



Designation: **D4790–20a D4790 – 23**

Standard Terminology of Aromatic Hydrocarbons and Related Chemicals¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D4790; 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. Referenced Documents

1.1 ASTM Standards:²

- D835 Specification for Refined Benzene-485 (Withdrawn 1997)³
- D841 Specification for Nitration Grade Toluene
- D843 Specification for Nitration Grade Xylene
- D846 Specification for Ten-Degree Xylene (Withdrawn 1989)³
- D847 Test Method for Acidity of Benzene, Toluene, Xylenes, Solvent Naphthas, and Similar Industrial Aromatic Hydrocarbons
- D848 Test Method for Acid Wash Color of Industrial Aromatic Hydrocarbons
- D1015 Test Method for Freezing Points of High-Purity Hydrocarbons (Withdrawn 2019)³
- D1016 Test Method for Purity of Hydrocarbons from Freezing Points (Withdrawn 2019)³
- D1129 Terminology Relating to Water
- D1298 Test Method for Density, Relative Density, or API Gravity of Crude Petroleum and Liquid Petroleum Products by Hydrometer Method
- D1492 Test Method for Bromine Index of Aromatic Hydrocarbons by Coulometric Titration
- D1840 Test Method for Naphthalene Hydrocarbons in Aviation Turbine Fuels by Ultraviolet Spectrophotometry
- D2031 Test Method for Reducing Substances in Refined Pyridine (Withdrawn 2003)³
- D2121 Test Methods for Polymer Content of Styrene Monomer
- D2147 Method of Test for Detection and Estimation of Water-Insoluble Impurities in Refined Phenol by Cloud Point Depression (Withdrawn 1979)³
- D2269 Test Method for Evaluation of White Mineral Oils by Ultraviolet Absorption
- D2279 Method of Test for Acid Wash Color of Refined Naphthalene (Withdrawn 1982)³
- D2323 Specification for Refined Pyridine (1 Degree) (Withdrawn 2003)³
- D2359 Specification for Refined Benzene-535
- D2403 Specification for Refined Phthalic Anhydride-1308 (Withdrawn 2008)³
- D2777 Practice for Determination of Precision and Bias of Applicable Test Methods of Committee D19 on Water
- D2827 Specification for Styrene Monomer
- D2935 Test Method for Apparent Density of Industrial Aromatic Hydrocarbons (Withdrawn 2005)³
- D3980 Practice for Interlaboratory Testing of Paint and Related Materials (Withdrawn 1998)³
- D4053 Test Method for Benzene in Motor and Aviation Gasoline by Infrared Spectroscopy (Withdrawn 2013)³
- D4734 Specification for Refined Benzene-545
- E12 Terminology Relating to Density and Specific Gravity of Solids, Liquids, and Gases (Withdrawn 1996)³

¹ This terminology is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D16 on Aromatic, Industrial, Specialty and Related Chemicals and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D16.05 on Editorial and Nomenclature.

Current edition approved October 1, 2023. Published October 2023. Originally approved in 1988. Last previous edition approved in 2020 as D4790–20: D4790 – 20a. DOI: 10.1520/D4790-20A:10.1520/D4790-23.

The boldface designations refer to the original source of the definition and the ASTM Technical Committee having jurisdiction.

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.

³ The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on www.astm.org.

2. Terminology

absorbance, *n*—the logarithm to the base 10 of the reciprocal of the relative transmittance, *T*, expressed as:

$$A = \log_{10} (1/T) = -\log_{10} T \quad (1)$$

D1840, D2269, D4053; D02

accuracy, *n*—the agreement between the mean of a series of repeated measurements of a property and the accepted reference value of the property. **D3980; D01**

acidity, *n*—the number of milligrams of sodium hydroxide consumed when 100 mL of the sample are titrated under the conditions prescribed in this method. **D847; D16**

acid reaction, *n*—a characteristic of materials producing the acid-color of the indicator used under the conditions prescribed in this method. **D847; D16**

acid wash color, *n*—the color developed in the separated acid when a sample is agitated with sulfuric acid under the condition prescribed in this method. **D848; D2279; D16**

aldehydes, *n*—a broad class of organic compounds having a generic formula RCHO, and characterized by a carbonyl group.

alkaline or basic reaction, *n*—a characteristic of the materials producing the alkalicolor of the indicator used under the conditions prescribed in this method. **D847; D16**

alpha-methylstyrene, *n*—2-phenylpropene (C₉H₁₀) mol weight 119.16; colorless liquid; subject to polymerization by heat or catalysts; freezing point, -23.21°C; point, -23.21 °C; boiling point, 165.38°C; 165.38 °C.

apparent density, *n*—the density calculated when the pycnometer is calibrated with water, weighed in air, and when the sample is weighed in air and no air buoyancy correction is used for either weighing, even though the density in vacuum of water is used in calculating the apparent volume of the pycnometer.

apparent density at 60°F; 60 °F, *n*—the weight in air of a unit volume of sample at 60°F; 60 °F; in this method, the weight is in pounds and the volume in U.S. liquid gallons. Average air in this method is assumed to have a density of 0.0012 g/cm³.

