.



**Figure 1. SCION Instruments 8300 and 8500 GC platform equipped with the 8400PRO autosampler.**

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### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The DHA ASTM D7900 is a perfect method for the determination of light hydrocarbons in stabilized crudes oil by gas chromatography.

This method determines the boiling point range distribution of hydrocarbons in stabilized crude oil up to n-nonane (n-C<sub>9</sub>). Identification is done using reference chromatograms and a database of hydrocarbon compounds.

Other test methods like ASTM D7169 or IP 545 also claim to give such boiling point distribution in crude oil. Unfortunately, the lighter part (up to n-C<sub>9</sub>) of the distribution and the total mass recovery of these methods are liable to significant errors. The ASTM D7900 was specially developed to determine the boiling point distribution of the front end more accurately without interference imposed by the diluent solvent (carbon disulphide).

However, it is possible to achieve a full boiling point distribution of the lower and heavier hydrocarbons by merging ASTM D7900 with ASTM D7169 or IP545.

The primary identification tool of this application is done with Kovats index. Using this index makes it easier to compare data between multiple systems. This method converts retention time to system independent numbers.

**Table 1. Analytical conditions**

<b>Injector</b>	Split 100:1, 275 °C
<b>Column 1</b>	SCION-1
<b>Column 2</b>	Scion-DHA
<b>Oven Program</b>	35°C (30 min), 2°C/min to 185°C
<b>Carrier</b>	Helium
<b>Pressure</b>	365 kPa (53 psi)
	FID with ceramic jet, 300°C
<b>Detector</b>	Air: 300 ml/min, Fuel gas (H <sub>2</sub> ): 30 ml/min, Make up (N <sub>2</sub> ): 28 ml/min
<b>Inj. Volume</b>	0.1 µl
<b>Autosampler</b>	8400PRO
<b>Software</b>	Compass CDS (with Eclipse plug in)

Another advantage of this index is that there are only two physical properties that determine this factor, solubility and the n-alkanes. While in comparison, retention times are dependent on six physical properties.

$$I_i = 100 \times \left[ n + (N - n) \frac{\log(t_i - t_0) - \log(t_n - t_0)}{\log(t_N - t_0) - \log(t_n - t_0)} \right]$$

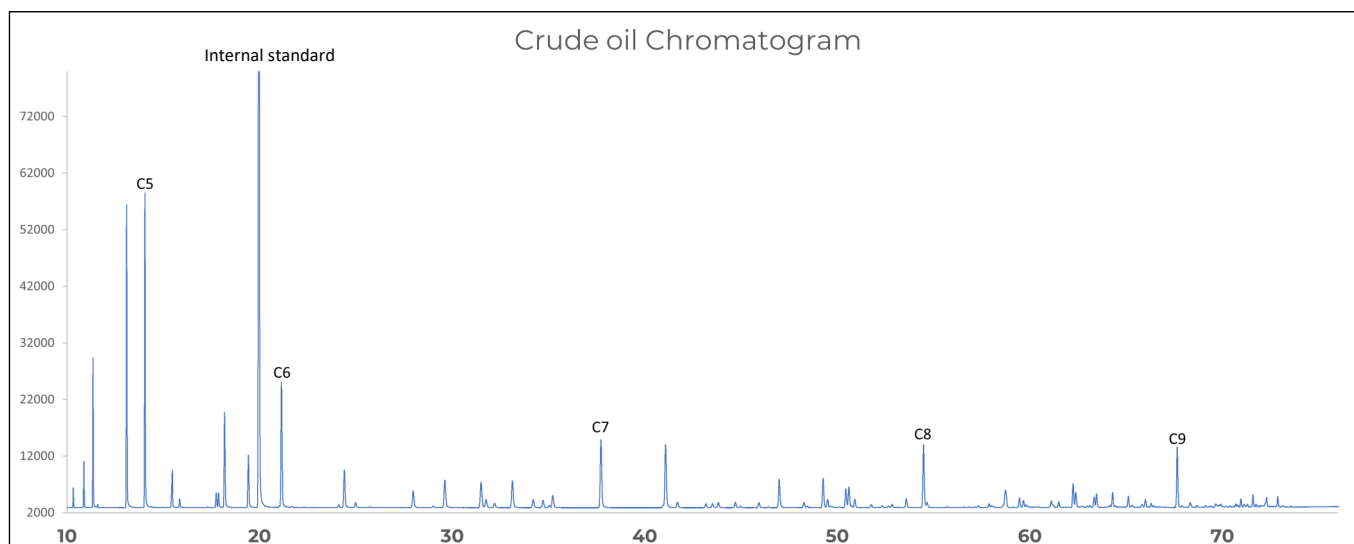
$I_i$  = Kovats retention index peak  $i$ .

