



Standard Test Method for Naphthalene Hydrocarbons in Aviation Turbine Fuels by Ultraviolet Spectrophotometry¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D 1840; 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.

This test method has been adopted for use by government agencies to replace Method 3704 of Federal Test Method Standard No. 791b.

1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers the determination, by ultraviolet spectrophotometry, of the total concentration of naphthalene, acenaphthene, and alkylated derivatives of these hydrocarbons in straight-run jet fuels containing not more than 5 % of such components and having end points below 315°C (600°F). This test method determines the maximum amount of naphthalenes that could be present.

1.2 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard. The values stated in inch-pound units are for information only.

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 and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.* For specific precautionary statements see 8.1 and 8.2.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

- E 131 Terminology Relating to Molecular Spectroscopy²
- E 169 Practices for General Techniques of Ultraviolet-Visible Quantitative Analysis²
- E 275 Practice for Describing and Measuring Performance of Ultraviolet, Visible, and Near Infrared Spectrophotometers²

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 Definitions of terms and symbols relating to absorption spectroscopy in this test method shall conform to Terminology E 131. Terms of particular significance are the following:

3.1.1.1 *radiant energy, n*—energy transmitted as electromagnetic waves.

3.1.1.2 *radiant power, P, n*—the rate at which energy is transported in a beam of radiant energy.

3.2 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.2.1 *transmittance, T, n*—the molecular property of a substance that determines its transportability of radiant power expressed by

$$T = P/P_o \quad (1)$$

where:

P = radiant power passing through the sample, and
 P_o = radiant power incident upon the sample.

3.2.2 *absorbance, A, n*—the molecular property of a substance that determines its ability to take up radiant power, expressed by

$$A = \log_{10} (1/T) = -\log_{10} T \quad (2)$$

where:

T = transmittance as defined in 3.2.1.

3.2.2.1 *Discussion*—It may be necessary to correct the observed transmittance (indicated by the spectrophotometer) by compensating for reflectance losses, solvent absorption losses, or refraction effects.

3.2.3 *absorptivity, a, n*—the specific property of a substance to absorb radiant power per unit sample concentration and pathlength, expressed by

$$a = A/bc \quad (3)$$

where:

A = absorbance defined in 3.2.2,

b = sample cell path length, and

c = quantity of absorbing substance contained in a unit volume of solvent.

3.2.3.1 *Discussion*—Quantitative ultraviolet analyses are based upon the absorption law, known as Beer's law. The law states that the absorbance of a homogeneous sample containing an absorbing substance is directly proportional to the concentration of the absorbing substance at a single wavelength, expressed by

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² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 03.06.



$$A = abc \quad (4)$$

where:

- A = absorbance as defined in 3.2.2,
- a = absorptivity as defined in 3.2.3,
- b = sample cell pathlength, and
- c = quantity of absorbing substance contained in a unit volume of solvent.

3.2.4 *sample cell pathlength, b, n*—the distance, in centimetres, measured in the direction of propagation of the beam of radiant energy, between the surfaces of the specimen on which the radiant energy is incident and the surface of the specimen from which it is emergent.

3.2.4.1 *Discussion*—This distance does not include the thickness of the cell in which the specimen is contained.

3.2.5 *concentration, c, n*—the quantity of naphthalene hydrocarbons in grams per litre of *isooctane*.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 The total concentration of naphthalenes in jet fuels is determined by measurement of the absorbance at 285 nm of a solution of the fuel at known concentration.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 This test method for naphthalene hydrocarbons is one of a group of tests used to assess the combustion characteristics of aviation turbine fuels of the kerosene boiling range. The naphthalene hydrocarbon content is determined because naphthalenes, when burned, tend to have a relatively larger contribution to a sooty flame, smoke, and thermal radiation than single ring aromatics.

6. Interferences

6.1 Interferences add to the apparent naphthalene content. Phenanthrenes, dibenzothiophenes, biphenyls, benzothiophenes, and anthracenes interfere if present. The end point limitation of 315°C will minimize this interference except for benzothiophenes and biphenyls. The contribution to measured naphthalene content by the presence of 1 % of such interfering compounds can be estimated from Table 1.

