



## Standard Test Methods for Cyanides in Water<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D 2036; 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 These test methods cover the determination of cyanides in water. The following test methods are included:

	Sections
Test Method A—Total Cyanides after Distillation	12 to 18
Test Method B—Cyanides Amenable to Chlorination <sup>2</sup> by Difference	19 to 25
Test Method C—Weak Acid Dissociable Cyanides	26 to 32
Test Method D—Cyanides Amenable to Chlorination without Distillation (Short-Cut Method)	33 to 39

1.2 Cyanogen halides may be determined separately.

NOTE 1—Cyanogen chloride is the most common of the cyanogen halide complexes as it is a reaction product and is usually present when chlorinating cyanide-containing industrial waste water. For the presence or absence of CNCl, the spot test method given in Annex A1 can be used.

1.3 These test methods do not distinguish between cyanide ions and metalocyanide compounds and complexes. Furthermore, they do not detect the cyanates.

NOTE 2—The cyanate complexes are decomposed when the sample is acidified in the distillation procedure.

1.4 The cyanide in cyanocomplexes of gold, platinum, cobalt and some other transition metals is not completely recovered by these test methods.

1.5 Only a few organo-cyanide complexes are recovered, and those only to a minor extent.

1.6 Part or all of these test methods have been used successfully with reagent water and various waste waters. It is the user's responsibility to assure the validity of the test method for the water matrix being tested.

1.7 Separation of the cyanide from interfering substances prior to electrochemical determination (see 16.5 for ion chromatography procedure) should be conducted when using Test Method A-total cyanides after distillation or Test Method B-cyanides amenable to chlorination by the difference when sulfur, thiocyanate, or other sulfur containing compounds are present.

1.8 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the*

<sup>1</sup> These test methods are under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D-19 on Water and are the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D19.06 on Methods for Analysis for Organic Substances in Water.

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<sup>2</sup> For an explanation of the term cyanides amenable to alkaline chlorination, see Lancy, L. E. and Zabban, W., "Analytical Methods and Instrumentation for Determining Cyanogen Compounds," *Papers on Industrial Water and Industrial Waste Water, ASTM STP 337*, 1962, pp. 32–45.

*responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.* Specific hazard statements are given in Note 3, Note 4, Note 6, and Note 7, 5.1, and Section 9.

### 2. Referenced Documents

#### 2.1 ASTM Standards:

- D 1129 Terminology Relating to Water<sup>3</sup>
- D 1193 Specification for Reagent Water<sup>3</sup>
- D 2777 Practice for Determination of Precision and Bias of Applicable Methods of Committee D-19 on Water<sup>3</sup>
- D 3370 Practices for Sampling Water from Closed Conduits<sup>3</sup>
- D 3856 Guide for Good Laboratory Practices in Laboratories Engaged in Sampling and Analysis of Water<sup>3</sup>
- D 4210 Practice for Intralaboratory Quality Control Procedures and a Discussion on Reporting Low-Level Data<sup>3</sup>
- D 5788 Guide for Spiking Organics into Aqueous Samples<sup>3</sup>
- D 5789 Practice for Writing Quality Control Specifications for Standard Test Methods for Organic Constituents<sup>3</sup>
- E 60 Practice for Photometric and Spectrophotometric Methods for Chemical Analysis of Metals<sup>4</sup>
- E 275 Practice for Describing and Measuring Performance of Ultraviolet, Visible, and Near Infrared Spectrophotometers<sup>5</sup>

### 3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions—For definitions of terms used in these test methods, refer to Terminology D 1129.

#### 3.2 Abbreviations:

- 3.2.1 HPLC—High Performance Liquid Chromatography
- 3.2.2 IC—Ion Chromatography

### 4. Summary of Test Methods

4.1 The cyanide as hydrocyanic acid (HCN) is released from compounds by means of reflux distillation and absorbed in sodium hydroxide solution. The conditions used for the distillation distinguish the type of cyanide. The sodium cyanide in the absorbing solution can be determined colorimetrically, by titration or by selective ion electrode.

<sup>3</sup> *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 11.01.

<sup>4</sup> *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 03.05.

<sup>5</sup> *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 03.06.

4.2 Test Method A, Total Cyanides, is based on the decomposition of nearly all cyanides in the presence of strong acid, magnesium chloride catalyst, and heat during a 1-h reflux distillation.

4.3 Test Method B, Cyanide Amenable to Chlorination, is based on chlorinating a portion of the sample under controlled conditions followed by the determination of total cyanide in both the original and chlorinated samples. Cyanides amenable to chlorination are calculated by difference.

4.3.1 This test method can be affected by compounds that are converted during chlorination to color-producing compounds or react with the reagents used, and cause interference in the procedure employed to determine cyanide in the absorption solution.

4.4 Test Method C, Weak Acid Dissociable Cyanides, is based on the decomposition of cyanides in the presence of weak acid, zinc acetate and heat during a 1-h reflux distillation.

