



Designation: ~~D6050–09 (Reapproved 2016)~~ D6050 – 21

Standard Test Method for Determination of Insoluble Solids in Organic Liquid Hazardous Waste¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D6050; 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 covers the determination of the approximate amount of insoluble, suspended solid material in organic liquid hazardous waste (OLHW).

1.2 This test method is intended to be used in approximating the amount of insoluble, suspended solids in determining the ~~material handling~~ material-handling characteristics and fuel quality of OLHW. It is not intended to replace more sophisticated procedures for the determination of total solids.

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

1.4 *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~~ safety, health, and health environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.5 *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:

[D96 Test Method for Water and Sediment in Crude Oil by Centrifuge Method \(Field Procedure\) \(Withdrawn 2000\)](#)²

[D5283 Practice for Generation of Environmental Data Related to Waste Management Activities: Quality Assurance and Quality Control Planning and Implementation](#)

[D5681 Terminology for Waste and Waste Management](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 For definitions of terms used in this test method, refer to Terminology [D5681](#).

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 A 10-mL aliquot of OLHW sample is decanted into a 15-mL graduated centrifuge tube and centrifuged for 3 min. The

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee [D34](#) on Waste Management and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee [D34.01.06](#) on Analytical Methods.

Current edition approved Feb. 1, 2016 May 1, 2021. Published February 2016 May 2021. Originally approved in 1997. Last previous edition approved in 2009 2016 as [D6050–09](#) [D6050 – 09](#) (2016). DOI: [10.1520/D6050-09R16](#) [10.1520/D6050-21](#).

² ~~Withdrawn~~—The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on [www.astm.org](#).

separated liquid phase of the OLHW is decanted into an appropriate waste vessel. The centrifuge tube with the separated solid material is brought back to its original 10-mL volume with a user-selected blend of clean solvents and agitated to mix the solid and liquid phases. The tube is centrifuged for 2 min, and the amount of remaining solid material is read.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 A high percentage of insoluble, suspended solid material can create pumping, filtering, or grinding difficulties in the off-loading of bulk shipments of OLHW and can contribute to excessive wear on processing equipment. High solids can also decrease the quality and consistency of commingled solutions by decreasing the effectiveness of agitation in storage tanks. These issues are of concern to the recycling industries (solvents, paints, and other materials handled in significant quantities) in addition to those activities that propose to use the waste as a fuel.

6. Apparatus

6.1 *Centrifuge*—Capable of spinning two or more centrifuge tubes at a speed controlled to give a relative centrifugal force of between 1200 to 1400. The speed to achieve this is generally between 3100 to 3600 rpm. The rotation speed necessary to achieve the relative centrifugal force can be determined from one of the following equations:

$$rpm = 1335 \sqrt{\frac{rcf}{d}} \quad (1)$$

$$rpm = 265 \sqrt{\frac{rcf}{d}} \quad (2)$$

where:

rpm = rotation speed, in revolutions per min,

rcf = relative centrifugal force, and

d = diameter of swing, in mm (Eq 1) or in. (Eq 2), measured between the tips of opposite tubes when the tubes are in rotating position.

NOTE 1—Eq 1 and Eq 2 are described in Test Method D96.

6.2 *Centrifuge Tubes*—Centrifuge tubes shall be cone shaped, made of glass or a solvent-resistant plastic or polymer, have a minimum capacity of 15 mL when filled to volume, and graduated with minimum subdivisions of 0.5 mL. Class A centrifuge tubes are recommended. If any grade other than Class A is used, refer to the Section 9 section on Calibration and Standardization.

7. Reagents and Materials

7.1 *Purity of Reagents*—Reagent grade chemicals shall be used in all tests. Unless otherwise indicated, it is intended that all reagents conform to the specifications of the Committee on Analytical Reagents of the American Chemical Society, where such specifications are available.³ Other grades may be used, provided that it is first ascertained that the reagent is of sufficiently high purity to permit its use without lessening the accuracy of the determination.

7.2 *Clean Solvent Blend*—The user should formulate the clean solvent blend based on the “average” normal chemical composition of the commingled OLHW. The chemical composition of OLHW is usually determined by gas chromatographic analysis. The clean solvent blend will vary in complexity depending on the specifications of the user.

NOTE 2—The clean solvent blend may be as simple as a single component (for example, toluene) or a complex mixture of aliphatic and aromatic hydrocarbons, alcohols, esters, ketones, ethers, terpenoids, and halogenated compounds. The user should formulate the clean solvent blend based on compositional knowledge of the OLHW that the sample material is to be commingled with. If the commingled OLHW contains water, it may be appropriate to include in the clean solvent blend.

³ *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.

8. Sample

8.1 Because settling of insoluble solid material in liquid samples is probable, the laboratory sample should be thoroughly mixed by shaking prior to withdrawing a portion for testing.

9. Calibration and Standardization

9.1 Centrifuge tubes other than Class A must be periodically checked for accuracy. The frequency of this check will be determined by the user, but should be minimally done for each new box or lot number of tubes.

10. Procedure

10.1 Fill a centrifuge tube to the 10-mL graduation mark with the OLHW sample.

NOTE 3—It will be necessary to use an additional tube with an equal mass of water or other suitable liquid to balance the centrifuge.

10.2 Place the tubes from [9-10.1](#) in the trunnion cups or centrifuge tube slots on opposite sides of the centrifuge. Close the centrifuge lid and engage safety lock, if so equipped.

10.3 Set the centrifuge speed (r/min) to provide a minimum relative centrifugal force between 1200 to 1400 (see [5-16.1](#)).

10.4 Engage centrifuge, and allow to spin for 3 min.

10.5 Remove the tube containing OLHW, and decant the separated liquid phase to an appropriate waste vessel.

10.6 Return the tube with solids to its original 10-mL volume with the clean solvent blend. Cap or stopper the tube and shake vigorously in order to completely mix the centrifuged solid phase with the solvent phase. It may be necessary to use a ~~Vortex~~ vortex mixer for thorough mixing.

10.7 Replace the OLHW tube in the centrifuge, and set centrifuge as described in [9-210.2](#) and [9-310.3](#).

10.8 Engage centrifuge, and allow to spin for 2 min.

10.9 Remove the OLHW tube, and decant the separated liquid phase of each to an appropriate waste vessel.

10.9.1 Visually estimate and record the amount of centrifuged solids in the tubes to the nearest 0.25 mL.

11. Quality Control

11.1 Each laboratory using this test method will operate a formal quality control program. This program shall include elements that address analyst proficiency through the evaluation of method blanks, duplicates, and reference materials if available. Guidance on establishing and maintaining a quality control program for laboratory activity related to waste management can be found in Practice [D5283](#) as well as in the literature.^{4,5,6}

12. Calculation

12.1 The estimated amount of solid material is calculated as follows:

$$(A/10 \text{ mL}) 100 = \text{Insoluble solids, percent} \quad (3)$$

⁴ ISO 17025:2017, General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories. Available from International Organization for Standardization (ISO), ISO Central Secretariat, Chemin de Blandonnet 8, CP 401, 1214 Vernier, Geneva, Switzerland, <https://www.iso.org>.

⁵ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (2002), Policy and Program Requirements for The Mandatory Agency-Wide Quality System (CIO 2105.0, formerly 5360.1 A2). Retrieved from https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-09/documents/epa_order_cio_21050.pdf.

⁶ U.S. Department of Defense (2009), Quality Systems Manual Version 5.1. Retrieved from <https://www.p2s.com/wpcontent/uploads/FINAL-QSM-5.1-SIGNED-010517.pdf>.