

## Formaldehyde and Aldehyde Sampling Instruction Sheet

**Shelf life:** This tube has a shelf life of 12 weeks. Tubes must be exposed and returned for analysis within this period.

**Tube storage and preparation:** Tubes should be stored in a freezer until use. Never store used tubes in an area where there may be chemicals present. **This also applies when the end caps are in place on a used tube. If using a blank tube, do not break the ends off the tube. Store in the same conditions as the sampling tubes.**

Never prepare tubes in an area where chemicals may be present - uptake of spurious chemicals can occur before a sample is taken. Make sure clothing is free from contamination when preparing tubes.

1. The diffusion tube is delivered with red plastic caps on both ends. For sampling, remove the red plastic caps and, wearing protective gloves, use pliers to break off the two sealed glass ends of the diffusion tube. When breaking the ends off a tube ready for use, ensure a minimum hole diameter of 2mm or half the diameter of the tube body.
2. After breaking ends of the tube always cap the exposed (sampling) end until ready to take the sample. **NOTE: only lightly press red end cap onto tube for temporary use. If the caps are pushed fully home they will require cutting off.**

### Exposure:

1. If high moisture is present precautions should be taken to prevent it entering the tube. If a trap tube is used before the sorbent tube please contact the laboratory for analysis advice.
2. Remove red caps. Place the end of the tube containing the yellow absorbent into the black pump tubing (see photograph).
3. Lift up small plastic flap on air pump and press small black button. The pump should now start (confirmed by a green flashing L.E.D.).
4. Run the sampling for the required period. **Maximum Pumped Volume:** 15 litres, at flow rate of 0.05 to 1.5 l/min. (Gradko recommends a flow rate of 200ml/min).
5. At the end of sampling, shut pump down. Remove pump tubing from diffusion tube. Replace the red caps on to the formaldehyde tube.
6. Tubes should be analysed at the earliest opportunity after sample has been taken.



**Returning tubes:** Tubes should be returned as soon as possible after exposure. Fill in exposure sheet including **pumping time** and **flow rate**. Tubes should be returned in a sealed container, such as the plastic bottle that they are received in.

### Return address:

Gradko International Ltd, St Martins House, 77 Wales Street, Winchester, Hampshire, SO23 0RH.

**Tel:** +44 (0) 1962 860 331

**Email:** [diffusion@gradko.com](mailto:diffusion@gradko.com) or [enquiries@gradkolab.com](mailto:enquiries@gradkolab.com)