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## Determination of the concentration of benzoic acid and sorbic acid in ready to serve products using high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC)

**H W C Krishanthi Karunarathne**

Assistant Government Analyst,  
Government Analyst Department,  
Sri Lanka

Sodium benzoate and potassium sorbate are two major chemical preservatives which are used in ready to serve products. In this

study, a total of 50 commercial brands of highly consumed readily to serve products were analyzed. The HPLC determination of the preservatives was performed using a reversed – phase C18 column and UV detection at 235nm. Flow rate approximately 1.2ml/min. Eluent for HPLC, mix 50 volume parts of ammonium acetate solution with 40 volume parts of methanol for HPLC and adjust to a pH of 4.5 to 4.6 with acetic acid. The preservative concentration in samples was using authentic external standard sodium benzoate and potassium sorbate. Among 50 samples, the minimum and maximum concentration of

benzoate content in various brands were 80ppm and 874ppm and for sorbate was 60ppm to 562ppm respectively, 22% of samples do not comply with Standard Regulations in Sri Lanka. Exposure to these chemical preservatives could be a risk factor for human health, especially when their intake was being occurred by various foodstuffs simultaneously.

### Biography

H W C Krishanthi Karunarathne has completed her MSc. in Analytical Chemistry, University of Peradeniya. She is the Assistant Government Analyst in the Government Analyst Department. She had published more than 10 papers in reputed journals.

*krishanthikaru@gmail.com*