$n$  = Carbon number n-alkane peak heading  $i$ .

$N$  = Carbon number n-alkane peak after  $i$ .

$t_i$  = Retention time  $i$ .

$t_0$  = air peak, void time.



**Figure 2: Example chromatogram of crude oil with 1-hexene as internal standard.**

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To determine the Kovats index a calibration mixture of n-paraffins was injected in the system.

The indices found are compared with known data in the database and the rest of the peaks are assigned accordingly. Based on this standard, the composition of the crude oil front-end can be identified and the boiling point distribution can be calculated.

The repeatability of five components was tested by injecting a mixture of n-paraffins. The specification set in the ASTM D7900 states that the standard deviation should not exceed 0.1%. Table 2 shows an example of a Scion DHA D7900 analyser with excellent repeatability given as a percentage.

**Table 2. Repeatability of 5 consecutive injections.**

	C <sub>5</sub>	C <sub>6</sub>	C <sub>7</sub>	C <sub>8</sub>	C <sub>9</sub>
1	131323	127444	130738	133423	130878
2	131066	127878	131649	133557	130948
3	131713	128784	132889	134843	132215
4	129025	125388	128944	131787	129795
5	130322	126814	130613	132797	130818
RSD%	0.73	0.89	0.99	0.75	0.59

Figure 2 shows an example chromatogram of a crude oil sample. In the chromatogram a select group of compounds are named but with Eclipse software all components are successfully identified.

The CompassCDS Eclipse plug in is used for analysing the data. This is an addition to the basic Compass CDS and this will provide all the tools to calculate the necessary data.

**Table 3. Group report in mass% of the crude oil.**

	N-Paraffins	i-Paraffins	Naphthene's	Aromatics	Unknown	Total
C3	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.13
C4	1.03	0.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.32
C5	2.67	2.41	0.15	0.00	0.02	5.25
C6	1.65	2.00	1.11	0.28	0.00	5.03
C7	1.24	1.26	1.63	0.44	0.00	4.56
C8	0.99	1.41	0.93	0.76	0.17	4.27
C9	0.87	0.68	0.39	0.00	0.09	2.03
Heavy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.66	0.66
Total	8.56	8.05	4.23	1.47	0.94	23.3

**Table 4. Boiling point distribution report of the crude shown in figure 2**

Percentage (mass)	TPB (°C)	Percentage (mass)	TPB (°C)
IBP	-10.9	13.0	91.8
1.0	-4	14.0	94.0
2.0	6.3	15.0	98.8
3.0	17.9	16.0	104.6
4.0	28.2	17.0	114.6
5.0	31.3	18.0	118.9
6.0	34.4	19.0	124.0
7.0	58.1	20.0	136.1
8.0	60.2	21.0	138.9
9.0	64.5	22.0	146.7
10.0	67.6	23.0	165.0
11.0	73.7		
12.0	89.1		

Table 3 shows the group report of the crude oil in mass (%). Based on the mass report and internal standard, a boiling point distribution was made. Table 4 shows this boiling point distribution.

The data from table 4 can be merged with ASTM D7169 or IP545 for the total boiling point distribution of the crude oil.

Figure 3 shows an example of the merged crude oils distribution report in Eclipse. The boiling point distribution until 151 °C is based on the DHA ASTM7900 data and is shown in blue. The simdist curve from 151 °C is based on ASTM D7169 and is shown in black.

