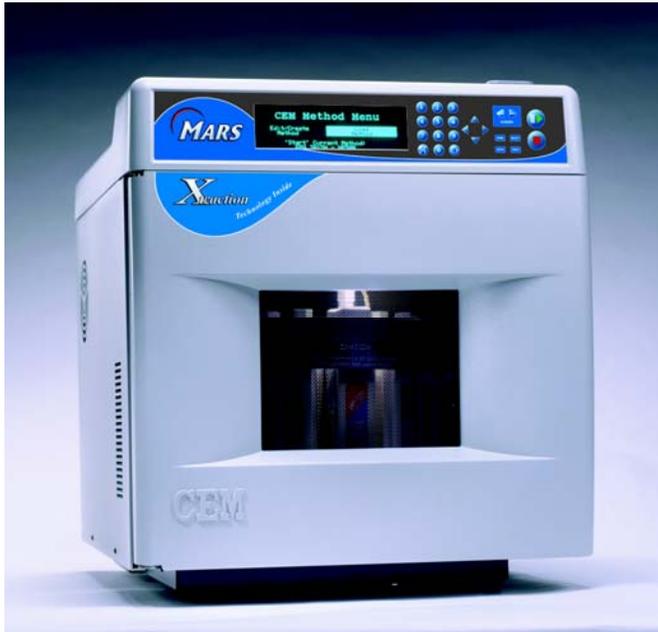


# US EPA Method 3546 Officially Incorporated into SW-846

MARS Xtraction



In an announcement made 3 January 2008, the US EPA provided notice of the addition of 23 new analytical methods to SW-846, *Test Methods for Evaluating Solid Waste, Physical/Chemical Methods*. This includes the addition of Method 3546, a microwave extraction procedure for extracting water insoluble or slightly water soluble organic compounds from soils, clays, sediments, sludges, and solid wastes.

The full notice can be viewed at :

<http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-WASTE/2008/January/Day-03/t25575.pdf>

*Analytes: Organochlorine Pesticides, Semivolatile Organics, PAH's, PCB's, Phenoxy Acid Herbicides, Phenols, Dioxins and Furans*

**Method 3546 does not specify an exact microwave program but rather supplies a range of parameters as follows:**

Sample Matrix: Soils, Clays, Sediments, Sludges and other Solid Wastes  
Sample Size: 2-20 grams  
Solvent Volume: 25mL  
Temperature: 100 - 115 C  
Pressure: 50 - 150 psi

**Based on this information, CEM would suggest the following program:**

Sample Size: 5-10 grams (maximum of 20 grams)  
Solvent Volume: 25mL  
Ramp Time: 20 minutes  
Temperature: 110 C  
Hold Time: 15 minutes