



Designation: D6277 – 07 (Reapproved 2022)

Standard Test Method for Determination of Benzene in Spark-Ignition Engine Fuels Using Mid Infrared Spectroscopy¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D6277; 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 percentage of benzene in spark-ignition engine fuels. It is applicable to concentrations from 0.1 % to 5 % by volume.

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

[D1298 Test Method for Density, Relative Density, or API Gravity of Crude Petroleum and Liquid Petroleum Products by Hydrometer Method](#)

[D4052 Test Method for Density, Relative Density, and API Gravity of Liquids by Digital Density Meter](#)

[D4057 Practice for Manual Sampling of Petroleum and Petroleum Products](#)

[D4177 Practice for Automatic Sampling of Petroleum and Petroleum Products](#)

[D4307 Practice for Preparation of Liquid Blends for Use as Analytical Standards](#)

[D5769 Test Method for Determination of Benzene, Toluene, and Total Aromatics in Finished Gasolines by Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry](#)

[D5842 Practice for Sampling and Handling of Fuels for Volatility Measurement](#)

[D5854 Practice for Mixing and Handling of Liquid Samples of Petroleum and Petroleum Products](#)

[E168 Practices for General Techniques of Infrared Quantitative Analysis](#)

[E1655 Practices for Infrared Multivariate Quantitative Analysis](#)

[E2056 Practice for Qualifying Spectrometers and Spectrophotometers for Use in Multivariate Analyses, Calibrated Using Surrogate Mixtures](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions:*

3.1.1 *multivariate calibration, n*—a process for creating a calibration model in which multivariate mathematics is applied to correlate the absorbances measured for a set of calibration samples to reference component concentrations or property values for the set of samples.

3.1.1.1 *Discussion*—The resultant multivariate calibration model is applied to the analysis of spectra of unknown samples to provide an estimate of the component concentration or property values for the unknown sample.

3.1.1.2 *Discussion*—Included in the multivariate calibration algorithms are Partial Least Squares, Multilinear Regression, and Classical Least Squares Peak Fitting.

3.1.2 *oxygenate, n*—an oxygen-containing organic compound which may be used as a fuel or fuel supplement, for example, various alcohols and ethers.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 A sample of spark-ignition engine fuel is introduced into a liquid sample cell. A beam of infrared light is imaged through the sample onto a detector, and the detector response is determined. Wavelengths of the spectrum, that correlate highly with benzene or interferences, are selected for analysis using selective bandpass filters or by mathematically selecting areas of the whole spectrum. A multivariate mathematical analysis converts the detector response for the selected areas of the spectrum of an unknown to a concentration of benzene.

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D02 on Petroleum Products, Liquid Fuels, and Lubricants and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D02.04.0F on Absorption Spectroscopic Methods.

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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.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 Benzene is a compound that endangers health, and the concentration is limited by environmental protection agencies to produce a less toxic gasoline.

5.2 This test method is fast, simple to run, and inexpensive.

5.3 This test method is applicable for quality control in the production and distribution of spark-ignition engine fuels.

6. Interferences

6.1 The primary spectral interferences are toluene and other monosubstituted aromatics. In addition, oxygenates can interfere with measurements made with filter apparatus. Proper choice of the apparatus, proper design of a calibration matrix, and proper utilization of multivariate calibration techniques can minimize these interferences.

7. Apparatus

7.1 *Mid-IR Spectrometric Analyzer (of one of the following types):*

7.1.1 *Filter-based Mid-IR Test Apparatus*—The type of apparatus suitable for use in this test method minimally employs an IR source, an infrared transmission cell or a liquid attenuated total internal reflection cell, wavelength discriminating filters, a chopper wheel, a detector, an A-D converter, a microprocessor, and a method to introduce the sample. The frequencies and bandwidths of the filters are specified in [Table 1](#).

