

# Ground Coffee

**Category: Food**
**Technique: CAA**

## Summary

This technical note will describe the analysis of a popular ground “office” brand coffee on the Teledyne Leeman Labs Hydra IIc Mercury Analyzer. This method utilized the moisture control system as described in Teledyne Leeman Labs Application Note – AN1701 ([Viewable Here](#)), to enhance the performance of the Hydra IIc in standard direct combustion mode for total mercury determination in this matrix.

Sample pretreatment and the generation of wastes associated with wet chemistry are eliminated when using the Hydra IIc mercury analyzer in standard combustion mode for the determination of total mercury in ground coffee.

Weighed samples were introduced into the analyzer using an automated sequence and the unattended analysis of each individual sample was completed in ~7 minutes.

Direct analysis of mercury content by Thermal Decomposition is described in methods USEPA 7473 and ASTM 6722 and 7623.

## Instrumentation

Hydra IIc CVA Combustion Analyzer, Envoy software version 2.2, quartz boats (calibration), nickel boats (samples), analytical balance, disposable spatulas, pipette and tips, labware/reagents for calibration standard preparation.

## Method Parameters

	°C	Seconds	Other
<b>Drying</b>	300	45	
<b>Catalyst</b>	600	30	
<b>Decomposition*</b>	800	120	
<b>Oxygen Flow</b>			350 ml/min
<b>Integration</b>		100	
<b>Amalgamator</b>	700	40	

\* A controlled increase to Decomposition Temperature was used. Add or edit the Temperature Ramp startup.ini file line to: “TempRamp 120”.

## Calibration

Aqueous standards were prepared in 1% HNO<sub>3</sub> acid for mercury stability.

Low Concentration	Blank, 0.1, 0.5, 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 ng
High Concentration	50, 100, 200, 400, 600, 800, 1000 ng

## Sample Weight

Sample weight average was ~0.18 g.

## Procedure

1. Homogenize the sample in the container
2. Tare boat(s) and add sample(s) into boat(s)
3. Load boats onto the sample boat shuttle
4. Run Hydra IIc in standard mode using an automated sequence

## Results

	ng/g	
Coal Fly Ash SRM 1005 ng/g	964.93	96.0 % Recovery
Columbian Coffee	0.31	
Columbian Coffee	0.20	
Columbian Coffee	0.23	
Columbian Coffee	0.16	
Columbian Coffee	0.12	
Columbian Coffee	0.19	
Columbian Coffee	0.19	
Avg	0.20 ± 0.04 @ 95 %	
STDEV	0.06	
MDL	0.12 @ 95 %	
Min	0.12	
Max	0.31	
Coal Fly Ash SRM 1005 ng/g	1016.07	101.1 % Recovery

## Conclusion

The QC recoveries of 96.0 to 101.1% demonstrate that the system is in control and stable.

With the addition of the moisture control system, the Hydra IIc in standard mode is an ideal system for determination of mercury concentration in ground coffee.