

# Three new Cyanide Methods at Standard Methods Part 4000

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**Well, there you go  
again**



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Why do we need them at SM?

Fundamental CN Chemistry

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Conclusion

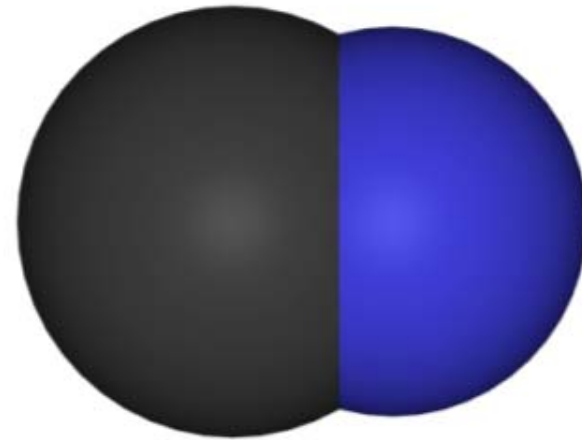
# Why do we need these new methods at Standard Methods?

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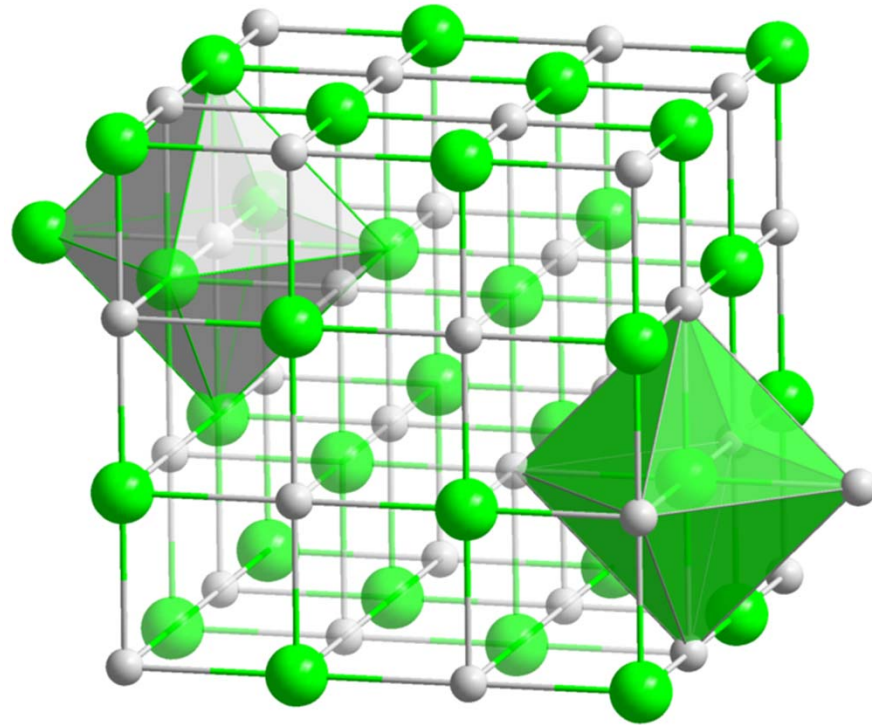
- **Greater acceptance of Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater methods than for ASTM methods**
  - Standard methods requires methods be published elsewhere prior to publishing in Standard Methods
    - Working to change this
  - These methods are published and independently validated at ASTM and by ISO
  - Publication in SM should get wider acceptance nationally and globally

## A generalized summary of cyanide and its metal – cyanide species

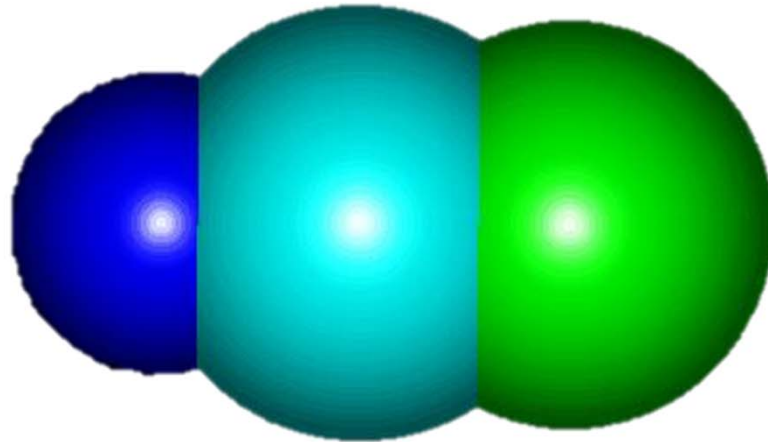
- Transition metals - strong bonds
- Alkali metals - ionic bonds



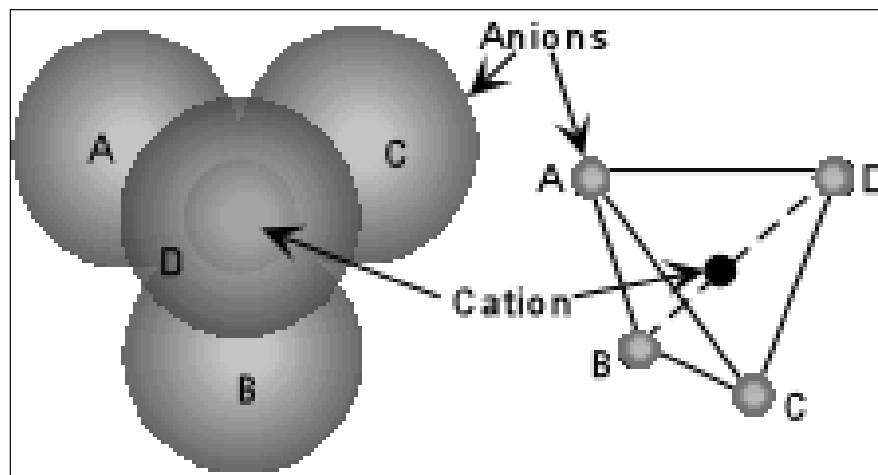
## Alkali and alkaline earth metals form water soluble salts with the cyanide anion



**Get your free cyanide here. Hurry**



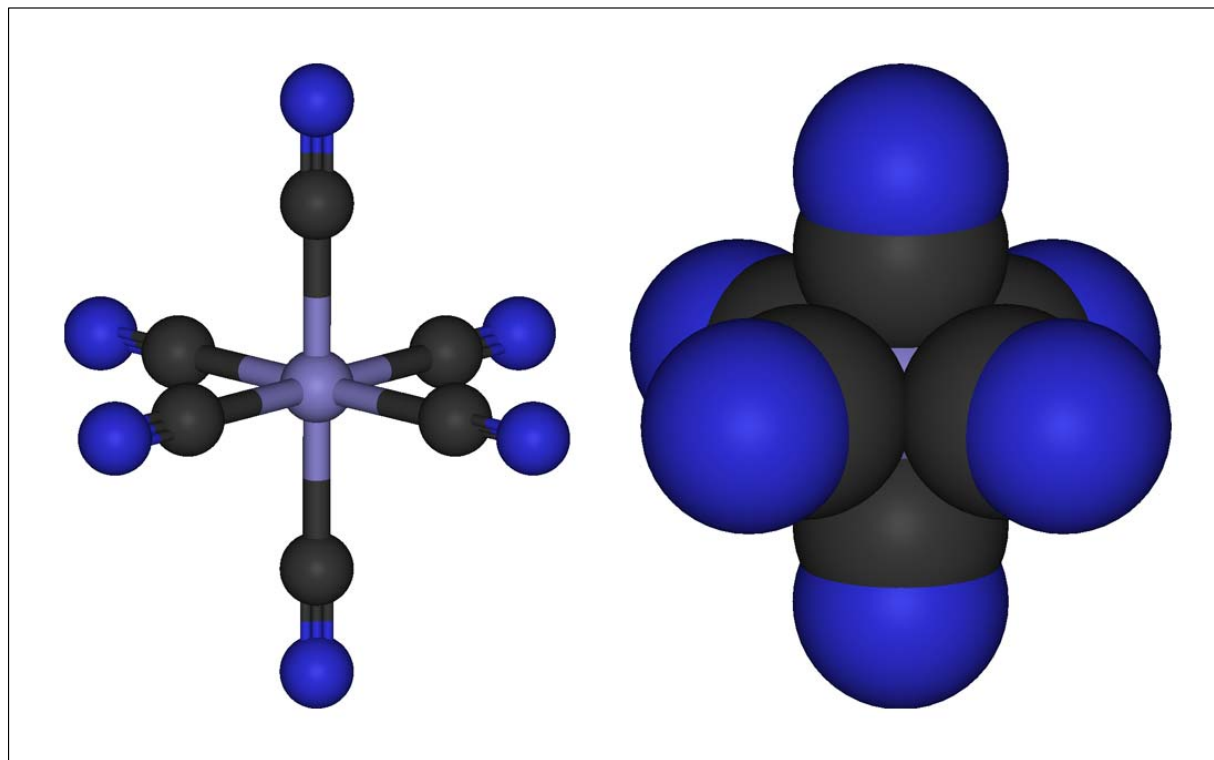
# A tetragonal coordination complex anion with CN ligands