7.1.2 *Fourier Transform Mid-IR Spectrometer*—The type of apparatus suitable for use in this test method employs an IR source, an infrared transmission cell or a liquid attenuated total internal reflection cell, a scanning interferometer, a detector, an A-D converter, a microprocessor, and a method to introduce the sample. The following performance specifications (through the ATR cell) must be met:

scan range	4000 cm^{-1} to 600 cm^{-1}
resolution	4 cm^{-1}
S/N at 674 cm^{-1}	>300:1 RMS

The signal to noise level will be established by taking a single beam spectrum using air or nitrogen as the reference and declaring that spectrum as the background. The background single beam spectrum obtained can be the average of multiple FTIR scans, but the total collection time shall not exceed 60 s. If interference from water vapor or carbon dioxide is a problem, the instrument shall be purged with dry air or nitrogen. A subsequent single beam spectrum shall be taken under the same conditions and ratioed to the background spectrum. The RMS noise of the ratioed spectra, the 100 %

TABLE 1 Specification for Filters Used in Filter-based Mid-IR Test

Center Wavenumber (± 0.15 % of wavenumber)	Bandwidth (in wavelength units) (full width at half height)
673 cm^{-1}	1 % of λ_c
729 cm^{-1}	1 % of λ_c
769 cm^{-1}	1 % of λ_c
1205 cm^{-1}	1 % of λ_c
1054 cm^{-1}	1 % of λ_c
1188 cm^{-1}	1 % of λ_c
1117 cm^{-1}	1 % of λ_c

line, shall not exceed 0.3 % transmittance in the region from 700 cm^{-1} to 664 cm^{-1} .

7.2 *Absorption Cell*—The absorption cell can be either transmission or attenuated total reflectance.

7.2.1 *Transmission Cells*, shall have windows of potassium bromide, zinc selenide, or other material having a significant transmission from 712 cm^{-1} to 660 cm^{-1} . The cell path length of the transmission cell shall be 0.025 mm \pm 0.005 mm. The use of a wedged transmission cell with the same nominal path length is acceptable.

7.2.2 *Attenuated Total Reflectance (ATR) Cells*, shall have the following specifications:

ATR element material	ZnSe
beam condensing optics	conical, non-focussing optics integral to cell body
element configuration	circular cross section with coaxial conical ends
cone half angle	60°
element length	1.55 in.
element diameter	0.125 in.
angle of incidence at sample interface	53.8°
maximum range of incidence angles	$\pm 1.5^\circ$
standard absorbance (1428 cm^{-1} band of acetone)	0.38 AU \pm 0.02 AU
material of construction	316 stainless steel
seals	Chemraz or Kalraz o-rings

8. Reagents and Materials (see [Note 1](#))

8.1 *Standards for Calibration, Qualification, and Quality Control Check Standards*—Use of chemicals of at least 99 % purity, where available, for quality control checks is required when preparing samples. (**Warning**—These materials are flammable and may be harmful if ingested or inhaled.)

8.1.1 *tert*-Amyl methyl ether, TAME [994-05-8].

8.1.2 Benzene [1076-43-3].

8.1.3 *tert*-Butyl ethyl ether, ETBE [637-92-3].

8.1.4 *tert*-Butyl methyl ether, MTBE [1634-04-4].

8.1.5 1,3 Dimethylbenzene (*m*-xylene).

8.1.6 Ethanol [64-17-5].

8.1.7 Ethylbenzene [100-41-4].

8.1.8 3-Ethyltoluene [620-14-4].

8.1.9 Heavy aromatic/reformat petroleum stream (high boiling cut: IPB of 150 °C \pm 5 °C and EP of 245 °C \pm 8 °C) certified to contain less than 0.025 % benzene (an absorbance of less than 0.03 at 675 cm^{-1} using a 0.2 mm cell and a baseline between approximately 680 cm^{-1} and 670 cm^{-1}) [64741-68-0].

8.1.10 Hexane (an absorbance versus water of less than 0.1 at 250 nm using a 1 cm cell) [110-54-3].

8.1.11 2,2,4-Trimethylpentane (*isooctane*) [540-84-1].

8.1.12 Pentane (an absorbance versus water of less than 0.1 at 250 nm using a 1 cm cell) [109-66-0].

8.1.13 Propylbenzene [103-65-1].

8.1.14 Toluene [108-88-3].

8.1.15 1,3,5-Trimethylbenzene (*mesitylene*) [108-67-8].

8.1.16 *m*-Xylene [108-38-3].

NOTE 1—Only some of the reagents are required in each calibration or qualification procedure.