4.5 Test Method D, Cyanide Amenable to Chlorination without Distillation, is a direct colorimetric procedure.

4.6 The minimum concentration of cyanide in the absorption solution that can be accurately determined colorimetrically is 0.005 mg/L, by titration 0.4 mg/L and by selective ion electrode 0.05 mg/L. Pretreatment including distillation tends to increase these concentrations to a degree determined by the amount of manipulation required and the type of sample.

4.7 Round-robin data indicate the following minimum concentrations: colorimetric 0.03 mg/L; titration 1.0 mg/L; and selective ion electrode 0.03 mg/L.

## 5. Significance and Use

5.1 Cyanide is highly toxic. Regulations have been established to require the monitoring of cyanide in industrial and domestic wastes and in surface waters (Appendix X1).

5.2 Test Method D is applicable for natural water and clean metal finishing or heat treatment effluents. It may be used for process control in wastewater treatment facilities providing its applicability has been validated by Test Method B or C.

5.3 The spot test outlined in Annex A1 can be used to detect cyanide and thiocyanate in water or wastewater, and to approximate its concentration.

## 6. Interferences

6.1 Common interferences in the analysis for cyanide include oxidizing agents, sulfides, aldehydes, glucose and other sugars, high concentration of carbonate, fatty acids, thiocyanate, and other sulfur containing compounds.

6.2 It is beyond the scope of these test methods to describe

procedures for overcoming all of the possible interferences that may be encountered.

6.3 When the procedures must be revised to meet specific requirements, recovery data must be obtained by the addition of known amounts of cyanide to the sample.

## 7. Apparatus

7.1 *Distillation Apparatus*—The reaction vessel shall be a 1-L round bottom flask, with provision for an inlet tube and a condenser. The inlet tube shall be a funnel with an 8-mm diameter stem that extends to within 6 mm of the bottom of the flask. The condenser, which is recommended, shall be a reflux-type, cold finger, or Allihn. The condenser shall be connected to a vacuum-type absorber which shall be in turn connected to a vacuum line which has provision for fine control. The flask shall be heated with an electric heater. Examples of the apparatus are shown in Fig. 1. Equivalent apparatus is acceptable provided cyanide recoveries of  $100 \pm 4\%$  are documented.

7.2 *Spectrophotometer or Filter Photometer*, suitable for measurement in the region of 578 nm, using 1.0-, 2.0-, 5.0-, and 10.0-cm absorption cells. Filter photometers and photometric practices used in these test methods shall conform to Practice E 60. Spectrophotometers shall conform to Practice E 275.

7.3 *Selective Ion Meter*, or a pH meter with expanded millivolt scale equipped with a cyanide activity electrode and a reference electrode.

7.4 *Mixer*, magnetic, with a TFE-fluorocarbon-coated stirring bar.

7.5 *Buret*, Koch, micro, 2- or 5-mL, calibrated in 0.01 mL.

7.6 *Ion Chromatograph*, high performance ion chromatograph equipped with a 10- $\mu$ L sample solution injection device and pulsed-electrochemical detector.

7.7 *Chromatography Column*, Dionex IonPac AS7 anion-exchange, 4  $\times$  250 mm and matching guard column or equivalent.

## 8. Reagents and Materials

8.1 *Purity of Reagents*—Reagent grade chemicals shall be used in all tests. Unless otherwise indicated, it is intended that all reagents shall conform to the specifications of the Committee on Analytical Reagents of the American Chemical Society,

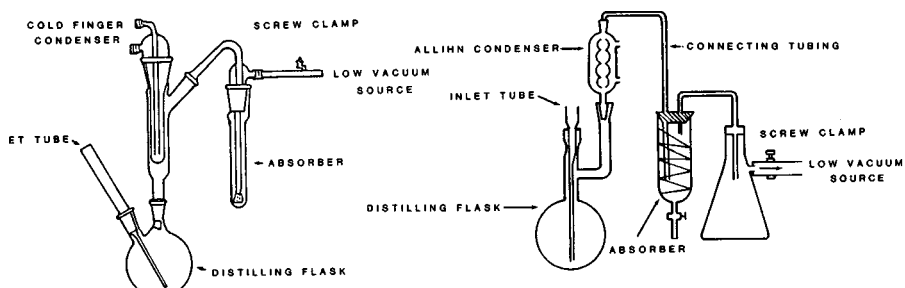


FIG. 1 Cyanide Distillation Apparatus

where such specifications are available.<sup>6</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 accuracy of the determination.

8.2 *Purity of Water*—Unless otherwise indicated, references to water shall be understood to mean reagent water conforming to Type II grade of Specification D 1193.

8.3 *Acetic Acid* (1 + 9)—Mix 1 volume of glacial acetic acid with 9 volumes of water.

