

# What is the difference between a peak area comparison and a quantitative limit for related substances?



You are here:

[EDQM FAQs](#) / [EDQM FAQs in English](#) / [EUROPEAN PHARMACOPOEIA & INTERNATIONAL HARMONISATION](#) / [General Chapters and Monographs](#) / [IMPURITIES AND CHROMATOGRAPHY](#) / What is the difference between a peak area comparison and a quantitative limit for related substances?

## Answer:

Most current monographs describe quantitative determinations: a content calculation is necessary for establishing compliance with the monograph.

In older monographs, the acceptance criteria for related substances are expressed relative to the area of a reference peak of known concentration (limit test, area comparison). Without providing a numerical result, the comparison of peak areas leads to a pass/fail decision. The approximate content of impurity tolerated, or the sum of impurities, is indicated in brackets for information only.