9. Sampling and Sample Handling

9.1 *General Requirements:*

9.1.1 The sensitivity of the measurement of benzene to the loss of benzene or other components through evaporation and the resulting changes in composition is such that the utmost precaution and the most meticulous care in the drawing and handling of samples is required.

9.1.2 Fuel samples to be analyzed by the test method shall be sampled using procedures outlined in Practices **D4057**, **D4177**, or **D5842**, where appropriate. Do not use the “Sampling by Water Displacement.” With some alcohol containing samples, the alcohol will dissolve in the water phase.

9.1.3 Protect samples from excessive temperatures prior to testing. This can be accomplished by storage in an appropriate ice bath or refrigerator at 0 °C to 5 °C.

9.1.4 Do not test samples stored in leaky containers. Discard and obtain a new sample if leaks are detected.

9.2 Sample Handling During Analysis:

9.2.1 When analyzing samples by the mid infrared apparatus, the sample must be between a temperature of 15 °C to 38 °C. Equilibrate all samples to the temperature of the laboratory (15 °C to 38 °C) prior to analysis by this test method.

9.2.2 After analysis, if the sample is to be saved, reseal the container and store the sample in an ice bath or a refrigerator at 0 °C to 5 °C.

10. Calibration and Qualification of the Apparatus

10.1 Before use, the instrument must be calibrated according to the procedure described in **Annex A1**. This calibration can be performed by the instrument manufacturer prior to delivery of the instrument to the end user. If, after maintenance, the instrument calibration is repeated, the qualification procedure must also be repeated.

10.2 Before use, the instrument must be qualified according to the procedure described in **Annex A1**. The qualification need only be carried out when the instrument is initially put into operation, recalibrated, or repaired.

11. Quality Control Checks

11.1 Confirm the calibration of the instrument each day it is used by measuring the benzene concentration using the procedure outlined in Section **12** on at least one quality control sample of known benzene content. The preparation of known benzene concentration is described in **11.1.1** and **11.1.2**.

11.1.1 Standard(s) of known benzene concentration shall be made up by mass according to **A1.1** and converted to volume % using the measured density as outlined in Section **13**. At least one standard shall be made up at 1.2 % ± 0.2 % by mass benzene, that is, nominally 1.0 % by volume. Additional standards may also be prepared and used for quality control checks.

11.1.2 Standard(s) should be prepared in sufficient volume to allow for a minimum of 30 quality control measurements to be made on one batch of material. Package or store, or both, quality control samples to ensure that all analyses of quality control samples from a given lot are performed on essentially identical material.

11.2 If the benzene volume % value estimated for the quality control sample prepared at 1.2 % by mass benzene

differs from the known value by more than 0.12 % by volume, then the measurement system is out-of-control and cannot be used to estimate benzene concentrations until the cause of the out-of-control behavior is identified and corrected.

11.3 If correction of out-of-control behavior requires repair to the instrument or recalibration of the instrument, the qualification of instrument performance described in **A1.3** shall be performed before the system is used to measure benzene content on samples.

12. Procedure

12.1 Equilibrate the samples to between 15 °C and 38 °C before analysis.

12.2 Clean the sample cell. If a separate baseline using the empty cell is required, and if residual fuel is in the sample cell, remove the fuel by flushing the cell and inlet-outlet lines with enough pentane to ensure complete washing. Evaporate the residual pentane with either dry air or nitrogen.

12.3 If needed, obtain a baseline spectrum in the manner established by the manufacturer of the equipment.

12.4 Prior to the analysis of unknown test samples, establish that the equipment is running properly by collecting the spectrum of the quality control standard(s), by analyzing the spectrum with the calibration model, and by comparing the estimated benzene concentration to the known value for the QC standard(s). Introduce enough standard to the cell to ensure that the cell is washed a minimum of three times with the standard solution.

12.5 Introduce the unknown fuel sample in the manner established by the manufacturer. Introduce enough of the fuel sample to the cell to ensure the cell is washed a minimum of three times with the fuel.

12.6 Obtain the spectral response of the fuel sample.

12.6.1 If a filter based mid IR instrument is used, acquire the absorbance for the fuel sample at the wavelengths corresponding to the specified filters.

12.6.2 If an FTIR is used, acquire the digitized spectral data for the fuel sample over the frequency region from 4000 cm⁻¹ to 600 cm⁻¹.