DISCUSSION—

This definition is not in conflict with that given in the current version of Definitions **E12**.

D2935; D16

aromatic hydrocarbon, *n*—an organic chemical containing a benzene ring. Committee D16 scope includes monocyclic and polycyclic carbon-ring structures recovered or synthesized from any source, and which are intended primarily for use as solvents or raw materials for chemical synthesis.

aromatic hydrocarbon derivatives and related chemicals, *n*—Committee D16 scope includes chemicals such as: cycloalkanes such as cyclohexane which are intended primarily for use in chemical synthesis; phenols, arylthiols, and their homologs; heterocyclics such as pyridine and quinoline; and other chemicals synthesized from ring structures. Excluded from the scope are paraffinic and olefinic hydrocarbons, and those aromatic and cyclic aliphatic hydrocarbons that are intended primarily for fuels and lubricants.

at-line analysis, *n*—analytical procedure performed in a process environment using manually entered samples.

benzene, *n*—cyclohexatriene, benzol (obsolete) (C₆H₆) mol weight 78.11; clear, colorless, highly flammable liquid; characteristic odor; solidification point +5.5°C; point +5.5 °C; boiling point 80.1°C; 80.1 °C.

benzene, carbon disulfide-free, *n*—benzene treated with alcoholic sodium hydroxide and used as a spectrophotometric reference standard.

benzene-535, refined, *n*—benzene with impurities limited to trace amounts by a solidification point of 5.35°C – 5.35°C and having a total distillation range of no more than $\pm 0.1^{\circ}\text{C}$. Refer to Specification **D2359** for complete specifications.

benzene-545, refined, *n*—benzene with impurities limited to trace amounts by a solidification point of 5.45°C – 5.45°C and having a total distillation range of no more than $\pm 0.1^{\circ}\text{C}$. Refer to Specification **D4734**.

benzene-485, refined (nitration grade), *n*—benzene with impurities limited by a solidification point of 4.85°C – 4.85°C and having a total distillation range of no more than $\pm 0.1^{\circ}\text{C}$. Refer to Specification **D835** for complete specifications.

benzene, thiophene-free, *n*—benzene refined by special treatment and used as a reagent in ASTM standards.

bias, *n*—a persistent positive or negative deviation of a test method average value from the assumed or accepted true value. **D1129; D2777; D19**

blank, *n*—a sample prepared to compensate for impurities in the materials used to prepare a sample for analysis. Explanation—A blank is prepared omitting the sample when materials used to prepare a sample for analysis may contain the analyte being measured; the blank is then subtracted from the result.

bromine index, *n*—the number of milligrams of bromine consumed by 100 g – 100 g of sample under given conditions. **D1492; D16**

carbon disulfide (CS₂), *n*—mol weight 76.14; clear, colorless, flammable, volatile liquid; boiling point, 45.6°C – 45.6°C ; freezing point, 111.6°C – 111.6°C .

clear, *n*—free of turbidity.

cloud point of phenol, *n*—the temperature at which a separate phase forms when a homogeneous solution of phenol in water is allowed to cool at a prescribed rate from a temperature above that at which phase separation occurs. It may precisely be defined as follows: when a homogeneous solution of phenol and water is allowed to cool at a prescribed rate with stirring, the solution will show a slight cloudiness or turbidity as the cloud point is approached. On further cooling, the cloudiness will increase rapidly and the thermometer bulb, which is centrally located in the test tube, will suddenly become invisible. The temperature at which the thermometer bulb becomes invisible is taken as the cloud point. **D2147; D16**

cloudy, *n*—qualitative expression of turbidity.

confidence limits, *n*—the limits on either side of the mean value of a group of observations which will, in a stated fraction or percent of the cases include the expected value. Thus the 95 % confidence limits are the values between which the population mean will be situated in 95 out of 100 cases. **D3980; D01**

copper corrosion, *n*—a qualitative indication of reactive impurities in aromatic hydrocarbons. An iridescent, gray, or black discoloration of polished copper strip is considered cause for rejection.

corrosive substance, *n*—in *Committee D16 Standards*, material in industrial aromatic hydrocarbons that discolors or tarnishes polished copper.

cresol(s), *n*—methyl phenol, hydroxymethyl benzene (C₇H₈O) mol weight 108.13; colorless, yellowish, brownish, yellow, or pinkish liquid; phenolic odor. Three isomeric cresols exist.

cresylic acids, *n*—commercial mixtures of phenolic materials which may include phenol, cresols, xylenols, and other alkylated phenols.

cumene, *n*—(C₉H₁₂) mol weight 120.19; clear, flammable liquid; melting point, -96.0°C; point, -96.0 °C; boiling point, 152.4°C; 152.4 °C.

cyclohexane-995, *n*—cyclohexane with a purity of 99.5 weight % minimum determined by analysis by gas chromatography. Refer to proposed specifications for complete requirements.

degrees of freedom, *n*—the number of observations minus the number of constraints imposed upon the system. In general, only one constraint (for example, the mean value) is imposed and the total degrees of freedom are one less than the number of observations. **D3980; D01**

density in air, *n*—the weight per unit volume in vacuum minus the weight of a volume of air equal to the difference between the volume of the sample and the volume of brass weights equivalent to weight in vacuum of the sample.

