



Designation: D 6851 – 02

Standard Test Method for Determination of Contact pH with Activated Carbon¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D 6851; 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 D 3838 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 and health practices and to determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*

D 1193 Specification for Reagent Water²

D 1293 Test Methods for pH of water²

D 3838 Test Method for pH of Activated Carbon³

E 300 Practice for Sampling Industrial Chemicals⁴

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 D 3838; 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 Method D 1293.

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, and/or pH 10.0

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.

9. Sampling, Test Specimens, and Test Units

9.1 Follow Practice E 300 in the collection and preparation of samples.

10. Preparation of Apparatus

10.1 Use the procedure of Test Methods D 1293 to standardize the pH meter before measurement.

11. Calibration and Standardization

11.1 See above section.

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

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² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 11.01.

³ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 15.01.

⁴ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 15.05.