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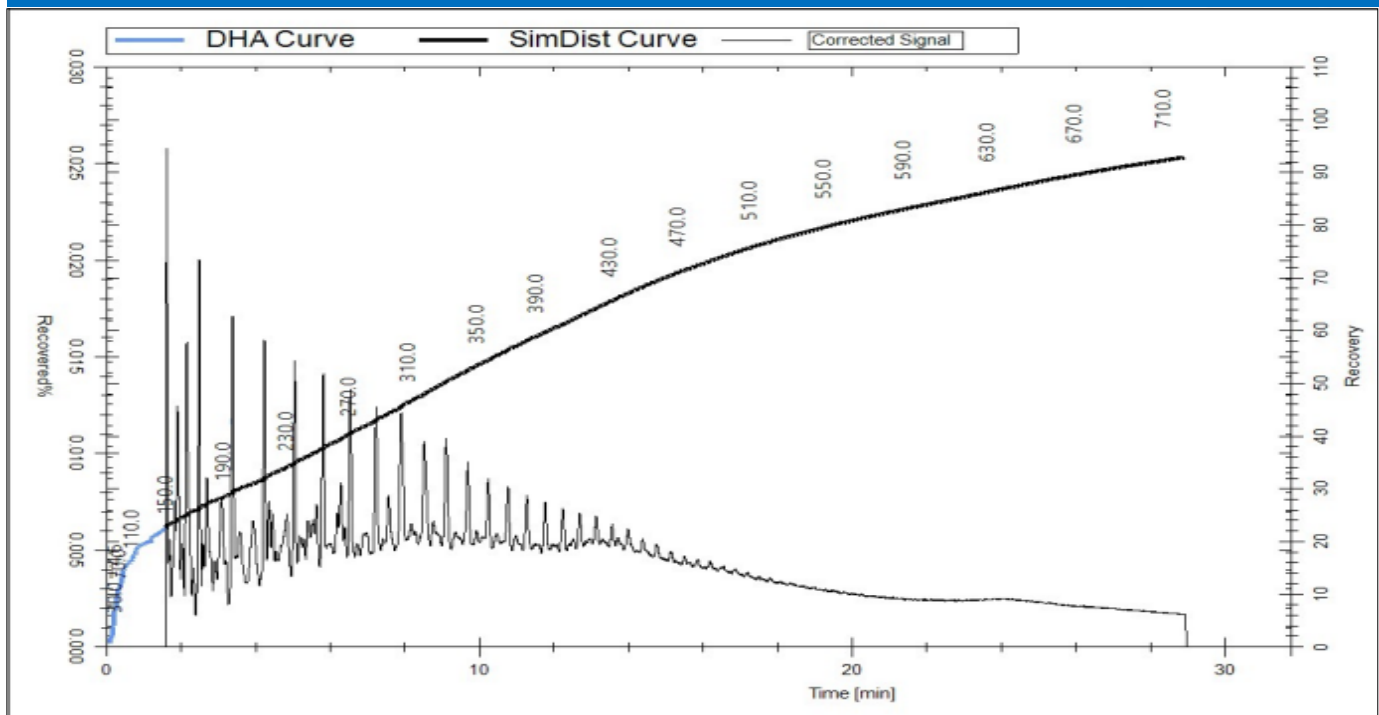


Figure 3: Example of a merged crude oil distribution report in Eclipse.

SCION application note AN088 will give further information of the combination of ASTM D7169 and ASTM D7900 to give this full boiling point distribution Figure 4 shows an example of how the chromatogram will look like and as shown it is also possible to select other ASTM methods.

## CONCLUSION

The SCION 8X00-GC analyser is perfectly capable of analysing the boiling point distribution of the crude oil front end in compliance with ASTM D7900.

If a full boiling point distribution is necessary it is possible to combine this method with ASTM D7169 or IP545. For more information see SCION Instruments application note AN088 Crude Oil Analysis: Combining ASTM D7169 and ASTM D7900 to give a full boiling point distribution of crude oils.

The equipment of the 8X00-GC analyser is pre determined ordering information can be found on the next page, for customisation please contact your local sales representative.

