

Agilent Zorbax SIL

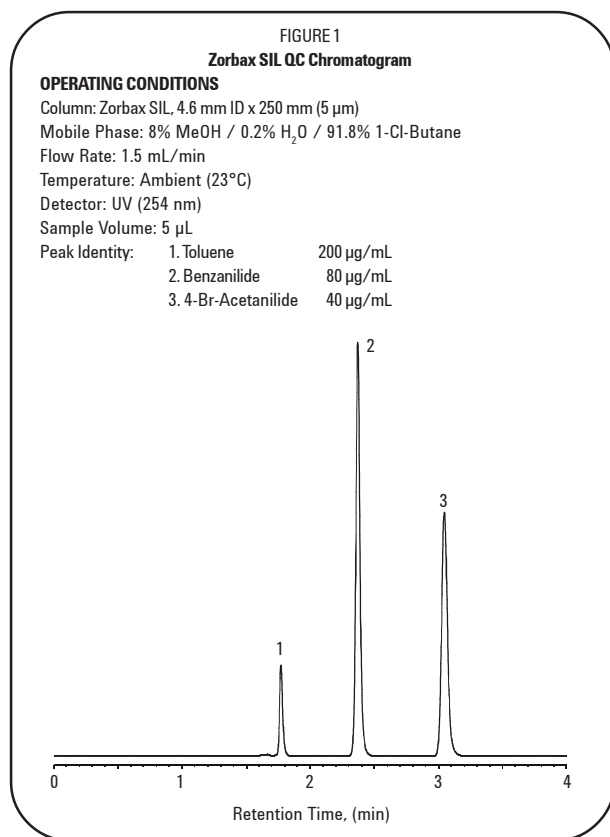
Datasheet

General Description

Zorbax SIL is a small diameter, completely porous silica particle that is used for high performance adsorption chromatography. Using a patented process, Zorbax SIL particles are produced by the agglomeration of colloidal silica to form spherical particles of uniform diameter and pore size. Columns are loaded to a uniform bed density using a proprietary, high-pressure, slurry-loading technique.

Column Characteristics

A typical Quality Control test chromatogram for a 4.6 mm ID x 250 mm column containing 5 μ m packing is shown in Figure 1. The actual QC test and performance of your column is described on the Column Performance Report enclosed with your column.



Safety Considerations

- All points of connection in liquid chromatographic systems are potential sources of leaks. Users of liquid chromatographic equipment should be aware of the toxicity or flammability of their mobile phases.
- Because of its small particle size, dry Zorbax packings are respirable. Columns should only be opened in a well-ventilated area.

Operational Guidelines

- The direction of flow is marked on the column
- While not harmful to the column, reverse flow should be avoided except to attempt removal of inlet pluggage (see "Column Care" section).
- Zorbax SIL columns are shipped containing hexane. Care should be taken not to pass any material through the column that might precipitate in this solvent.
- Zorbax SIL is compatible with water and all organic solvents.
- The use of a guard column is recommended to protect the Zorbax SIL column and extend its useful lifetime.
- Avoid use of this column below pH 0.8 or above pH 8.
- Maximum operating pressure for columns up to 9.4 mm ID is 400 bar (6000 psi).
- Maximum operating temperature of unbonded silica columns is typically limited only by the temperature limits of the mobile phase with the exception of the following note.
- **NOTE:** Zorbax columns are designed for high stability at low pH (e.g., pH < 5). However, all silica-based packings have some solubility in pH > 6 aqueous mobile phases. Therefore, when using silica-based columns under conditions of pH > 6, maximum column lifetime is obtained by operation at low temperatures (< 40°C) using low buffer concentrations in the range of 0.01 to 0.02M. Column stability at pH > 6 is also enhanced by avoiding phosphate and carbonate buffers [ref.: H.A. Claessens, M.A. van Straten, and J.J. Kirkland, *J. Chromatogr. (A)*, 728 (1996) 259].

Mobile Phase Selection

Zorbax SIL is compatible with all common organic solvents. When switching between solvents with vastly different polarity, it is advisable to first rinse the column with a mutually miscible solvent such as isopropanol. The eluotropic solvent series described by Snyder is helpful in selecting mobile phases that will elute compounds in the proper retention range (nor-

mally, k' between 1-10) and with the highest selectivity. To maintain a reproducible activity of the silica surface, it is often desirable to employ water-modified mobile phases. Alternatively, it is often possible to help maintain reproducibility by adding 0.1-1% alcohol (such as methanol) or 1-3% acetonitrile to the primary solvent. In the case of methylene chloride, a methanol concentration of about 0.15% (v/v) is equivalent to 50% water saturation in deactivation of the packing. When gradient elution is employed, both primary and secondary solvents should be modified with alcohol or acetonitrile and at least 30 column volumes of solvent should be allowed to flow through the column after the completion of each run to allow the column to re-equilibrate to its original activity level. Additional information on solvent selection may be found in Chapters Six and Seven, *Introduction to Modern Liquid Chromatography*, Second Edition, L.R. Snyder and J.J. Kirkland, (John Wiley & Sons, 1979), and Chapters Six, Seven and Eight, *Practical HPLC Method Development*, Second Edition, L.R. Snyder, J.J. Kirkland, and J.L. Glajch, (John Wiley & Sons, 1997).

Column Care

The inlet frit on these columns has a nominal porosity of 2 μm . Samples that contain particulate matter larger than 2 μm may plug the column inlet frit. Zorbax SIL guard columns and a hardware kit are recommended for use with such samples (see part numbers).

If solvent flow appears to be restricted (high column back-pressure), check first to see that solvent flow is unobstructed up to the column inlet. If the column has the restriction, there may be particulate matter on the inlet frit. An initial attempt should be made to remove any inlet debris by back-flushing 25-30 mL of mobile phase through the column. If this fails to return the column to near its original back-pressure, the inlet frit should be changed. To remove the frit, carefully loosen the nut at the inlet, taking care not to disturb the column bed. The frit should drop out when the fitting is tapped sharply on a hard surface. Install a new frit and carefully tighten the fitting.

To clean strongly retained materials from the column packing, rinse the column with increasingly stronger (more polar) solvents. Even water may be used without damaging the column. The column should be flushed with mobile phase after cleaning (40 column volumes) to equilibrate the column. Continue to pump mobile phase through the column until reproducible k' values are obtained for a test sample.

Since columns have 1/16" terminations, a short 1/4" wrench should be used in assembling fittings to prevent overtightening the ferrules. Overtightening the fittings can damage the fitting and necessitate replacement.

Storage Recommendations

To avoid potential metal corrosion, long-term storage of any HPLC column in halogenated solvents (e.g., butyl chloride, methylene chloride, etc.) should be avoided. If the column has been used with a buffered mobile phase, the column should be purged with 20-30 column volumes of acetonitrile and water followed by 20-30 column volumes of the pure organic solvent. Storage of unbonded silica columns in most other liquids is typically acceptable.

Ordering Information

Agilent Part No.

SIL Column (3 μm)

6.2 mm ID x 80 mm

880953-901

SIL Columns (5 μm)

4.6 mm ID x 150 mm

4.6 mm ID x 250 mm

9.4 mm ID x 250 mm

883952-701

880952-701

880952-201

SIL Column (7 μm)

21.2 mm ID x 250 mm

880952-101

Guard Column

4.6 mm ID x 12.5 mm (4Pack)

820950-901

Guard Columns Hardware Kit

820888-901

Preparative Guard Column

9.4 mm ID x 15 mm (2 pack) *

820675-119

Preparative Guard Column Hardware Kit

840140-901

* This guard column is packed with Rx-SIL packing.



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