12.7 Determine the benzene concentration (volume %) according to the appropriate calibration equation developed in **Annex A1**.

12.7.1 For filter based mid IR instruments, apply the calibration equation determined in **A1.2.4** to convert the absorbances at each of the wavelengths to the benzene concentration expressed in volume %.

12.7.2 For FTIR instruments using a PLS calibration, determine the benzene concentration using the calibration models developed in **A1.2.5** by following the steps outlined as follows.

12.7.2.1 Baseline correct the spectrum using a linear baseline fit to absorbances measured between 712 cm⁻¹ and 658 cm⁻¹.

12.7.2.2 Estimate the benzene concentration in the fuel sample by applying the low calibration (see **A1.2.5.1**) to the baseline corrected spectrum in the region of 712 cm⁻¹ to 664 cm⁻¹.

12.7.2.3 If the estimated benzene concentration (determined in 12.7.2.2) is equal to or less than 1.30 % by volume, determine the benzene concentration by applying the low calibration (see A1.2.5.2) to the baseline corrected spectrum in the region of 712 cm⁻¹ to 664 cm⁻¹.

12.7.2.4 If the estimated benzene concentration (determined in 12.7.2.2) is greater than 1.30 % by volume, estimate the benzene concentration by applying the high calibration (see A1.2.5.3) to the baseline corrected spectrum in the region of 712 cm⁻¹ to 664 cm⁻¹.

12.7.2.5 If the value estimated by application of the high calibration (determined in 12.7.2.4) is less than or equal to 1.30 % by volume, report the value determined by the low calibration (even if the value is greater than 1.30 % by volume). For estimated values greater than 1.30 % by volume (determined in 12.7.2.4), report the value obtained.

12.7.3 For FTIR instruments using a classical least squares peak fitting calibration, fit the absorption spectrum in the region of 710 cm⁻¹ through 660 cm⁻¹ using a classical least squares fit (k-matrix method). The fit matrix must include the *derived* spectra of toluene, 1,3-dimethylbenzene, 3-ethyltoluene, 1,3,5-trimethylbenzene, ethylbenzene, and propylbenzene (as determined in A1.2.6.1).

12.7.3.1 To eliminate spectral overlaps, subtract the *derived* spectra of toluene, 1,3-dimethylbenzene, 3-ethyltoluene, 1,3,5-trimethylbenzene, ethylbenzene and propylbenzene, multiplied by the coefficients that resulted from the classical least squares fit to the absorption spectrum. In this way, a *residual* benzene peak is obtained.

12.7.3.2 Fit the *residual* benzene peak with a Lorentzian line shape function (as defined in A1.2.6.4) with a linear background in the region of 691 cm⁻¹ through 660 cm⁻¹ and determine the peak height of the *residual* benzene peak.

12.7.3.3 Determine the benzene concentration expressed in mass % in the fuel sample by applying the calibration (see A1.2.6) using the peak height of the *residual* benzene peak determined in 12.7.3.2.

12.7.3.4 Determine the density of the fuel sample by Test Method D1298 or Test Method D4052.

12.7.3.5 Convert the determined mass % to volume % for the sample using the equation in Section 13.

13. Calculation

13.1 *Conversion to Volume % of Benzene*—To convert the calibration and qualification standards to volume % use Eq 1.

$$V_b = M_b (D_f / 0.8844) \quad (1)$$

where:

V_b = benzene volume %,

M_b = benzene mass %, and

D_f = relative density at 15.56 °C of the calibration or qualification standard being tested as determined by Practice D1298 or Test Method D4052.

14. Report

14.1 Report the following information:

14.1.1 Filter instruments (Test Method D6277a).

14.1.1.1 Volume % benzene by Test Method D6277a, to the nearest 0.01 %.

14.1.2 FTIR instruments with PLS calibration (Test Method D6277b).

14.1.2.1 Volume % benzene by Test Method D6277b, to the nearest 0.01 %.

14.1.3 FTIR instruments with CLS calibration (Test Method D6277c).

14.1.3.1 Volume % benzene by Test Method D6277c, to the nearest 0.1 %.

15. Precision and Bias

15.1 Interlaboratory tests of each of the procedures (filter instruments, FTIR instruments with PLS calibration, and FTIR instruments with CLS calibration) were carried out using twenty samples that covered the range from 0 % to 1.8 % by volume and at least six laboratories for each of the procedures. An additional sample containing approximately 4 % by volume benzene was also included in the interlaboratory results. The precision of the test method as obtained by statistical examination of interlaboratory results³ is summarized in Table 2 and Table 3 and is as follows:

