



Designation: D7884 – 23

# Standard Test Method for Determination of 4-Carboxybenzaldehyde and *p*-Toluic Acid in Purified Terephthalic Acid by Reverse Phase High Performance Liquid Chromatography<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D7884; 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 ( $\epsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

## 1. Scope\*

1.1 This test method covers the determination of the 4-Carboxybenzaldehyde (4-CBA) and *p*-Toluic acid (*p*-TOL) in purified terephthalic acid (PTA) by reverse phase high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC). This method is applicable for 4-CBA and *p*-TOL with an upper limit of 500 mg/kg, respectively, but may be applicable to a wider range.

1.2 In determining the conformance of the test results using this method to applicable specification, results shall be rounded off in accordance with the rounding-off method of Practice E29.

1.3 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, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.* For specific hazard statements, see Section 7.

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:<sup>2</sup>

D1193 Specification for Reagent Water

<sup>1</sup> This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D16 on Aromatic, Industrial, Specialty and Related Chemicals and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D16.02 on Oxygenated Aromatics.

Current edition approved Nov. 1, 2023. Published March 2024. Originally approved in 2013. Last previous edition approved in 2020 as D7884 – 20. DOI: 10.1520/D7884-23.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

D6809 Guide for Quality Control and Quality Assurance Procedures for Aromatic Hydrocarbons and Related Materials

E29 Practice for Using Significant Digits in Test Data to Determine Conformance with Specifications

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

### 2.2 ISO Document:<sup>3</sup>

EN ISO 8213 Chemical products for industrial use—Sampling techniques—Solid chemical products in the form of particles varying from powders to coarse lumps

### 2.3 Other Document:<sup>4</sup>

OSHA Regulations, 29 CFR paragraphs 1910.1000 and 1910.1200

## 3. Summary of Test Method

3.1 *Reverse Phase HPLC Method*—PTA sample is dissolved in ammonium hydroxide solution, and a fixed volume of this solution is injected into a high performance liquid chromatograph equipped with a UV detector. A C18 chemically bonded column is used to separate the impurities 4-CBA and *p*-TOL from PTA. The external standard calibration is used for quantification.

## 4. Significance and Use

4.1 The presence of 4-CBA and *p*-TOL in PTA used for the production of polyester is undesirable because they can affect the PET quality (such as contribute to fiber breaks), the polymerization process, and 4-CBA imparts coloration to the polymer due to thermal instability.

4.2 Determining the amount of 4-CBA and *p*-TOL remaining from the manufacture of PTA is often required. This test method is suitable for setting specifications and for use as an internal quality control tool where these products are produced or are used.

<sup>3</sup> Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036, <http://www.ansi.org>.

<sup>4</sup> Available from U.S. Government Printing Office Superintendent of Documents, 732 N. Capitol St., NW, Mail Stop: SDE, Washington, DC 20401, <http://www.access.gpo.gov>.

\*A Summary of Changes section appears at the end of this standard

## 5. Apparatus

5.1 *High Performance Liquid Chromatograph (HPLC)*—Any HPLC capable of pumping the mobile phase at flow rates between 0.1 mL/min and 2.0 mL/min, with a pressure between 0 MPa and 40 MPa and a pulsation of less than 1 % full scale deflection under the test conditions described in **Table 1**. The

**TABLE 1 Recommended Operating Conditions**

Column	C18							
Stationary phase	Octadecylsilane chemically bonded silica							
Particle size	5 µm							
Material of column	stainless steel							
Length of column	150 mm							
Inner diameter	4 mm–5 mm							
Mobile phase (Isocratic elution mode)	0.06 % H <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4</sub> solution: acetonitrile = 82:18							
Mobile phase (Gradient elution mode)	Time (min)	0	5	10	14	16	17	20
	0.06 % H <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4</sub> solution (%)	85	85	65	35	35	85	85
	Acetonitrile (%)	15	15	35	65	65	85	85
Flow rate	1.0 mL/min							
UV detector	254 nm for 4-CBA 240 nm for <i>p</i> -TOL							
Injection amount	20 µL							
Column temperature	40 °C							

S/N (signal to noise) ratio should be 3:1 or greater for 2 mg/kg 4-CBA and 10 mg/kg *p*-TOL.

5.2 *Sample Injection System*—Capable of injecting 1 µL to 25 µL, using either partial or full loop mode, with a repeatability of ±1 %.