6.2 Saturated hydrocarbons, olefins, thiophenes, and alkyl or cycloalkyl derivatives of benzene will not interfere.

7. Apparatus

7.1 *Spectrophotometer*, equipped to measure the absorbance of solutions in the spectral region 240 to 300 nm with a spectral slit width of 1 nm or less. Wavelength measurements shall be repeatable and known to be accurate within 0.1 nm or less as measured by mercury emission line at 253.65 nm or the absorption spectrum of either holmium oxide glass at 287.5 nm

or holmium oxide solution at 287.1 nm. At the 0.4 absorbance level in the spectral region between 240 and 300 nm, absorbance measurements shall be repeatable within ± 0.5 % or better. In the absorbance range encompassing 0.2 to 0.8, the photometric accuracy shall not differ by more than ± 0.5 % of samples whose absorbance has been established by a standardizing laboratory.

7.1.1 *Discussion*—Many manufacturers provide secondary standards, traceable to NIST primary standards, for checking the wavelength accuracy and photometric accuracy of spectrophotometers. These materials may be used to verify spectrophotometer performance provided that they have been recalibrated periodically as recommended by the manufacturer.

7.2 It shall be initially and thereafter periodically demonstrated that an instrument can be operated in a manner to give test results equivalent to those described in 7.1.

NOTE 1—For recommended methods of testing spectrophotometers to be used in this test method, refer to Practice E 275. Other preferred alternatives to those in 7.1 are potassium dichromate in perchloric acid (NIST SRM 935 series as described in Practice E 275) for photometric accuracy and a 20 mg/L high (>99 %) purity naphthalene in spectroscopic grade *isooctane* for wavelength accuracy. The latter has a minor maximum at 285.7 nm. The naphthalene solution shall not be used for photometric accuracy.

7.3 *Vitreous Silica Cells*, two, having path lengths of 1.00 \pm 0.005 cm.

7.4 *Pipets*, Class A.

7.5 *Lens Paper*.

7.6 *Balance*, capable of taring or weighing 100 g to the nearest 0.0001 g. The balance shall be accurate to ± 0.0002 g at a 100-g load.

8. Solvents

8.1 *Spectroscopic 2,2,4 Trimethyl Pentane (Isooctane)*. (**Warning**—*Isooctane* is extremely flammable, harmful if inhaled.)

NOTE 2—Spectroscopic-grade *isooctane* is available commercially. Technical-grade *isooctane* is a satisfactory base stock for the preparation of spectroscopic solvent. Allow about 4 or 5 L of this material to percolate through a column of activated silica gel (74 μ m) 50.8 to 76.2 mm in diameter and 0.6 to 0.9 m in depth. Collect only the portion of the solvent that has a transmission compared to distilled water greater than 90 % over the entire spectral range from 240 to 300 nm. Store in scrupulously clean glass-stoppered bottles and always keep covered. In general it will be best to use a fresh portion of silica gel in preparing a new batch of solvent. However the gel can be reactivated by pouring 500 mL of acetone through the column, draining, drying by suction, and heating the gel in thin layers in an oven at 400°C until white color is restored. Activated silica gel is stored in closed containers.

8.2 *Solvents for Cleaning Cells*—Acetone or ethyl alcohol, with residue after evaporation no greater than 10 mg/kg. (**Warning**—Acetone and ethyl alcohol are extremely flammable and can be harmful if inhaled.)

NOTE 3—The 10 mg/kg is the American Chemical Society (ACS) reagent grade maximum specification. An ACS reagent grade solvent may be used without further testing.

9. Calibration and Standardization

9.1 Instead of direct calibration of the spectrophotometer with known naphthalenes, the average absorptivity of the C_{10}

TABLE 1 Interfering Compounds

Type of Interfering Compound	Error in Percentage of Naphthalenes Caused by 1 % Interfering Compound
Phenanthrenes	2
Dibenzothiophenes	2
Biphenyls	1
Benzothiophenes	0.6
Anthracenes	0.1