15.2 *Repeatability for Filter Based Mid IR Instruments*—For benzene concentrations between 0.1 % and 1.8 % by volume, the difference between successive test results obtained by the same operator with the same apparatus under constant operating conditions on identical test samples would, in the long run, and in the normal and correct operation of the test method, exceed the following values only in one case in twenty:

$$r = 0.021 + 0.027 X \quad (2)$$

where X is the benzene concentration determined. For the one sample at approximately 4 % by volume benzene, the difference between successive test results, obtained by the same operator with the same apparatus under constant operating conditions on identical test samples would, in the long run, and in the normal and correct operation of the test method, exceed 0.18 only in one case in twenty.

15.3 *Repeatability for FTIR Instruments Using PLS Calibration Instruments*—For benzene concentrations between 0.1 % and 1.8 % by volume, the difference between successive test results obtained by the same operator with the same

³ Supporting data have been filed at ASTM International Headquarters and may be obtained by requesting Research Report RR:D02-1431. Contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org.

TABLE 2 Repeatabilities as a Function of Concentration

Benzene Concentration (volume %)	Filter Instruments	FTIR with PLS Calibration	FTIR with CLS Calibration
0.1	0.02	0.02	0.05
0.3	0.03	0.03	0.06
0.5	0.03	0.04	0.07
0.7	0.04	0.05	0.08
0.9	0.05	0.06	0.09
1.1	0.05	0.07	0.09
1.3	0.06	0.08	0.10
1.5	0.06	0.09	0.11
1.8	0.07	0.11	0.12
4	0.18	0.14	0.18

TABLE 3 Reproducibilities as a Function of Concentration

Benzene Concentration (volume %)	Filter Instruments	FTIR with PLS Calibration	FTIR with CLS Calibration
0.1	0.12	0.03	0.10
0.3	0.12	0.06	0.11
0.5	0.13	0.08	0.11
0.7	0.13	0.10	0.12
0.9	0.13	0.13	0.13
1.1	0.13	0.15	0.13
1.3	0.14	0.18	0.14
1.5	0.14	0.20	0.15
1.8	0.14	0.23	0.15
4	0.59	0.47	0.23

apparatus under constant operating conditions on identical test samples would, in the long run, and in the normal and correct operation of the test method, exceed the following values only in one case in twenty.

$$r = 0.013 + .052 X \quad (3)$$

where X is the benzene concentration determined. For the one sample at approximately 4 % by volume benzene, the difference between successive test results obtained by the same operator with the same apparatus under constant operating conditions on identical test samples would, in the long run, and in the normal and correct operation of the test method, exceed 0.14 only in one case in twenty.

15.4 Repeatability for FTIR Instruments Using a Classical Least Squares Calibration—For benzene concentrations between 0.1 % and 1.8 % by volume, the difference between successive test results obtained by the same operator with the same apparatus under constant operating conditions on identical test samples would, in the long run, and in the normal and correct operation of the test method, exceed the following values only in one case in twenty.

$$r = 0.047 + 0.043 X \quad (4)$$

where X is the benzene concentration determined. For the one sample at approximately 4 % by volume benzene, the difference between successive test results obtained by the same operator with the same apparatus under constant operating conditions on identical test samples would, in the long run, and in the normal and correct operation of the test method, exceed 0.18 only in one case in twenty.

15.5 Reproducibility for Filter Based Mid IR Instruments—For benzene concentrations between 0.1 % and 1.8 % by volume, the difference between two single and independent results, obtained by different operators working in different laboratories on identical test samples would, in the long run, and in the normal and correct operation of the test method, exceed the following values only in one case in twenty:

$$R = 0.121 + .012 X \quad (5)$$

where X is the benzene concentration determined. For the one sample at approximately 4 % by volume benzene, the difference between two single and independent results, obtained by different operators working in different laboratories on identical test samples would, in the long run, and in the

normal and correct operation of the test method, exceed 0.59 only in one case in twenty.

