Volatile Organic Sampling Train (VOST)

VOST tubes can be used for the sampling of volatile compounds with a boiling point of 30 – 100 °C. A sorbent (e.g., Tenax TA 35/60) is present and by using a flow rate of 250 – 1000 mL/min, about 5 – 20 L of air / vapour can be passed through the tube. In most cases thermal desorption is used to elute the analyte from the sorbent.

The most important problem during the sampling of air / vapours is leakage of the analytes from the container. This because gases can diffuse through materials like rubber, neoprene and PVC; therefore, always sufficient precautions must be taken.