5.3 *Detector—Variable Wavelength Ultraviolet Photometric Detector (VWD), Multi-wavelength Detector, or Photometric Diode Array Detector (PDA)*—Capable of operating at 240 nm and 254 nm.

5.4 *Column Oven*—Any suitable HPLC column oven (block heating or air circulating) capable of maintaining a constant temperature of ±1 °C within the range of 20 °C to 70 °C.

5.5 *Chromatography Data System*.

5.6 *HPLC Columns*:

5.6.1 A stainless steel HPLC column packed with an octadecylsilane (C18) chemically bonded silica stationary phase is suitable. See **Table 1** for recommended operating conditions.

5.6.2 A C18 column with different dimensions (inner diameter, length, particle size, etc.) that provides adequate resolution to quantitate 4-CBA and *p*-TOL in a PTA sample can also be used.

5.7 *Analytical Balance*, readable to ±0.0001 g.

5.8 *Sample Filter*—A disposable syringe filter made of cellulose acetate, with a pore size between 0.22 µm and 0.45 µm, and is chemically inert to aqueous solutions, is recommended for the removal of particulate matter from the sample solution.

## 6. Reagents and Materials

6.1 *Purity of Reagents*—Unless otherwise indicated, it is intended that all reagents shall conform to the reagent grade specification for analytical reagents of the American Chemical Society, where such specifications are available.<sup>5</sup> Other grades may be used, provided it is first ascertained that the reagent is of sufficiently high purity to permit its use without lessening the performance or accuracy of the determination. Reagent chemicals shall be used for all tests.

NOTE 1—Calibration and detection limits of this test method can be biased by the purity of the reagents.

6.2 *Ammonium Hydroxide*—25 % to 28 %, CAS (1336-21-6).

6.3 *Phosphoric Acid*—HPLC grade, CAS (7664-38-2).

6.4 *Acetonitrile*—HPLC grade, CAS (75-05-8). (**Warning**—Acetonitrile is flammable and hazardous in case of skin or eye contact, ingestion, or inhalation.)

6.5 *Water*—Type I or type II reagent water conforming to Specification **D1193**.

6.6 *Ammonium Hydroxide Solution*—Ammonium hydroxide mixed with water as 1:1 (V:V).

6.7 *PTA Standard for Calibration*—A certified PTA calibration standard with known amounts of 4-CBA and *p*-TOL is required. If it is not commercially available, please refer to **Annex A1** for determining the concentrations of 4-CBA and *p*-TOL in a PTA sample. The calibrated PTA sample can be served as a PTA calibration standard.

6.8 *0.06 % H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> Solution*—Pipette 0.6 mL H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> into a 1000 mL volumetric flask with 900 mL of water and make up to the mark with water to give 0.06 % H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> solution.

NOTE 2—It is recommended to degas and filter the mobile phase before use; degassing can be done conveniently, on-line or off-line by helium sparging, vacuum degassing or ultrasonic agitation.

## 7. Hazards

7.1 Consult current federal regulations, supplier's Safety Data Sheets, and local regulations for all materials used in this test method.

## 8. Sampling, Test Specimens, and Test Units

8.1 Use only representative samples obtained as described in EN ISO 8213, unless otherwise specified.

## 9. Preparation of Apparatus

9.1 Set up the pump, sample injection system, column, oven, detector, and chromatography data system in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Adjust the instrument to the recommended conditions described in **Table 1**, allowing sufficient time for the equipment to reach equilibrium which is

<sup>5</sup> *ACS Reagent Chemicals, Specifications and Procedures for Reagents and Standard-Grade Reference Materials*, 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.

indicated by a stable horizontal baseline. For a new column, 4 h to 6 h of equilibration time may be required.

NOTE 3—Separation between peaks of 4-CBA and PTA can be optimized by carefully varying the aqueous-organic ratio and flow rate.

NOTE 4—It has been found for a reverse-phase HPLC, separation between 4-CBA and PTA can be improved by adding a certain amount of trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) in acetonitrile water solution as a mobile phase.

## 10. Calibration

### 10.1 Isocratic Elution Mode:

10.1.1 Weigh, to the nearest 0.0001 g, about 0.5 g of PTA standard in a 25 mL beaker; add 3 mL of ammonium hydroxide solution, and 7 mL water to dissolve PTA completely. Then accurately transfer the resulting solution to a 250 mL volumetric flask, and dilute with water to the mark. Inject 20 μL of the calibration standard solution into chromatograph for analysis. Record chromatogram and peak area values for 4-CBA and *p*-TOL respectively with data system.