15.6 Reproducibility for FTIR Instruments Using a PLS Calibration Instrument—For benzene concentrations between 0.1 % and 1.8 % by volume, the difference between two single and independent results obtained by different operators working in different laboratories on identical test samples would, in the long run, and in the normal and correct operation of the test method, exceed the following values only in one case in twenty:

$$R = 0.022 + 0.118 X \quad (6)$$

where X is the benzene concentration determined. For the one sample at approximately 4 % by volume benzene, the difference between two single and independent results obtained by different operators working in different laboratories on identical test samples would, in the long run, and in the normal and correct operation of the test method, exceed 0.47 only in one case in twenty.

15.7 Reproducibility for FTIR Instruments Using a Classical Least Squares Calibration Instrument—For benzene concentrations between 0.1 % to 1.8 % by volume, the difference between two single and independent results obtained by different operators working in different laboratories on identical test samples would, in the long run, and in the normal and correct operation of the test method, exceed the following values only in one case in twenty.

$$R = 0.099 + .031 X \quad (7)$$

where X is the benzene concentration determined. For the one sample at approximately 4 % by volume benzene, the difference between two single and independent results obtained by different operators working in different laboratories on identical test samples would, in the long run, and in the normal and correct operation of the test method, exceed 0.23 only in one case in twenty.

15.8 Bias—Since there were no suitable reference materials included in the interlaboratory test program, no statement of bias is being made. However, the samples of the test program were shared with an interlaboratory study of Test Method **D5769** and small biases (see **Note 2**) relative to that test method were observed. The relative biases were not the same for all procedures, nor were they the same for all samples within each procedure. Because such sample biases are not correctable, users wishing to use this test method to substitute for Test Method **D5769**, or conversely, are cautioned to consider the specific source or sources of subject fuels and to ensure, through periodic comparative testing, that any differences are consistent and manageable.

NOTE 2—The average bias, relative to Test Method **D5769**, was -0.06 % by volume for the FTIR procedures and +0.06 for the filter procedure. After accounting for the averages, the fuel-specific differences exceeded 0.1 % by volume for only one fuel on one procedure (out of 62 combinations).

16. Keywords

16.1 aromatics; benzene; infrared spectroscopy; spark-ignition engine fuel

ANNEX
(Mandatory Information)
A1. CALIBRATION AND QUALIFICATION OF THE APPARATUS

A1.1 *Calibration Matrix*—Calibration standards shall be prepared in accordance with Practice **D4307** or appropriately scaled for larger blends and Practices **D5842** and **D5854**, where appropriate. Whenever possible, use chemicals of at least 99 % purity. To minimize the evaporation of light components, chill all chemicals and fuels used to prepare standards.

A1.1.1 *Calibration Matrix for Filter Based Mid IR Instruments*—Prepare the set of calibration standards as defined in **Table A1.1**.

A1.1.1.1 Measure the density for each of the calibration standards according to either Test Method **D1298** or Test Method **D4052**.

A1.1.1.2 For each of the calibration standards, convert the mass % benzene to volume % benzene according to the equation presented in **13.1**.

A1.1.2 *Calibration Matrices for FTIR Instruments Using a PLS Calibration*—To obtain the best precision and accuracy of calibration, prepare two benzene calibration sets as set forth in **Table A1.2** and **Table A1.3**. The first set (Set A) has 35 samples with benzene concentrations between 0 % to 1.5 % by mass. The second set (Set B) has at least 25 samples with benzene concentrations between 1 % to 6 % by mass. Each of the subsets in Set B shall have a minimum of five samples with the benzene concentration evenly spaced over the 1 % to 6 % by mass range.

A1.1.2.1 Measure the density for each of the calibration standards according to either Test Method **D1298** or Test Method **D4052**.

A1.1.2.2 For each of the calibration standards, convert the mass % benzene to volume % benzene according to the equation presented in **13.1**. If the densities of the calibration standards can not be measured, it is acceptable to convert to volume % using the densities of the individual components measured using Test Method **D1298** or Test Method **D4052**.

A1.1.3 *Calibration Matrix for FTIR Instruments Using Classical Least Squares Peak Fitting Calibration*—Prepare a benzene calibration set as detailed in **Table A1.4**. The set has samples with benzene concentrations between 0 % to 6 % by mass.

