Designation: D6851 − 20

Standard Test Method for Determination of Contact pH with Activated Carbon[1]

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D6851; 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 method is to be used in the determination of the pH of water on initial contact with activated carbon. This test method is not meant as a replacement for Test Method D3838 and may give a different value.

1.2 *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.*

1.3 *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]

D1293 Test Methods for pH of Water

D3838 Test Method for pH of Activated Carbon

E177 Practice for Use of the Terms Precision and Bias in ASTM Test Methods

E300 Practice for Sampling Industrial Chemicals

E691 Practice for Conducting an Interlaboratory Study to Determine the Precision of a Test Method

3. Summary of Test Method

3.1 A sample of carbon is stirred with water and the pH of the suspension is measured.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 The determination of contact pH can be used as a simple and fast measurement that can allow activated carbon producers and users to have a standard method for assessing the effect various carbons will have on the initial pH of the water in contact with the carbon. It has been determined that there is a bias between this method and Test Method D3838; they are not equivalent.

5. Interferences

5.1 pH electrodes used to measure this quantity can eventually become clogged over time with carbon fines. Suitable electrodes can be found which have a detachable junction allowing the user, when necessary, to discard a fouled pH membrane.

5.2 Distilled water can become acidic on standing. Make sure that the water used meets the minimum requirements for ASTM Type II water. Determine the pH as indicated in Test Methods D1293.

6. Apparatus

6.1 A pH meter (ambient temperature of 25 °C is assumed; if otherwise, temperature compensation is required for accurate pH measurement).

6.2 A combination pH electrode, or glass-calomel electrodes used together.

6.3 A 100-mL (TD) graduated cylinder.

6.4 A 250-mL glass beaker (for each sample).

6.5 A polymer-coated magnetic stir bar (for each sample).

6.6 Magnetic stir plate.

6.7 A balance capable of accurately measuring to 0.1 g.

7. Reagents and Materials

7.1 Distilled or de-ionized water that meets the ASTM Type II requirements.

7.2 Buffers to calibrate the pH meter; typically pH 4.0, pH 7.0, pH 10.0, or combinations thereof.

8. Hazards

8.1 The water in contact with the carbon may have either a low or high pH. Take precautions accordingly and wear necessary protective equipment to prevent injuries from spills and splashes.

[1] This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D28 on Activated Carbon and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D28.02 on Liquid Phase Evaluation.

Current edition approved Jan. 15, 2020. Published February 2020. Originally approved in 2002. Last previous edition approved in 2011 as D6851 – 02 (2011). DOI: 10.1520/D6851-20.

[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.