Zn, Cd, Cu, Ni, Hg



## Iron and Cobalt CN are hexagonal coordination complexes with CN ligands

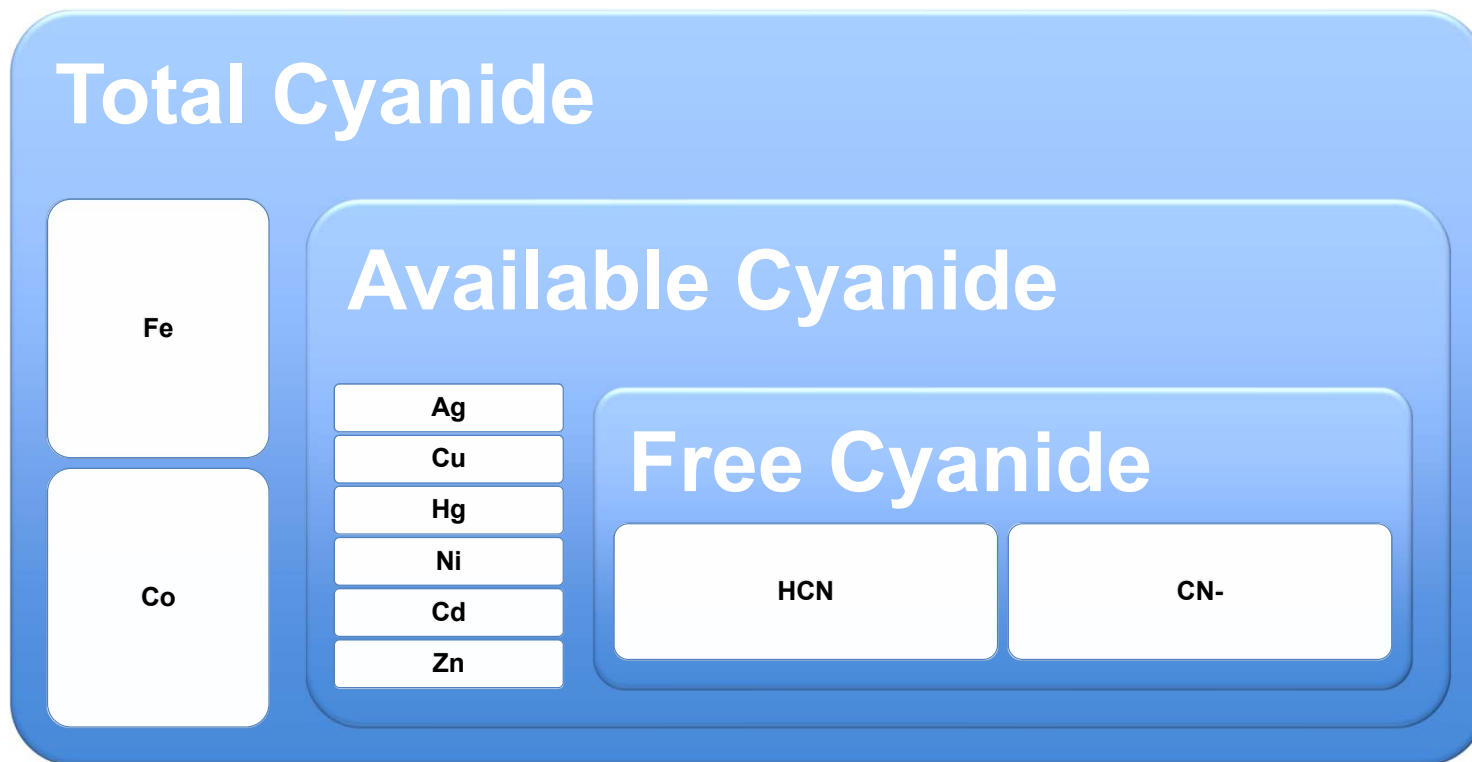


## Bonds between the metal and cyanide are moderate to strong

$[\text{Hg}(\text{CN})_4]^{-2}$	Weak
$[\text{Cd}(\text{CN})_4]^{-2}$	
$[\text{Zn}(\text{CN})_4]^{-2}$	
$[\text{Ag}(\text{CN})_2]^{-}$	Moderate
$[\text{Cu}(\text{CN})_4]^{-3}$	
$[\text{Ni}(\text{CN})_4]^{-2}$	
$\text{Hg}(\text{CN})_2$	Strong
$[\text{Fe}(\text{CN})_6]^{-4}$	
$[\text{Fe}(\text{CN})_6]^{-3}$	
$[\text{Co}(\text{CN})_6]^{-3}$	



