total consumption time, t_{tot}

in flame emission and absorption spectrometry

The time necessary to consume the prepared sample completely (in s). It is equal to the volume of the prepared sample divided by the rate of fluid consumption.

Source:

PAC, 1986, 58, 1737 (Quantities and units in clinical chemistry: Nebulizer and flame properties in flame emission and absorption spectrometry (Recommendations 1986)) on page 1740