Although the 4X6-GC series is not shown in this application note, it is possible to perform this analysis on the SCION Instruments 4X6 GC series.

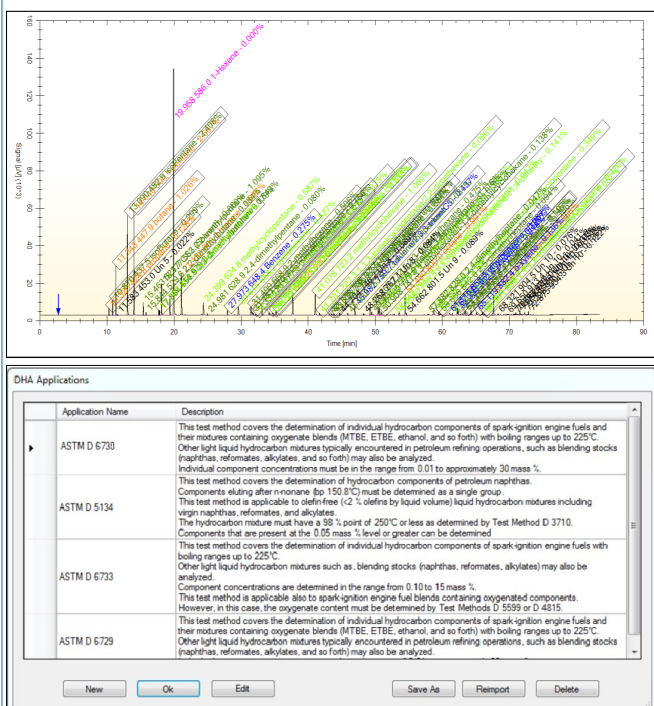


Figure 4: Chromatogram of a crude oil sample using the Compass Eclipse plug in.



## ORDER INFORMATION

Part number	8300 GC configuration
839941815	DHA Analyser including 8410 for D7900, IP 344 or ASTM D-7169 front-end, 8300 GC based, 120V Includes PC and CompassCDS and DHA Plug-in software.
839941833	DHA Analyser including 8400 for D7900, IP 344 or ASTM D-7169 front-end, 8300 GC based, 120V Includes PC and CompassCDS and DHA Plug-in software.
839941816	DHA Analyser including 8410 for D7900, IP 344 or ASTM D-7169 front-end, 8300 GC based, 230V Includes PC and CompassCDS and DHA Plug-in software.
839941834	DHA Analyser including 8400 for D7900, IP 344 or ASTM D-7169 front-end, 8300 GC based, 230V Includes PC and CompassCDS and DHA Plug-in software.
839941715	DHA Analyser Includes 8410 for D7900, IP 344 or ASTM D-7169 front-end, 8300 GC based, 120V Includes DHA plug in software CD. Excludes PC and CompassCDS.
839941733	DHA Analyser Includes 8400 for D7900, IP 344 or ASTM D-7169 front-end, 8300 GC based, 120V Includes DHA plug in software CD. Excludes PC and CompassCDS.
839941716	DHA Analyser Includes 8410 for D7900, IP 344 or ASTM D-7169 front-end, 8300 GC based, 230V Includes DHA plug in software CD. Excludes PC and CompassCDS.
839941734	DHA Analyser Includes 8400 for D7900, IP 344 or ASTM D-7169 front-end, 8300 GC based, 230V Includes DHA plug in software CD. Excludes PC and CompassCDS.
Part number	8500 GC configuration
859941815	DHA Analyser Includes 8410 for D7900, IP 344 or ASTM D-7169 front-end, 8500 GC based. 120V Includes PC and CompassCDS and DHA Plug-in software.
859941833	DHA Analyser Includes 8400 for D7900, IP 344 or ASTM D-7169 front-end, 8500 GC based. 120V Includes PC and CompassCDS and DHA Plug-in software.
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Part number	ASTM D7900 standards
ST50000002	ASTM D7900 VALVE TIMING/LINEARITY CHECK STANDARD - 10X2 ML
ST50000003	ASTM D7900 C5-C14 STANDARD IN HEXADECANE - 10X2 ML

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