Cyanide methods measure the various cyanide “species” dissolved in water



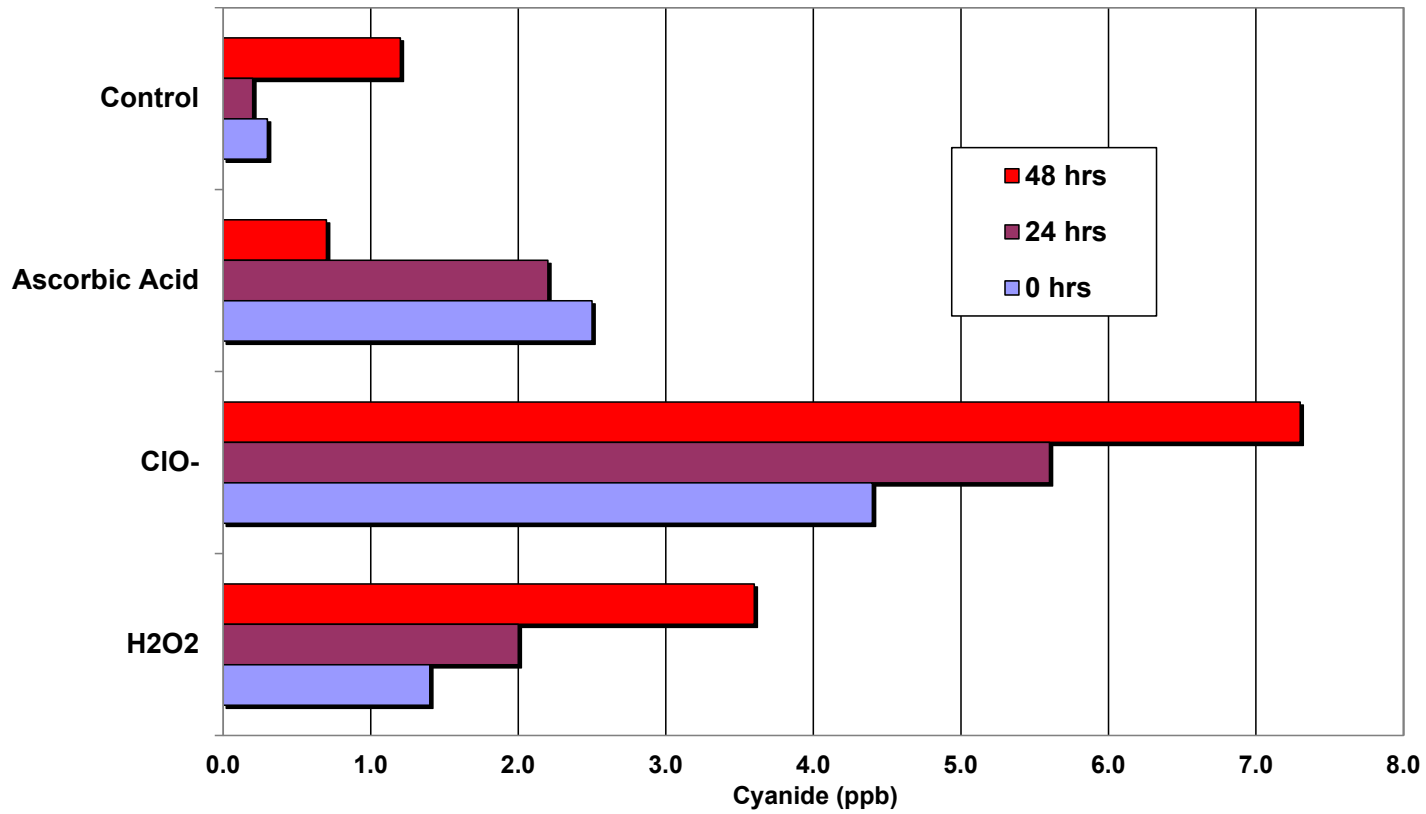
## The new methods required revisions of 4500-CN Part A

