

## Soft Drink Analysis Using the ACQUITY UPLC H-Class PLUS System

Margaret Maziarz  
Waters Corporation, Milford, MA, USA



### GOAL

Successful analysis of additives found in soft drink beverages using an ACQUITY™ UPLC™ H-Class PLUS System with UV detection and a Waters™ Beverage Analysis Kit.

### BACKGROUND

Many of the soft drinks available on the market, especially diet formulations, can contain non-nutritive sweeteners such as acesulfame potassium (ASK), sodium saccharin, and aspartame; as well as preservatives, such as sodium benzoate and potassium sorbate. In case of energy formulations, caffeine may also be present. As a particular beverage can contain all or some of these six ingredients at varying concentrations, reliable and simple analytical techniques are required to accurately measure them during production and final packaging. These frequent measurements enable the quality control laboratories of the production facility to confirm that the six additives are present within the specified concentrations, which is essential for consistent product quality and taste.

In this technology brief, we demonstrate that the ACQUITY UPLC H-Class PLUS System, coupled with UV detection and

The ACQUITY UPLC H-Class PLUS System with UV detection is a high-performance and reliable analytical system for quick and accurate analysis of soft drink additives.

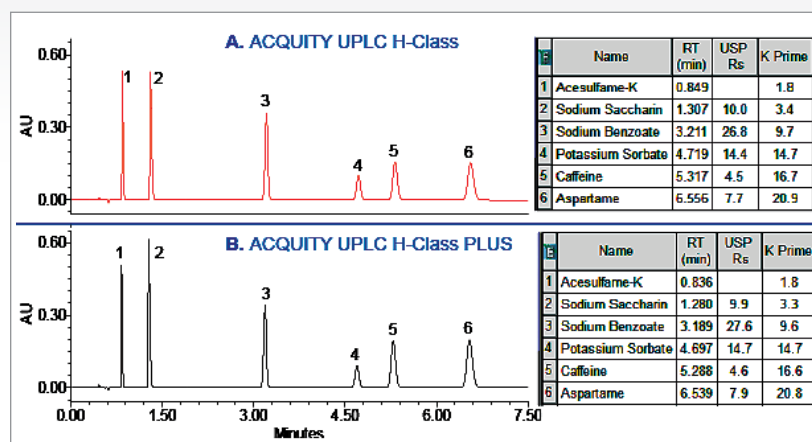


Figure 1. Chromatographic separation of beverage analysis standard acquired on an ACQUITY UPLC H-Class PLUS System with UV at 214 nm.

integrated with the Waters Beverage Analysis Kit<sup>1</sup>, is a highly robust, reliable performance analytical technique for the accurate analysis of additives in soft drink beverages.

### THE SOLUTION

The ACQUITY UPLC H-Class PLUS System with UV detection and the Beverage Analysis Kit provides a quick and reliable analytical approach for accurate detection of sweeteners, preservatives, and caffeine in soft drinks. The Beverage Analysis Kit<sup>1</sup> minimizes the need for sample preparation by providing a pre-formulated mobile phase, wash reagent, standards, as well as detailed methodology.

The Beverage Analysis Standard with the six analytes (acesulfame potassium, sodium saccharin, sodium benzoate, potassium sorbate, caffeine, and aspartame) was analyzed on both the ACQUITY UPLC H-Class and the ACQUITY UPLC H-Class PLUS Systems. As displayed in Figure 1, the chromatographic separation acquired on both systems was comparable. The chromatographic resolution between all six analytes was excellent.

The standard mixture was injected seven times to evaluate performance of the method run on an ACQUITY UPLC H-Class PLUS System. The repeatability of the retention times and peak areas for all analytes are shown in Figure 2. Method exhibited excellent results with %RSD of retention times and peak areas ranging from 0.02 to 0.09% and 0.20 to 0.25%, respectively. The ACQUITY UPLC H-Class PLUS System delivered results with superior reproducibility, which is essential for manufacturers to monitor product quality during soft drink production.

## SUMMARY

The ACQUITY UPLC H-Class PLUS System and the Waters' Beverage Analysis Kit provide a robust and reliable analytical methodology for the accurate analysis of the 'big six' additives (acesulfame potassium, sodium saccharin, sodium benzoate, potassium sorbate, caffeine, and aspartame) in soft drinks. Superior reproducibility of the system will enable manufacturers to accurately measure these ingredients during real-time process monitoring for continuous product quality. This will help to ensure that only the soft drinks batches that meet the desired specifications are delivered to the market.

## References

1. Beverage Analysis Kit, Waters Care and Use Manual, [715003129](#), July 2015.

Empower 3		System Suitability				
		Sample Set ID:	Sample Set Id 2941			
		Result Set ID:	Result Set Id 3082			
		Channel Name:	PDA Ch1 214nm@4.8nm			
System Suitability Separation Results						
	Name	# of Inj.	Ave RT	% RSD RT	% RSD Peak Areas	Ave USP Rs
1	Acesulfame-K	7	0.835	0.09	0.20	
2	Sodium Saccharin	7	1.280	0.07	0.21	9.9
3	Sodium Benzoate	7	3.189	0.03	0.24	27.5
4	Potassium Sorbate	7	4.696	0.02	0.25	14.6
5	Caffeine	7	5.289	0.04	0.21	4.6
6	Aspartame	7	6.539	0.02	0.25	7.9

Figure 2. Seven replicate injections of Beverage Analysis Standard acquired on an ACQUITY UPLC H-Class PLUS System with UV at 214 nm.

# Waters

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Waters Corporation  
34 Maple Street  
Milford, MA 01757 U.S.A.  
T: 1 508 478 2000  
F: 1 508 872 1990  
[www.waters.com](http://www.waters.com)