



NBL Program Office
U.S. Department of Energy



Certificate of Analysis

**Certified Reference Material CRM U850 (10mg)
Uranium (U₃O₈) Isotopic Standard, 85% U-235, 10 mg U**

	²³⁴ U	²³⁵ U	²³⁶ U	²³⁸ U
Atom Percent:	0.6437	85.137	0.3704	13.848
Uncertainty:	±0.0014	±0.017	±0.0011	±0.014
Weight Percent:	0.6399	84.988	0.3713	14.001

This Certified Reference Material (CRM) is primarily intended for the calibration of mass spectrometers used to perform uranium isotopic measurements. The specific purpose of this isotopic standard is for the determination of mass discrimination effects for uranium isotopes being measured under similar analytical conditions. Each unit of U850 consists of approximately 10 milligrams of uranium, in the form of highly purified U₃O₈, contained in a glass bottle.

The indicated uncertainties for the isotopic composition of the CRM are 95% confidence intervals for a single determination. This term can be defined as an approximate two-sigma limit, where sigma is the standard deviation of the measurements data obtained from the material. The uncertainties include allowances for inhomogeneity of the material as well as analytical error.

This CRM was originally issued in 1970 by the National Bureau of Standards (NBS) as Standard Reference Material (SRM) U-850. The measurements made at NBS leading to the certification were performed by E. L. Garner, L. A. Machlan, M.S. Richmond and W. R. Shields. In 1987, the technical and administrative transfer of NBS Special Nuclear SRMs into the NBL CRM Program was coordinated by the NBS Office of Standard Reference Materials and N. M. Trahey, NBL.

The ²³⁵U and ²³⁸U abundance values were determined at NBS, Union Carbide Nuclear Company, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and Goodyear Corporation, Portsmouth, Ohio; all values were given equal weight in the calculation of the certified value. NBS performed ²³⁵U/²³⁸U measurements using a solid-sample thermal ionization mass spectrometer equipped with a Faraday cup detection system. The isotope ratios were corrected for mass discrimination effects by intercomparison with 50% and 90% ²³⁵U level SRMs. The ²³⁵U/²³⁸U value for this standard, 6.148, is known to at least 0.1%.

The ²³⁴U and ²³⁶U abundances were determined at NBS by isotope dilution mass spectrometry using high-purity ²³³U as the spike. The ²³⁵U values obtained from Union Carbide and Goodyear Atomic are based upon direct ²³⁵U concentration determination by oxide dilution and UF₆ analysis. The minor isotopes were calculated using the NBS values and the ²³⁸U value obtained by difference.

NOTE: NBS Special Publication 260-27 presents further details of the measurements made at NBS which provided the basis for the certification, and is available from the NBS Office of Standard Reference Materials

Expiration of Certificate: When stored in its original, unopened container, the certification of this material is valid indefinitely. The NBL PO will periodically monitor the materials in inventory and notify customers should degradation be detected.

Stability and Storage: This material should be stored in its original packaging under normal laboratory environmental conditions.

Minimum Sample Size: The NBL Program Office has validated that samples of 1 mg of oxide or larger are isotopically homogenous. The NBL Program Office recommends sampling of oxide of 1 mg or more for use of this material as an isotopic Certified Reference Material.