**Collect  
Sample**

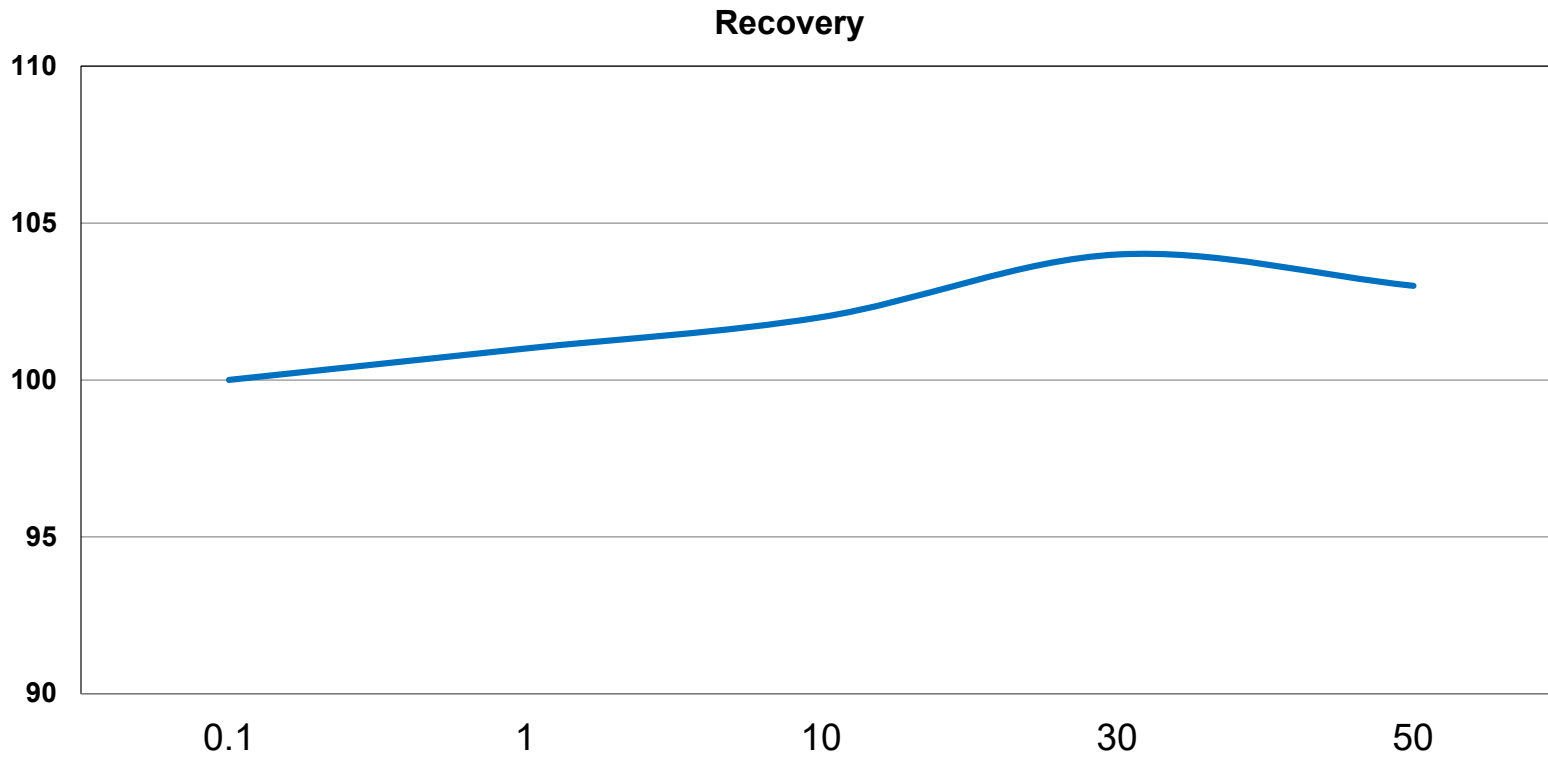
**Preserve  
and Process**

**Analyze**

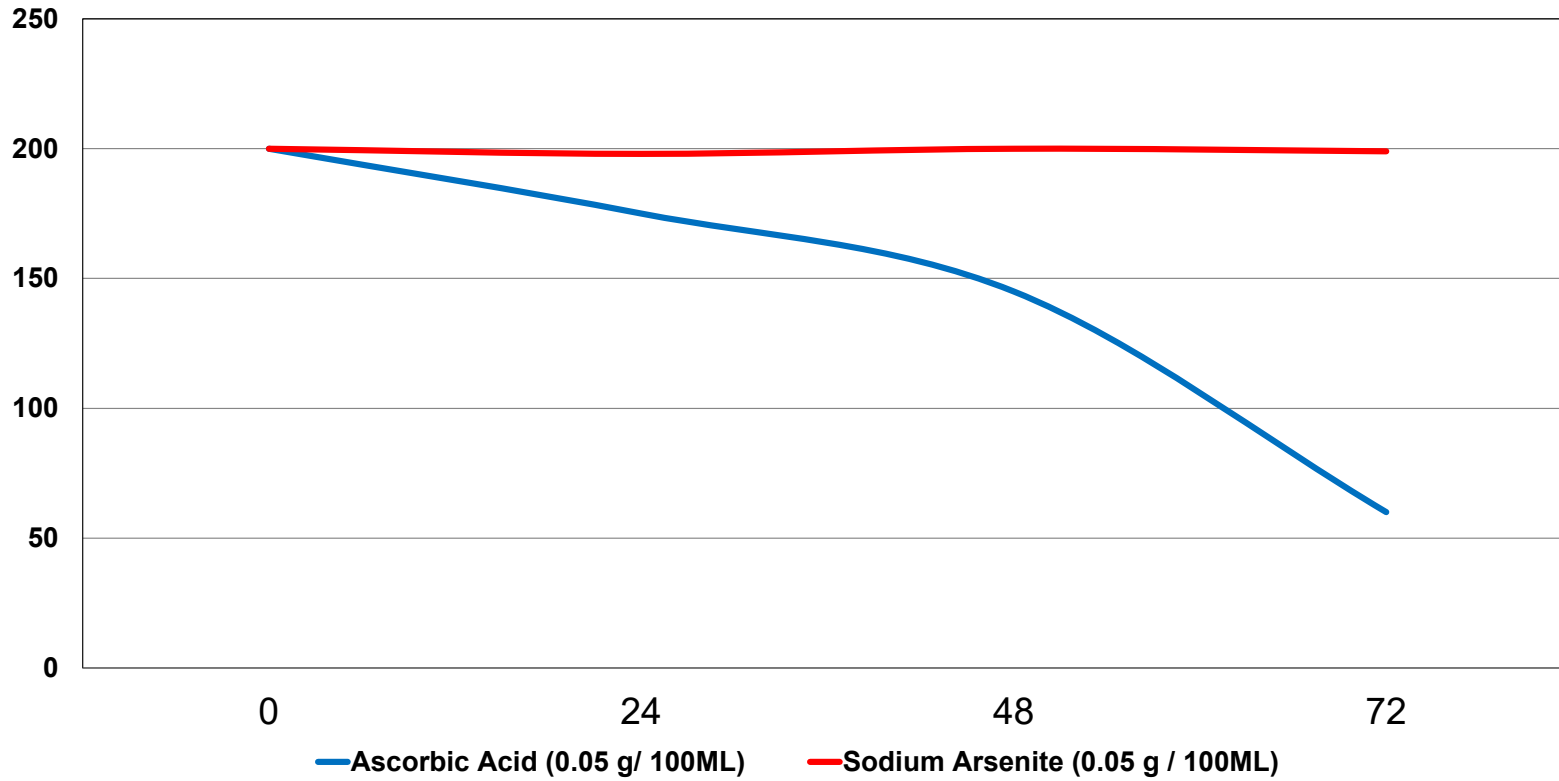
# Cyanide formation after preservation at pH 12



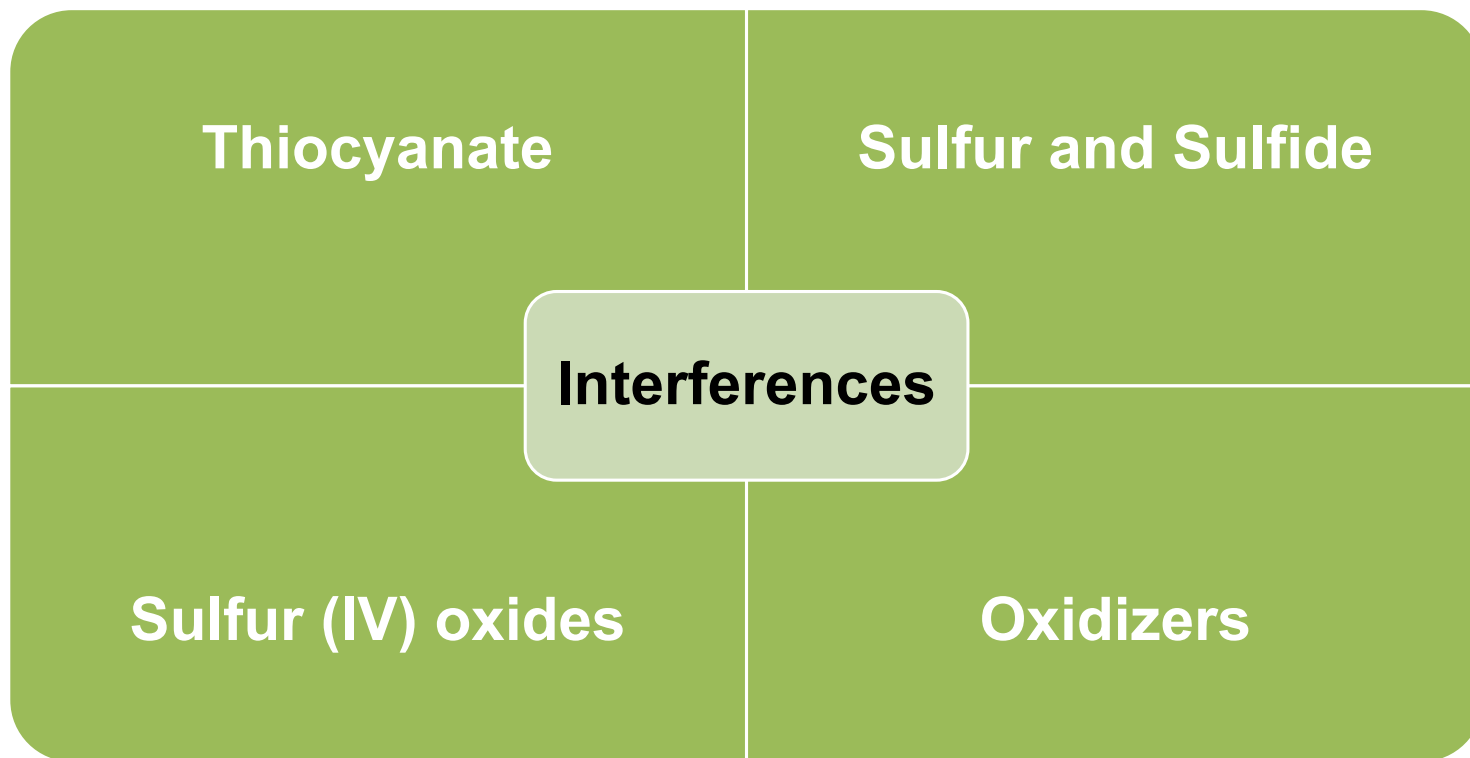
# Recovery of 100 ppb CN in up to 50 ppm Sulfide using on-line sulfide abatement