A1.1.4 *Background Correction Mixtures for FTIR Instruments Using Classical Least Squares Peak Fitting Calibration*—Prepare one mixture containing 80 % by mass hexane and 20 % by mass of the respective aromatic for each of the six substances (toluene, 1,3-dimethylbenzene, 3-ethyltoluene, 1,3,5-trimethylbenzene, ethylbenzene, and propylbenzene) as set forth in **Table A1.5**.

A1.2 Calibration:

A1.2.1 Each instrument must be calibrated in accordance with the mathematics as outlined in Practices **E1655**. This practice serves as a guide for the multivariate calibration of infrared spectrometers used in determining the physical characteristics of petroleum and petrochemical products. The procedures describe treatment of the data, development of the calibration, and qualification of the instrument. PLS or a classical least squares peak fitting calibration may be used if a continuous frequency region(s) of the spectrum is acquired, and MLR may be used if absorbances at discrete frequencies are used.

A1.2.2 Equilibrate all samples to the temperature of the laboratory (15 °C to 38 °C) prior to analysis. Fill the sample cell with the calibration standards in accordance with Practices **E168** or in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

A1.2.3 For each of the calibration standards, acquire either the digitized spectral data or the absorbances through each specified filter.

A1.2.3.1 If a filter based mid IR instrument is being used, acquire the absorbances at the wavelengths corresponding to the specified filters for each of the calibration standards.

A1.2.3.2 If an FTIR is being used, acquire the digitized spectral data over the frequency region from 4000 cm⁻¹ to 600 cm⁻¹ for each of the calibration standards. The infrared spectrum is the negative logarithm of the ratio of the single beam infrared spectrum obtained with a sample and the single beam FTIR spectrum with dry air (or nitrogen). For FTIR instruments using a PLS calibration, baseline correct the spectrum using a linear baseline fit to absorbances measured between 712 cm⁻¹ and 658 cm⁻¹.

A1.2.4 For filter based mid IR instruments, develop a calibration model based on the correlation of the set of calibration spectra to known benzene concentrations (volume %) according to Practices **E1655** by fitting to the following MLR equation:

$$C = a[x] + \dots + a_n x_n + b_1 x_{673 \text{ cm}^{-1}}^2 + b_2 x_{729 \text{ cm}^{-1}}^2 + e \quad (\text{A1.1})$$

where:

C = concentration of the analyte, volume %,
 a_n and b_n = the regressed coefficients,
 x_n = the absorbance at filter wavelength, n , and
 e = the intercept.

A1.2.5 For FTIR instruments using a PLS calibration, two separate calibrations will be developed.

A1.2.5.1 Develop the first calibration (using samples over the range of 0 % to 1.5 % by mass), referred to as the low calibration, using spectra obtained from the samples in calibration Set A detailed in **Table A1.2**. This calibration relates the spectrum to the benzene concentration (volume %). Use

baseline corrected data in the region of 712 cm⁻¹ to 664 cm⁻¹ to develop the low calibration. Use mean centering and four latent variables in developing the model.

A1.2.5.2 Develop the second calibration (using samples over the range 1 % to 6.0 % by mass), referred to as the high calibration, using spectra obtained from all of the samples in calibration Set B as detailed in [Table A1.3](#). This calibration relates the spectrum to the benzene concentration (volume %). Use baseline corrected data in the region of 712 cm⁻¹ to 664 cm⁻¹ to develop the high calibration. Use mean centering and four latent variables in developing the model.

A1.2.6 For FTIR instruments using a classical least squares peak fitting calibration a single calibration will be developed. This calibration relates the spectrum to the benzene concentration (mass %). In the calibration, the spectra in the region of 710 cm⁻¹ through 660 cm⁻¹ are used in developing the calibration model.

A1.2.6.1 Measure the spectra of the six background correction mixtures as detailed in [Table A1.5](#) as well as the spectrum of pure hexane in the region of 710 cm⁻¹ through 660 cm⁻¹. For each of the mixture spectra, subtract 0.80 times the spectrum of hexane from the spectrum of the 20 % by mass solution. The resulting spectrum is the *derived* spectrum of the respective aromatic.

