



Designation: D7358 – 07 (Reapproved 2018)

Standard Test Method for Water Content of Paints by Quantitative Calcium Hydride Reaction Test Kit¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D7358; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

1.1 This test method describes the determination of the total water content of paints using a calcium hydride reaction test kit, or water content between 2 and 85 % water.

1.2 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. No other units of measurement are included in this standard.

1.3 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.4 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

- D1193 Specification for Reagent Water
- D3925 Practice for Sampling Liquid Paints and Related Pigmented Coatings
- D4017 Test Method for Water in Paints and Paint Materials by Karl Fischer Method
- E29 Practice for Using Significant Digits in Test Data to Determine Conformance with Specifications

3. Summary of Test Method

3.1 A 0.25 mL sample is reacted with a specially formulated calcium hydride reagent to convert water in the sample to

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D01 on Paint and Related Coatings, Materials, and Applications and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D01.21 on Chemical Analysis of Paints and Paint Materials.

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² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

hydrogen gas. The reaction is carried out in a sealed pressure vessel and the resulting pressure is then measured using a specially designed meter programmed to convert gas pressure into water content. The results are displayed in milligrams of water in the reacted sample extract. The actual weight percent water in the whole paint sample is manually calculated using the exact weights of the paint sample and the diluted extract sample, if used.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 Although Test Method D4017 is widely used for the determination of water in paints and related materials, this method may overcome some of the variability found in the Karl Fischer method.

4.2 Control of water content is often important in controlling the performance of paints, and it is critical in determining volatile organic compound (VOC) content when VOC content is measured by difference from total volatile matter and water content as required in certain federal and state regulations.

5. Interferences

5.1 The following compounds, tested at twice the sample size, have been found to produce no measurable response to the calcium hydride reaction test kit and, therefore, cause no interference at levels up to 40 %:³

- Ethanol
- Methanol
- Acetone^A
- Methyl Ethyl Ketone
- Tetrahydrofuran
- Diethylene Glycol Dimethyl Ether
- Ethylene Glycol^A
- Diethylene Glycol
- Dipropylene Glycol
- Stearic Acid
- 2-Ethyl Hexanoic Acid
- Lead Oxide (II and III)
- Aluminum Oxide (Brockman I)

^A 0.25 mL sample size program A and B.

5.2 When using the 5 mL sample size programs, that is, programs C, D, or E, ethylene glycol and acids have been found to produce a positive result in the presence of a small

³ HydroSCOUT User's Manual.

amount of water. Ethylene glycol responds at approximately 7 % of the volumetric equivalent.

6. Apparatus

6.1 *HydroSCOUT*⁴ System—A test kit system consisting of the HydroSCOUT meter, reaction tubes, sampling syringes and dilution vials.⁵ The entire analytical sequence, including sampling, sample dilution, chemical reactions and quantification, is available in kit form using pre-dispensed and encapsulated reagents. An analytical balance is required in order to obtain the most precise results. In addition, a mechanical shaker may be necessary to obtain a representative sample.

7. Reagents and Materials

7.1 *Purity of Reagents*—Reagent grade chemicals shall be used in all tests. All reagents shall conform to the specifications of the Committee on Analytical reagents of the American Chemical Society, where such specifications are available.⁶

7.2 *Purity of Water*—Unless otherwise indicated, reference to water shall mean reagent water conforming to Specification **D1193**, Type II.

7.3 *Calcium Hydride (20 %) in HI SOL 10*—contained in a crushable glass ampule.

7.4 *Water*—contained in a crushable glass ampule.

7.5 *Diethylene Glycol Dimethyl Ether (Diglyme)*—2.25 mL contained in a glass vial.