## Loss of 200 ppb CN due to ascorbic acid addition



**These compounds are in almost every sample and interfere significantly**





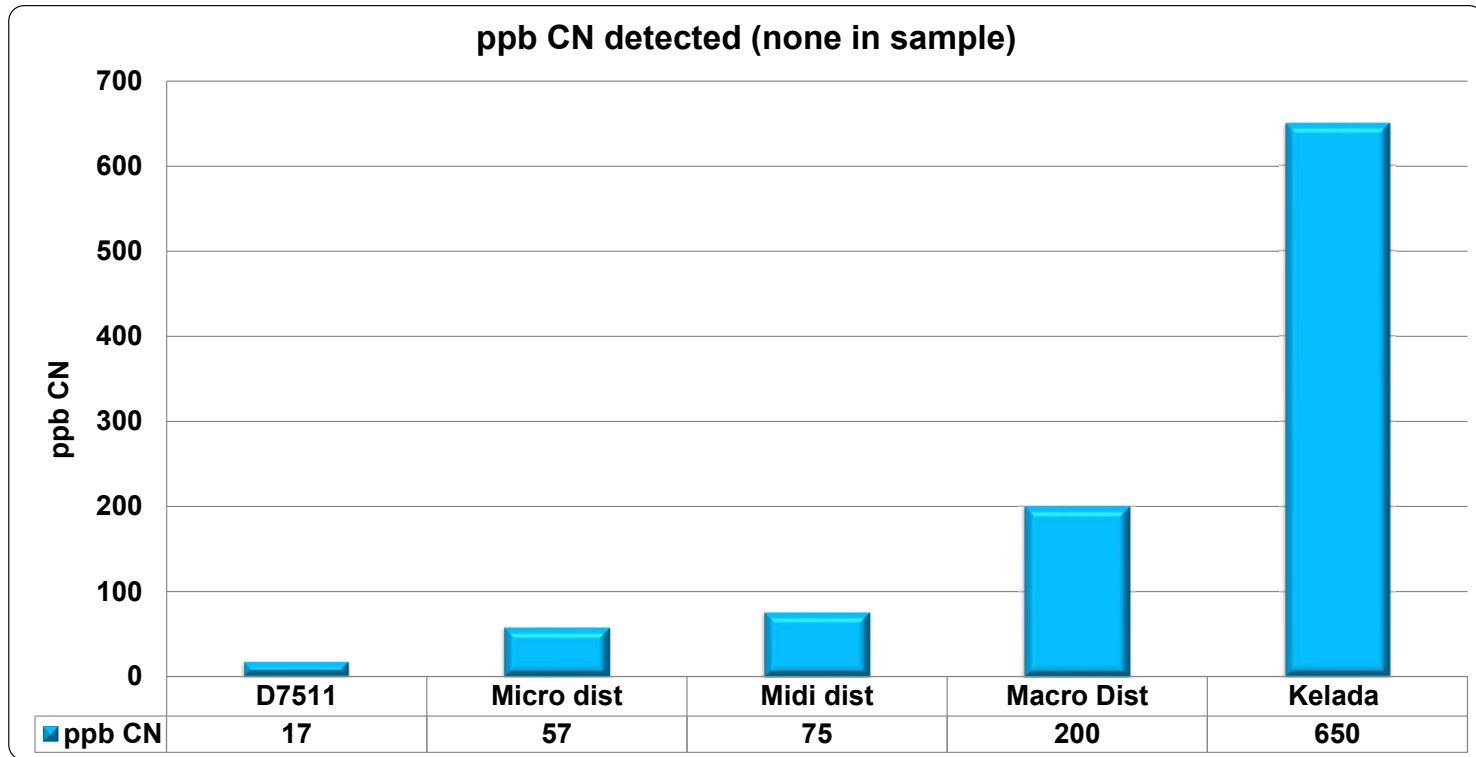
**Thiocyanate causes both negative and positive interferences, particularly with distillation or CATC**

**Thiocyanate**

**Create CN**

**Destroy CN**

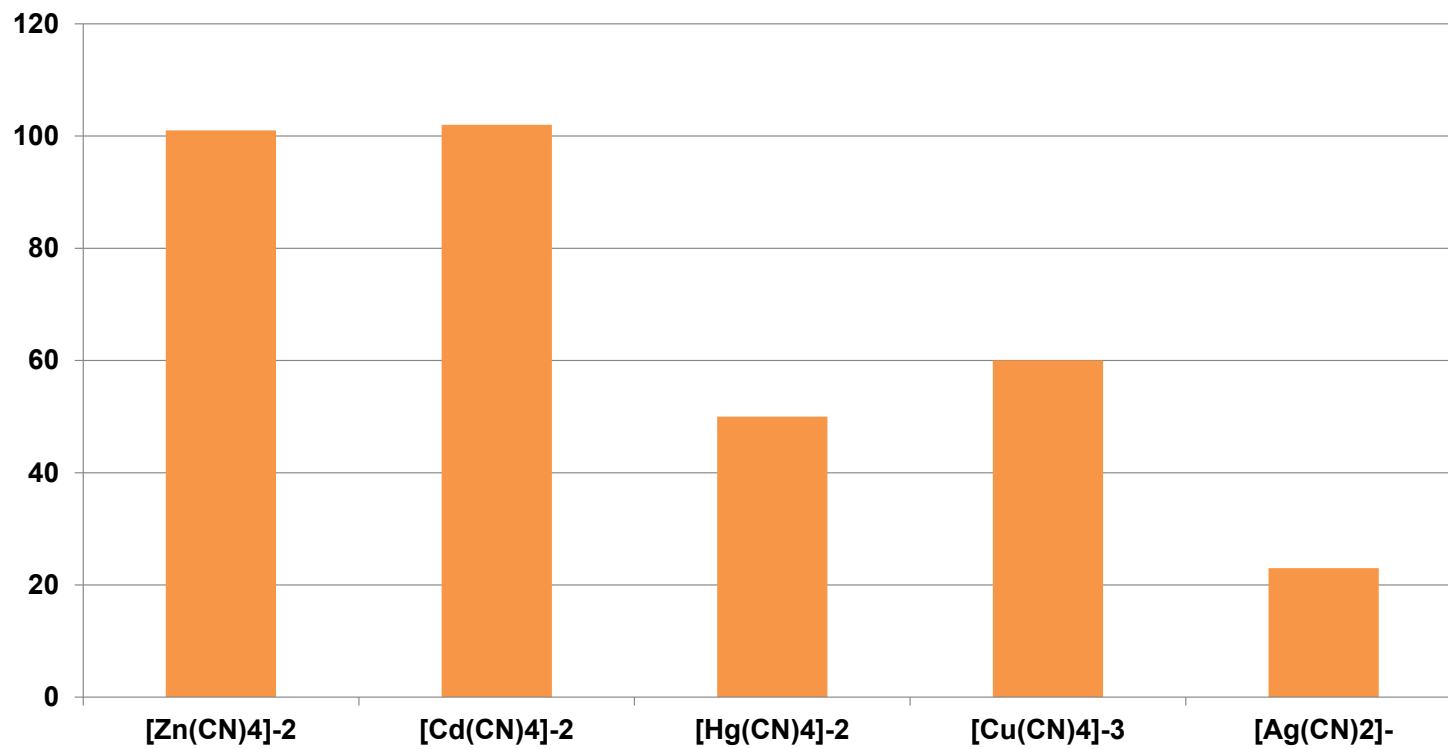
## Recovery of CN from the ASTM “challenge matrix”



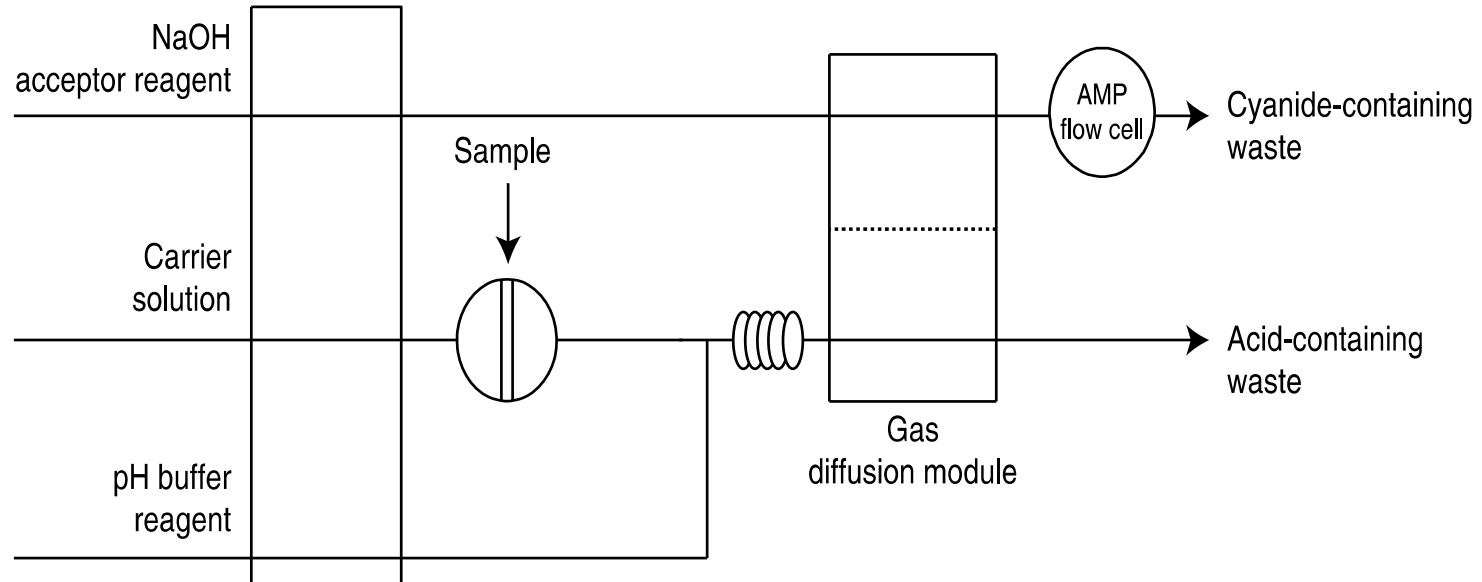
## Free Cyanide methods using gas diffusion

