



Standard Practice for Separation of Ignitable Liquid Residues from Fire Debris Samples by Passive Headspace Concentration with Activated Charcoal¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation E1412; 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 practice describes the procedure for separation of small quantities of ignitable liquid residues from samples of fire debris using an adsorbent material to extract the residue from the static headspace above the sample, then eluting the adsorbent with a solvent.

1.2 While this practice is suitable for successfully extracting ignitable liquid residues over the entire range of concentration, the headspace concentration methods are best used when a high level of sensitivity is required due to a very low concentration of ignitable liquid residues in the sample.

1.2.1 Unlike other methods of separation and concentration, this practice is essentially nondestructive.

1.3 Alternate separation and concentration procedures are listed in the referenced documents (see Practices E1386, E1388, E1413, and E2154).

1.4 This practice does not replace knowledge, skill, ability, experience, education, or training and should be used in conjunction with professional judgment.

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

1.6 *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.*

1.7 *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.*

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E30 on Forensic Sciences and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E30.01 on Criminalistics.

Current edition approved Nov. 15, 2019. Published December 2019. Originally approved in 1991. Last previous edition approved in 2016 as E1412 – 16. DOI: 10.1520/E1412-19.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

E1386 Practice for Separation of Ignitable Liquid Residues from Fire Debris Samples by Solvent Extraction

E1388 Practice for Static Headspace Sampling of Vapors from Fire Debris Samples

E1413 Practice for Separation of Ignitable Liquid Residues from Fire Debris Samples by Dynamic Headspace Concentration onto an Adsorbent Tube

E1459 Guide for Physical Evidence Labeling and Related Documentation

E1492 Practice for Receiving, Documenting, Storing, and Retrieving Evidence in a Forensic Science Laboratory

E1618 Test Method for Ignitable Liquid Residues in Extracts from Fire Debris Samples by Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry

E2154 Practice for Separation and Concentration of Ignitable Liquid Residues from Fire Debris Samples by Passive Headspace Concentration with Solid Phase Microextraction (SPME)

E2451 Practice for Preserving Ignitable Liquids and Ignitable Liquid Residue Extracts from Fire Debris Samples

3. Summary of Practice

3.1 Charcoal in some form of an adsorption package is placed in the sample container to adsorb ignitable liquid residues. The container can be heated or left at ambient temperature. The charcoal is removed and eluted with a suitable elution solvent as listed in 6.3.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This practice is useful for preparing extracts from fire debris for later analysis by gas chromatography mass spectrometry.

4.2 This is a very sensitive separation procedure, capable of isolating quantities smaller than $\frac{1}{10}$ μL of ignitable liquid residue from a sample.

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.