8. Hazards

8.1 Store ampules in a cool, dry place. Keep away from heat, sparks, water and open flames.

8.2 See manufacturer's instructions and Safety Data Sheet (SDS) before use.

8.3 The gray ampule in the tube contains calcium hydride, which is a flammable solid and water reactive.

8.4 Perform test only in a well ventilated area.

8.5 Always wear rubber gloves and safety glasses.

8.6 Take care to ensure that fingers are not cut by glass in the kits. Each ampule should be crushed only once to reduce the risk of glass pieces piercing the sides of the tube.

8.7 When venting reaction tube after completion of test, point tube upright and away from user and bystander.

8.8 When breaking the green water ampule after completion of test, the tube must be shaken vigorously for the full 15

seconds to ensure that the water contacting the remaining calcium hydride does not overheat the side of the tube, otherwise tube failure can result.

9. Sampling, Test Specimens, and Test Units

9.1 *Sample Collection*—Take a representative sample of the liquid coatings in accordance with Practice **D3925**. Mix thoroughly before taking specimens for individual tests.

10. Preparation

10.1 *Preparation*—Remove a sampling syringe with cap and a test tube from the kit box. Check the contents to ensure that all items are present and intact. If a dilution is to be used, remove a dilution vial and an additional sampling syringe and cap. Remove the screw cap and rubber septum from the tube and the cap from the dilution vial, if used. Insert one green water ampule into the top of the polypropylene ampule sleeve and replace the holder in the tube.

11. Calibration and Standardization

11.1 The commercially available meter is calibrated at the factory over the pressure range of 0 to 60 psig. Each time the meter is turned on, the pressure transducer recalibrates the 0 psig point. If this changes significantly from the factory set point, an error message will be displayed. This error will also appear if a tube is accidentally inserted into the meter before the meter is turned on.

12. Procedure

12.1 *Sample Introduction for Expected Water Content Less Than 15 % (No Dilution)*—Work the plunger on an empty sampling syringe a few times to ensure that it slides easily. Place the tip of the syringe into the paint sample to be tested and slowly pull back on the plunger until it reaches the stop and cannot be pulled further. Remove the syringe from the paint sample and wipe any excess paint from the outside of the syringe with a tissue wipe provided with the kit. Cap the syringe with the cap provided and weigh; record the weight (gross sample weight) to the nearest 0.1 mg. Dispense the sample into the reaction tube. Recap the syringe without wiping, reweigh it, and record this weight (sample tare weight). The difference in the two weights becomes the sample weight (S_1) to be used in **Eq 1**. Replace the rubber septum (hole on top) by gripping the tube firmly and pressing the septum down with the thumb. (NOTE: Do not squeeze the sides of the tube while inserting the septum.) Replace the screw cap tightly, turning it until it cannot be turned further. Proceed to step **12.3**.

12.2 *Sample Introduction for Expected Water Content Greater Than 15 % (With Dilution)*—Work the plunger on an empty sampling syringe a few times to ensure that it slides easily. Place the tip of the syringe into the paint sample to be tested and slowly pull back on the plunger until it reaches the stop and cannot be pulled further. Remove the syringe from the paint sample and wipe any excess paint from the outside of the syringe with a tissue wipe provided with the kit. Cap the syringe with the cap provided and weigh; record the weight (gross sample weight) to the nearest 0.1 mg. Dispense the sample into the dilution vial containing a premeasured amount

⁴ HydroSCOUT is a trademark of the Dexsil Corporation.

⁵ The sole source of supply of this kit known to the committee at this time is Dexsil Corporation, One Hamden Park Drive, Hamden, CT 06517. If you are aware of alternative suppliers, please provide this information to ASTM International Headquarters. Your comments will receive careful consideration at a meeting of the responsible technical committee,¹ which you may attend.

⁶ *Reagent Chemicals, American Chemical Society Specifications*, American Chemical Society, Washington, DC. For suggestions on the testing of reagents not listed by the American Chemical Society, see *Analar Standards for Laboratory Chemicals*, BDH Ltd., Poole, Dorset, U.K., and the *United States Pharmacopeia and National Formulary*, U.S. Pharmacopeial Convention, Inc. (USPC), Rockville, MD.