Method Number	Description	Measurement
ISO 20950-1:2018.	Micro-diffusion at pH 6	Amperometry
ASTM D7237-18	Auto-diffusion at pH 6	Amperometry
SM 4500-CN R	Auto-diffusion at pH 6	Amperometry

## Recovery of metal-cyanide complexes by the free cyanide methods



# Free cyanide flow chemistry diagram



# Free Cyanide ASTM and ISO Data

Sample	Matrix <sup>a</sup>	<i>l</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>o</i> %	<i>X</i> μg/l	$\bar{x}$ μg/l	$\eta$ %	<i>s<sub>R</sub></i> μg/l	<i>C<sub>V,R</sub></i> %	<i>s<sub>r</sub></i> μ
1	Groundwater	11	22	8,33	822	815	99,1	60,9	7,47	8
2	Surface water	11	22	8,33	409	398	97,3	32,5	8,16	6
3	Potable water	11	22	8,33	195	202	104	16,0	7,92	1
4	Leach solution	11	22	8,33	167	179	93,3	12,8	7,15	2
5	Effluent	11	22	8,33	9,4	8,00	85,0	2,95	36,9	0

<i>l</i>	number of laboratories after outlier rejection
<i>n</i>	number of individual test results after outlier rejection
<i>o</i>	percentage of outliers
<i>X</i>	assigned value
$\bar{x}$	overall mean of results (without outliers)
$\eta$	recovery rate
<i>s<sub>R</sub></i>	reproducibility standard deviation
<i>C<sub>V,R</sub></i>	coefficient of variation of reproducibility
<i>s<sub>r</sub></i>	repeatability standard deviation
<i>C<sub>V,r</sub></i>	coefficient of variation repeatability

<sup>a</sup> Origin of the samples:

- Sample 1, spiked, Metallurgical Tailings Solution, Nevada
- Sample 2, spiked, Cherry Creek, Centennial, Colorado
- Sample 3, spiked, Denver Aquifer, Parker, Colorado
- Sample 4, spiked, Heap Leach Drain Down Solution, Nevada
- Sample 5, unspiked, Laboratory Treated Metallurgical Tailings Filtrate

Sample Number	Youden Pair 1		Youden Pair 2		Youden Pair 3
	Sample 5	Sample 6	Sample 4	Sample 7	
Number of retained values	8	8	8	8	8
True Concentration (C) ug/L	6.00	5.00	130	110	400
Mean Recovery (XBAR) ug/L	7.00	5.66	134	116	409
Percent Recovery	117	113	103	105	102
Overall standard deviation (S <sub>r</sub> )	2.19	1.21	10.1	7.79	54.3
Overall relative standard deviation, %	31.3	21.4	7.54	6.72	13.3
Number of retained pairs	8		8		
Single operator standard deviation (S <sub>o</sub> )	0.75		3.73		
Analyst relative standard deviation, %	11.8		2.92		

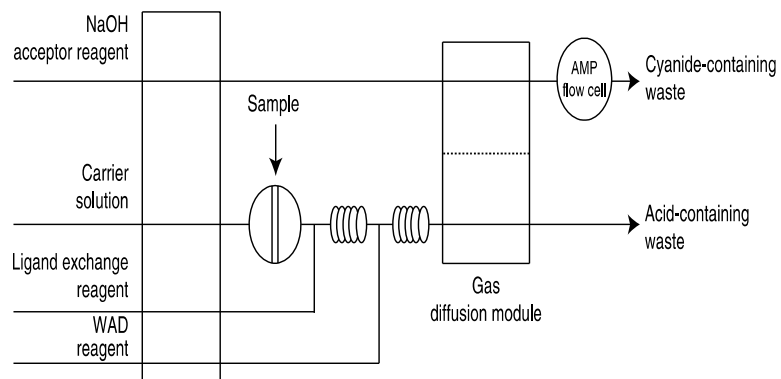
Biologically Treated Wastewater, Sample 8								
	Lab 1	Lab 2	Lab 3	Lab 4	Lab 5	Lab 6	Lab 7	Lab 8
<b>Single-operator</b>								
Variance	0.04	0.58	1.05	7.23	2.17	30.5	4.64	0.02
Mean	65.3	58.5	55.4	69.8	76.7	61.6	55.2	71.1
Standard deviation (S <sub>r</sub> or S <sub>o</sub> ) <sup>a</sup>	0.21	0.76	1.03	2.69	1.47	5.52	2.15	0.15
RSD, %	0.32	1.31	1.85	3.85	1.92	8.95	3.90	0.22
<b>Interlaboratory</b>								
Variance	62.0							
Std Dev of Mean	7.87							
Reproducibility SD (S <sub>R</sub> ) or Total SD (S <sub>T</sub> ) <sup>b</sup>	8.11							

## Ligand Exchange methods for available, or WAD cyanide

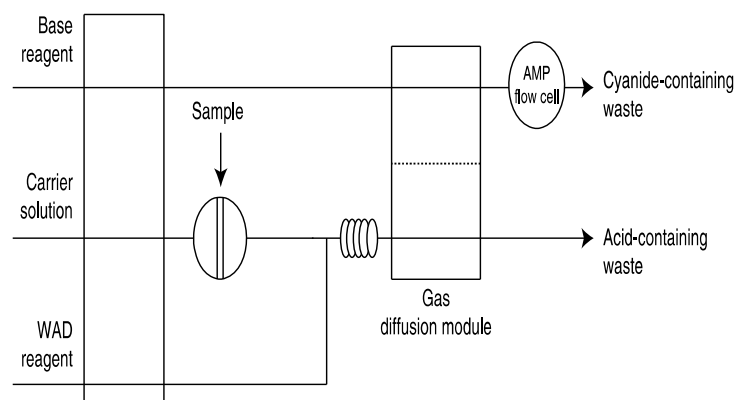
Method Number	Description	Measurement
OIA 1677	Ligand Exchange / Flow Injection Analysis	Gas Diffusion - Amperometry
ASTM D 6888	Ligand Exchange / Flow Injection Analysis	Gas Diffusion - Amperometry
ISO 20950-1:2018	Ligand Exchange / Flow Injection Analysis	Gas Diffusion - Amperometry
<b>4500-CN Q</b>	Ligand Exchange / Flow Injection Analysis	Gas Diffusion - Amperometry