A1.2.6.2 Fit the absorption spectrum in the region of 710 cm⁻¹ through 660 cm⁻¹ using a classical least squares fit (k-matrix method). The fit matrix must include the *derived* spectra of toluene, 1,3-dimethylbenzene, 3-ethyltoluene, 1,3,5-trimethylbenzene, ethylbenzene, and propylbenzene.

A1.2.6.3 To eliminate spectral overlaps, subtract the *derived* spectra of toluene, 1,3-dimethylbenzene, 3-ethyltoluene, 1,3,5-trimethylbenzene, ethylbenzene and propylbenzene, multiplied by the coefficients that resulted from the classical least squares fit to the absorption spectrum. In this way, a *residual* benzene peak is obtained.

A1.2.6.4 Fit the *residual* benzene peak with a Lorentzian line shape function with a linear background in the region of 691 cm⁻¹ through 660 cm⁻¹. The following equation is used for the Lorentzian line shape function L(v):

$$L(v) = A\Gamma^2/[\Gamma^2 + (v_0 - v)^2] + kv + d \quad (\text{A1.2})$$

where:

- A = peak height,
- Γ = half width,
- v₀ = center wavenumber,
- v = wavenumber,
- k = slope of lines background, and
- d = intercept of linear background.

The fit parameters for the least squares fit are A, Γ, v₀, k, and d.

A1.2.6.5 Develop the calibration equation using the peak height of the residual peak (parameter A versus mass % benzene).

A1.3 *Qualification of Instrument Performance*—Once a calibration(s) has been established, the individual calibrated instrument must be qualified to ensure that the instrument accurately and precisely measures benzene in the presence of

typical spark-ignition engine fuel compounds that, in typical concentrations, present spectral interferences. General classes of compounds that will cause interference are monosubstituted aromatics (for all of the calibration procedures) and oxygenates (for calibration using filter instruments) in high concentrations. This qualification need only be carried out when the instrument is initially put into operation, is recalibrated, or repaired.

A1.3.1 *Preparation of Qualification Samples*—Prepare multicomponent qualification standards of the benzene by mass according to Practices [D4307](#) (or appropriately scaled for larger blends), Practice [D5842](#) or [D5854](#), where appropriate. These standards shall be similar to, but not the same as, the mixtures established for the calibration set used in developing the calibration. Prepare the qualification samples so as to vary the concentrations of benzene and of the interfering components over a range that spans at least 95 % of that for the calibration standards. The numbers of required standards are suggested by Practices [E1655](#) and, in general, will be five times the number of independent variables in the calibration equation. For a four component PLS model, a minimum of 20 qualification standards are required. For a seven filter instrument using [Eq A1.1](#) for calibration, 50 qualification standards are required. For calibration techniques that rely on a classical least squares peak fitting technique, a minimum of 20 qualification standards are required.

A1.3.2 *Acquisition of Qualification Data*—For each of the qualification standards, measure the benzene concentration, expressed in volume %, according to the procedure established in [Section 12](#). The adequacy of the instrument performance is determined following the procedures similar to those described in Practice [E2056](#).

NOTE A1.1—Since this method was developed before Practice [E2056](#) was written, the data required to fully implement Practice [E2056](#) is not available. The procedures described below are consistent with the intent of Practice [E2056](#).

A1.3.3 The standard error of qualification (SEQ) is calculated as follows:

$$SEQ = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^q (\hat{y}_i - y_i)^2 / q} \quad (\text{A1.3})$$

where:

- q = number of surrogate qualification mixtures,
- y_i = component concentration for the ith qualification sample, and
- ŷ_i = estimate of the concentration of the ith qualification sample.

A1.3.3.1 For each instrument type, an *F* value is calculated by dividing the square of SEQ by the square of PSEQ (the square of the pooled standard error of qualification for the round robin instruments). The *F* value is compared to a critical *F* value with *q* degrees of freedom in the numerator and DOF(PSEQ) degrees of freedom in the denominator. Values of PSEQ and DOF(PSEQ) for the three instrument types are given in [Table A1.6](#), and the critical *F* values in [Table A1.7](#).

A1.3.3.2 If the *F* value is less than or equal to the critical *F* value from the table, then the instrument is qualified to perform the test.