### 10.2 Gradient Elution Mode:

10.2.1 Weigh, to the nearest 0.0001 g, about 0.5 g of PTA standard in a 25 mL beaker; add 3 mL of ammonium hydroxide solution, and 7 mL water to dissolve PTA completely. Then quantitatively transfer the resulting solution into a 50 mL volumetric flask, and dilute with water to the mark. Inject 20 μL of the calibration standard solution into chromatograph for analysis. Record chromatogram and peak area values for 4-CBA and *p*-TOL respectively with data system.

NOTE 5—It is recommended that a calibration standard be run after every ten samples to check the stability of the chromatograph system.

## 11. Procedure

### 11.1 Isocratic Elution Mode:

11.1.1 Weigh, to the nearest 0.0001 g, about 0.5 g of PTA sample, repeat the remaining steps in 10.1, and record peak area values of 4-CBA and *p*-TOL respectively. After each analysis, rinse the column with mobile phase until the baseline is stabilized for the next run. The representative chromatograms of a PTA sample are shown in Fig. 1.

### 11.2 Gradient Elution Mode:

11.2.1 Weigh, to the nearest 0.0001 g, about 0.5 g of PTA sample in a 25 mL beaker; add 3 mL of ammonium hydroxide solution, and 7 mL water to dissolve PTA completely. Then quantitatively transfer the resulting solution into a 50 mL volumetric flask, and dilute with water to the mark. Inject 20 μL of the sample solution into chromatograph for analysis. Record chromatogram and peak area values for 4-CBA and *p*-TOL respectively with data system. After each analysis, rinse the column with mobile phase until the baseline is stabilized for the next run. The representative chromatograms of a PTA sample is shown in Fig. 2.

## 12. Calculation

12.1 Calculate the concentration of 4-CBA or *p*-TOL in mg/kg, using the following equation:

$$X = \frac{m_s \cdot A \cdot C_s}{m \cdot A_s} \quad (1)$$

where:

*X* = concentration of 4-CBA or *p*-TOL in the PTA sample, mg/kg,

*A* = peak area of 4-CBA or *p*-TOL in the PTA sample,

*m* = weight of the PTA sample, g,

*A<sub>s</sub>* = peak area of 4-CBA or *p*-TOL in the PTA standard,

*C<sub>s</sub>* = concentration of 4-CBA or *p*-TOL in the PTA standard, mg/kg,

*m<sub>s</sub>* = weight of the PTA standard, g.

## 13. Report

13.1 Report the value of 4-CBA or *p*-TOL content in mg/kg, to the nearest 1.0 mg/kg.

13.2 Report the following information in the report:

13.2.1 The complete identification of the sample tested.

13.2.2 Any deviation from the procedure specified (for example, detailed description of column and operating conditions).

13.2.3 Results of the test.

13.2.4 Any abnormal situations observed during the test.

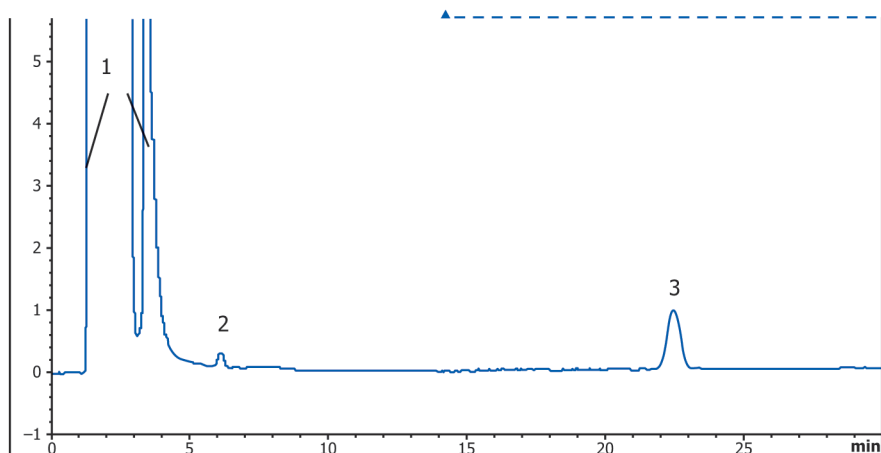


FIG. 1 Chromatogram of a PTA Sample (Reverse Phase HPLC)  
1 – PTA, 2 – 4-CBA, 3 – *p*-TOL