# Available cyanide (WAD) chemistry diagram

## With automated ligand injection

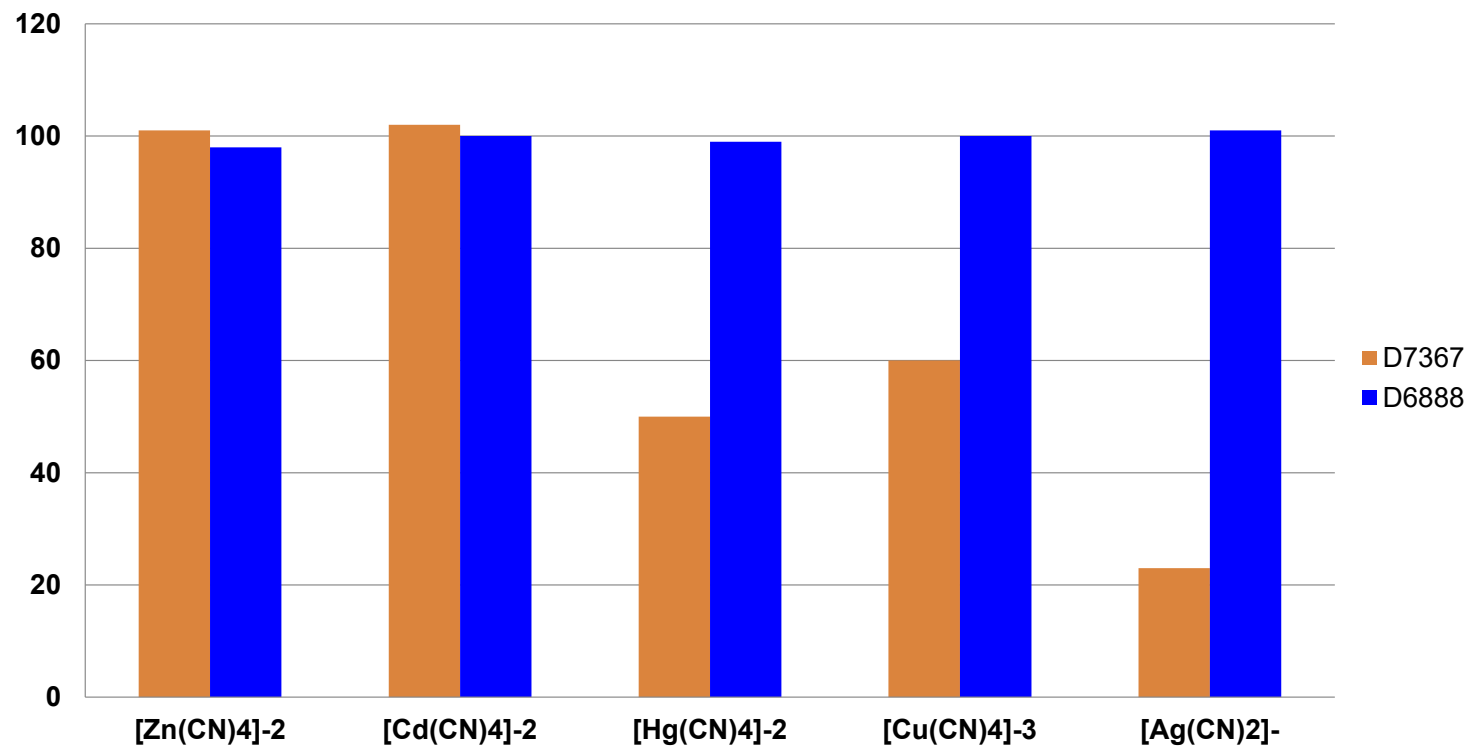


## Without automated ligand injection





## Recovery of metal-cyanide complexes by the free and available CN methods



# Summary of Data used for the available CN method

## ISO data

Sample	Matrix	l	n	o	X	X	$\eta$	SR	CV,R	sr
	Unit	each	each	%	$\mu\text{g/l}$	$\mu\text{g/l}$	%	$\mu\text{g/l}$	%	$\mu\text{g/l}$
1	Drinking water	8	36	20	9.52	9.31	98	1.29	13.6	0.285
2	Ground water	9	32	10	23.8	25.6	108	2.72	11.4	0.400
3	Surface water	10	40	9.1	238	240	101	25.5	10.7	2.67
	Unit	each	each	%	mg/l	mg/l	%	mg/l	%	mg/l
4	Tailings decant solution	11	44	0	0.566	0.535	95	0.083	14.7	0.004
5	Barren solution	11	44	0		30.1		4.00		0.331
6	Tailings Slurry Filtrate	11	44	0		96.9		6.06		0.991
7	Leach Slurry Filtrate	9	36	18.2		1161		74.1		12.2
<i>l</i>	number of laboratories after outlier rejection									
<i>n</i>	number of individual test results after outlier rejection									
<i>o</i>	percentage of outliers									
<i>X</i>	assigned value									
<i>x</i>	overall mean of results (without outliers)									
$\eta$	recovery rate									
SR	reproducibility standard deviation									
CV,R	coefficient of variation of reproducibility									
sr	repeatability standard deviation									
CV,r	coefficient of variation repeatability									

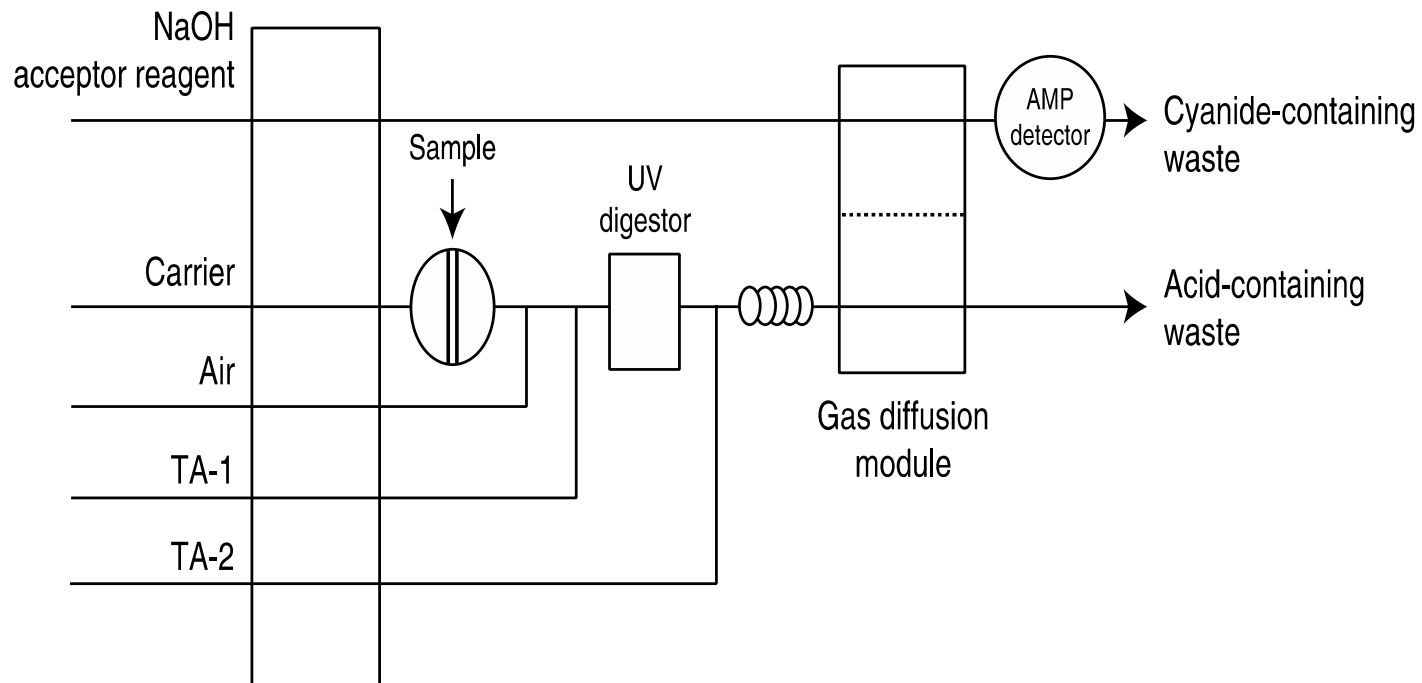
## ASTM Data

Sample Location	Sample	Number of Measurements	Assigned Concentration of WADCN (mg/L)	Mean, WADCN (mg/L)	Overall Standard Deviation (mg/L)	Relative Standard Deviation (%)	Interlaboratory Repeatability (mg/L)	Interlaboratory Repeatability (%)
Synthetic wastewater	AC 19721	8	0.008	0.0071	0.0082	102.5	0.0213	267
Synthetic wastewater	AC 19723	8	0.009	0.0083	0.0046	51.1	0.0120	133
Synthetic wastewater	AC 19726	8	0.070	0.064	0.006	8.6	0.0156	22.3
Synthetic wastewater	AC 19722	8	0.080	0.0072	0.0097	12.1	0.0252	32
Synthetic wastewater	AC 19724	8	0.300	0.266	0.024	8.0	0.0624	20.8
Synthetic wastewater	AC 19725	8	0.350	0.315	0.027	7.7	0.0020	0.6