dry point temperature, *n*—the temperature observed immediately after the liquid just disappears from the bottom of the flask during a distillation test.

effective carbon number (ECN), *n*—the response of a flame ionization detector (FID) to various organic function groups on a mass basis has been determined. This information is then combined to determine the response of the FID to various organic molecules relative to *n*-heptane. A specimen is analyzed by gas chromatography and the area of each component is corrected using the ECN-derived relative response factors. The corrected areas are then normalized to determine the results.

ethylbenzene (C₈H₁₀), *n*—mol weight 106.16; clear, colorless, flammable liquid; freezing point, -94.97°C; point, -94.97 °C; boiling point, 136°C; 136 °C.

evaporation residue, *n*—the nonvolatile impurities remaining after vaporizing a substance.

external standard calculation, *n*—a method of calculation for low-level components in a sample where the peak areas of the components of interest are compared to peak area of a standard of known composition analyzed under identical conditions.

freezing point, *n*—the temperature at which the liquid and solid states of a substance are in equilibrium at a given pressure (usually atmospheric). For pure substances it is identical with the melting point of the solid form. **Lange, 10th Ed.**⁴

homologues of phenol, *n*—compounds of the phenol series whose structure differs regularly by some radical (for example, -CH₃) from that of its adjacent neighbor in the series. Also *cresols* and *xylenols*.

hydrogen sulfide (H₂S), *n*—mol weight 34.08; flammable, poisonous gas with characteristic odor of rotten eggs.

industrial grade, *n*—a quality of aromatic hydrocarbons suitable for many industrial applications that have a tolerance for nonreactive impurities.

DISCUSSION—

The classification covers intermediate levels of purity that may vary over a wide range for different materials.

⁴ Lange, N. A., *Handbook of Chemistry*, 10th Ed., McGraw Hill Book Co. Inc., New York, NY.

inhibitor, *n*—a substance added to a material to retard or prevent deterioration.

initial boiling point, *n*—the temperature observed immediately after the first drop of distillate falls into the receiving cylinder during a distillation test.

internal standard calculation, *n*—a method of calculation for low-level components in a sample where the peak areas of the components of interest are compared to peak area of a compound, not originally present in the sample, which was quantitatively added to the specimen before analysis. The peak areas may be corrected for known differences in response by applying relative response factors.

isopropylbenzene—see **cumene**.

ketones, *n*—a class of organic compounds possessing a carbonyl group attached to two hydrocarbon groups. Acetone is the first member of this series.

limit of detection (LOD), *n*—this is the limiting level where the measured value exceeds its uncertainty and is thus the limit of detection with 95 % confidence and is calculated as $3 * s_o$. The relative uncertainty is ± 100 %.⁵ When LOD is determined from a proficiency testing program (PTP), LOD is defined as LOD_{PTP} .

limit of quantitation (LOQ), *n*—the American Chemical Society Committee on Environmental Quality calls this the limit of quantitation and arbitrarily defines it as $10 * s_o$. The relative uncertainty is ± 30 %. s_o is the standard deviation as the concentration approaches 0.

meta-xylene, *n*—1,3-dimethylbenzene (C_8H_{10}) mol weight 106.16; clear, colorless, flammable liquid; freezing point, $-47.87^\circ C$; boiling point, $139.3^\circ C$.

mixed xylenes, *n*—a mixture of C_8 aromatics including *m*-xylene, *o*-xylene, and *p*-xylene. Industry convention includes ethyl benzene as a 'mixed xylene' though ethyl benzene is not technically a xylene. Styrene is excluded.

<https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/68c46d2a-3e0f-4aea-8c75-40342594cede/astm-d4790-23>

moisture, atmospheric, *n*—ambient humidity that may be absorbed by hygroscopic material during sampling and testing and may lead to erroneous results.

molten state, *n*—the liquid phase of a solid substance existing above its melting point temperature.

naphtha, aromatic solvent, *n*—a concentrate of aromatic hydrocarbons including C_8 , C_9 and C_{10} homologs.

DISCUSSION—

Distillation end point of individual grades varies between 155 and $220^\circ C$ to provide a range of volatility and solvency characteristics. Color of solvents is water-white to dark red depending on refining treatment.

naphthalene ($C_{10}H_8$), *n*—mol weight 128.16; monoclinic prismatic plates; commercially available as white scales, powder, balls, or cakes; odor of moth balls; solidification point, $80.1^\circ C$; sublimes above melting point.

nonaromatic hydrocarbons, *n*—one or more types of hydrocarbons identified as paraffins, cycloparaffins (naphthenes), and olefins. Generally, the saturated types, paraffins and cycloparaffins, constitute the impurities in the commercial grades of aromatic hydrocarbons.

nonvolatile matter, *n*—the oily, gummy, or resinous residue remaining after evaporating volatile hydrocarbon materials.

⁵ Taylor, John Keenan 'Quality Assurance of Chemical Measurements' 1987 p. 81.