

## METHANOL CONTAMINATION IN LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS (LPG) AND NATURAL GAS LIQUIDS (NGL)

One of the many challenges facing the oil and gas industry today is preventing the formation of hydrates in the production process. Because hydrates can form after extreme pressure drops, it is imperative to initiate preventative measures that prohibit hydrate formation when conditions are conducive. One of the most common methods used to suppress hydrate formation is the injection of a hydrate inhibitor—such as methanol—into the production process at the wellhead and other locations where hydrate formation is predicted to occur. The methanol provides some dehydration, but its primary function is to act as an antifreeze agent in preventing the formation of solid hydrates.

### **Methanol Is An Impurity In LPG and NGL:**

Although methanol is an excellent hydrate inhibitor, it can cause problems in the processing plant by deactivating the molecular sieve equipment. It is also considered an impurity in LPG and NGL, so testing of the product stream for methanol concentration is recommended.

### **Determining An Accurate Methanol Concentration In Your LPG and NGL:**

LPG and NGL samples should be obtained in accordance with GPA 2174 in a constant pressure cylinder

and analyzed by a qualified laboratory to determine methanol concentrations. While there are different methods for testing for methanol in LPG, ASTM D7423 determines oxygenates (methanol) in concentrations down to .5 ppm in C2, C3, C4 and C5 hydrocarbon matrices by gas chromatography using a flame ionization detector.



For more information on methanol contamination and concentration determinations, contact SPL's technical experts today at 877-775-5227 and let us help you ensure that your LPG and NGL content is according to buyer specifications.