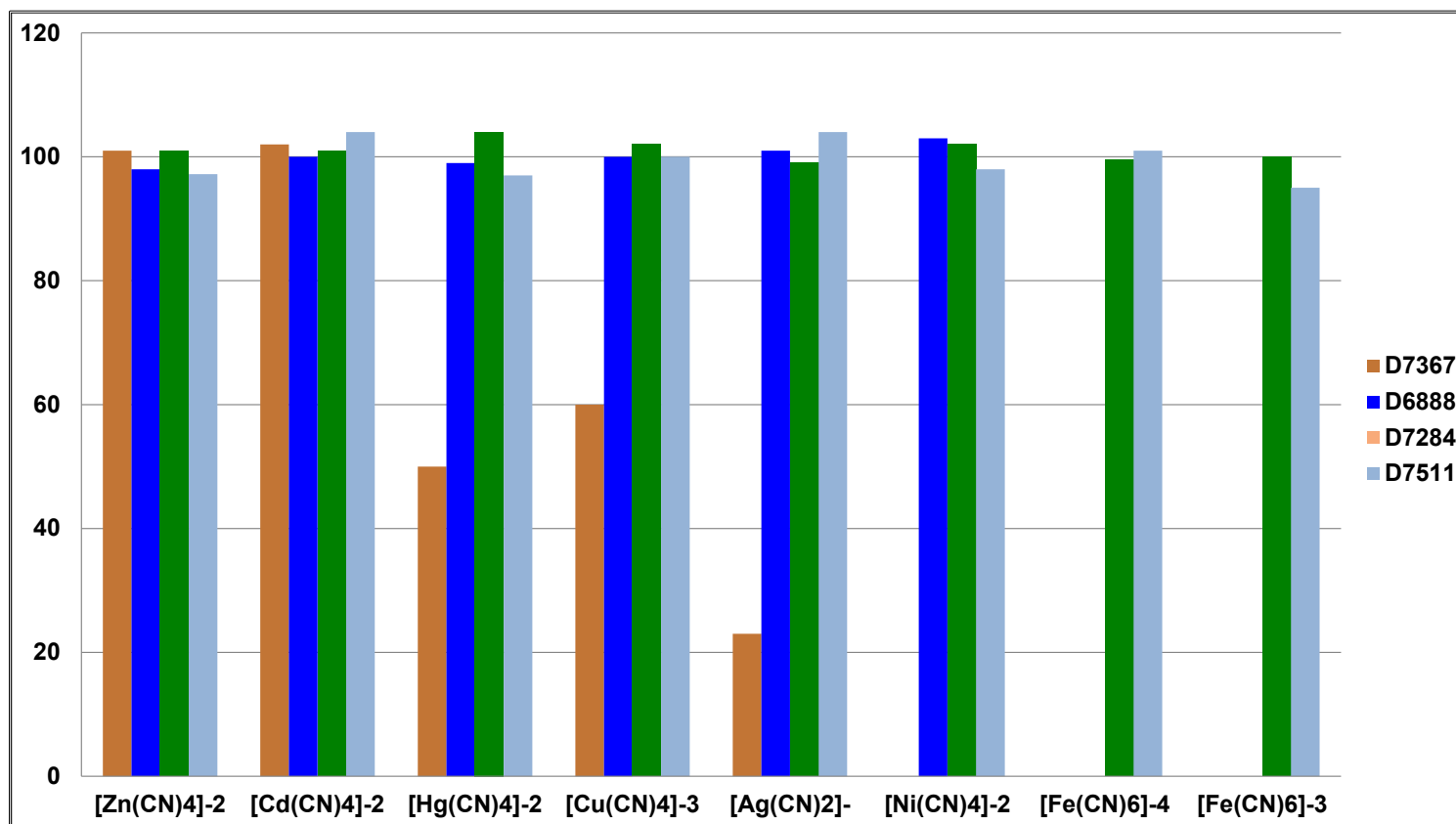
## Total Cyanide non-distillation methods

Method Number	Description	Measurement
ASTM D7511-12	Segmented flow injection, UV irradiation	Gas Diffusion - Amperometry
ISO 22066:2020	Segmented flow injection, UV irradiation	Gas Diffusion - Amperometry
<b>4500-CN P</b>	Segmented flow injection, UV irradiation	Gas Diffusion - Amperometry

# Total cyanide analysis chemistry flow diagram



## Recovery of metal-cyanide complexes by ASTM D7237, D6888, D7284 and D7511 (equivalent to new SM method)



# Summary of data used for the total cyanide method

Sample	Matrix <sup>a</sup>	l	n	o	X	η	S <sub>R</sub>	CV <sub>R</sub>	s <sub>r</sub>	CV <sub>r</sub>	
				%	μg/ml	μg/ml	%	μg/ml	%	μg/ml	%
1	Drinking water	10	40	9,1	0,223	0,235	105	0,022 8	9,7	0,004 6	2,0
2	Ground water	10	50	9,1	0,025	0,027	110	0,003 2	11,9	0,000 9	3,4
3	Surface water	10	40	9,1	0,504	0,546	108	0,029	5,3	0,001	1,8
4	Tailings decant solution	10	40	9,1	- <sup>b</sup>	0,33		0,033	9,9	0,007 3	2,2
5	Heap Leach Barren	10	40	9,1	- <sup>b</sup>	0,145		0,033	22,6	24,1	1,9
6	Mill tailings slurry filtrate	10	40	9,1	1 262	1 309	104	138	9,8	24,4	1,9
7	Mill leach slurry filtrate	10	40	9,1	72,8	78,6	108	8,98	11,4	1,32	1,7

l number of laboratories after outlier rejection  
n number of individual test results after outlier rejection  
o percentage of outliers  
X assigned value  
overall mean of results (without outliers)  
η recovery rate  
S<sub>R</sub> reproducibility standard deviation  
CV<sub>R</sub> coefficient of variation of reproducibility  
s<sub>r</sub> repeatability standard deviation  
CV<sub>r</sub> coefficient of variation of repeatability

<sup>a</sup> Origin of the samples:  
Sample 1 Spiked, Denver Aquifer Exempt Domestic Well, Parker, Colorado.  
Sample 2, Spiked, Alluvial-Dawson Dual Aquifer Exempt Domestic Well, Parker, Colorado.  
Sample 3 Spiked, Cherry Creek, Centennial, Colorado.  
Sample 4 Spiked Metallurgical Process Reclaim Solution, Winnemucca, Nevada.  
Sample 5 Heap Leach Barren Solution, Carlin, Nevada.  
Sample 6 Mill Tailings Slurry Filtrate Solution, Battle Mountain, Nevada.  
Sample 7 Mill Leach Slurry Filtrate Solution, Battle Mountain, Nevada.

<sup>b</sup> Biased reference value.

Sample	#6	#9	#5	#7	#2	#8	#1	#4	#3
Number of values	24	24	24	21	21	21	21	21	21
True values (ug/L)	4.0	7.0	20.0	30.0	100	1030	2040	3450	4320
Mean	6.1	8.6	19.6	31.8	93.6	974	1850	2740	4320
% Recovery	153	123	97.8	107	93.6	94.5	90.5	79.5	95.4
Overall standard deviation	1.29	2.77	5.43	18.5	12.5	137	243	703	432
Overall % standard deviation	21	32	28	58 <sup>a</sup>	13	14	13	26	11



Thank You

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