8.4 *Acetate Buffer*—Dissolve 410 g of sodium acetate trihydrate ( $\text{NaC}_2\text{H}_3\text{O}_2 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) in 500 mL of water. Add glacial acetic acid to yield a solution pH of 4.5, approximately 500 mL.

8.5 *Barbituric Acid*.

8.6 *Calcium Hypochlorite Solution* (50 g/L)—Dissolve 5 g of calcium hypochlorite ( $\text{Ca}(\text{OCl})_2$ ) in 100 mL of water. Store the solution in an amber glass bottle in the dark. Prepare fresh monthly.

8.7 *Chloramine-T Solution* (10 g/L)—Dissolve 1.0 g of the white-colored, water-soluble grade powder chloramine-T in 100 mL of water. Prepare fresh weekly.

8.8 *Cyanide Solution, Stock* (1 mL = 250  $\mu\text{g CN}^-$ )—Dissolve 0.6258 g of potassium cyanide (KCN) (**Warning**—see Note 3) in 40 mL of sodium hydroxide solution (40 g/L). Dilute to 1 L with water. Mix thoroughly. Standardize with standard silver nitrate solution following the titration procedure (see 16.2).

NOTE 3—**Warning**—Because KCN is highly toxic, avoid contact or inhalation (see Section 9).

8.8.1 *Cyanide I Solution, Standard* (1 mL = 25  $\mu\text{g CN}^-$ )—Dilute a calculated volume (approximately 100 mL) of KCN stock solution to 1 L with NaOH solution (1.6 g/L).

8.8.2 *Cyanide II Solution, Standard* (1 mL = 2.5  $\mu\text{g CN}^-$ )—Dilute exactly 100 mL of KCN standard solution I to 1 L with NaOH solution (1.6 g/L).

8.8.3 *Cyanide III Solution, Standard* (1 mL = 0.25  $\mu\text{g CN}^-$ )—Dilute exactly 100 mL of KCN standard solution II to 1 L with NaOH solution (1.6 g/L). Prepare fresh solution daily and protect from light.

8.8.4 *Cyanide IV Solution, Standard* (1 mL = 0.025  $\mu\text{g CN}^-$ )—Dilute exactly 100 mL of KCN standard solution III to 1 L with NaOH solution (1.6 g/L). Prepare fresh solution daily and protect from light.

8.9 *Hydrogen Peroxide Solution, 3 %*—Dilute 10 mL of 30 % hydrogen peroxide ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ ) to 100 mL. Prepare fresh weekly.

8.10 *Isooctane, Hexane, Chloroform* (solvent preference in the order named).

8.11 *Lead Carbonate* ( $\text{PbCO}_3$ ), *Lead Acetate* ( $\text{Pb}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_3\text{O}_2)_2 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ), or *Lead Nitrate* ( $\text{Pb}(\text{NO}_3)_2$ )—Lead acetate and lead nitrate can be put in solution with water, if desired, at a suggested concentration of 50 g/L.

8.12 *Lime, hydrate* ( $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$ ), powder.

8.13 *Magnesium Chloride Solution*—Dissolve 510 g of magnesium chloride ( $\text{MgCl}_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) in water and dilute to 1 L.

8.14 *Potassium Iodide-Starch Test Paper*.

8.15 *Pyridine-Barbituric Acid Reagent*—Place 15 g of barbituric acid in a 250-mL volumetric flask and add just enough water to wash the sides of the flask and wet the barbituric acid. Add 75 mL of pyridine and mix. Add 15 mL of hydrochloric acid (sp gr 1.19), mix, and cool to room temperature. Dilute to volume with water and mix until all of the barbituric acid is dissolved. This solution is usable for about 6 months if stored in a cold dark place.

8.16 *Rhodanine Indicator Solution* (0.2 g/L)—Dissolve 0.02 g of (p-dimethylaminobenzylidene) in 100 mL of acetone.

8.17 *Silver Nitrate Solution, Standard* (0.01 N)—Dissolve 1.6987 g of silver nitrate ( $\text{AgNO}_3$ ) in water and dilute to 1 L. Mix thoroughly. Store in a dark container.

8.18 *Sodium Arsenite Solution* (20 g/L)—Dissolve 2 g of  $\text{NaAsO}_2$  in 100 mL of water.

NOTE 4—**Warning**—This material has appeared on lists of suspected and known carcinogens. Avoid contact with skin.

8.19 *Sodium Hydroxide Solution* (40 g/L)—Dissolve 40 g of sodium hydroxide (NaOH) in water and dilute to 1 L with water.

8.20 *Sodium Hydroxide Solution* (1.6 g/L)—Dilute 40 mL of NaOH solution (40 g/L) to 1 L.

8.21 *Sulfamic Acid Solution* (133 g/L)—Dissolve 133 g of sulfamic acid in water and dilute to 1 L.

8.22 *Sodium Thiosulfate Solution* (500 g/L)—Dissolve 785 g of sodium thiosulfate ( $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) in water and dilute to 1 L.

8.23 *Sulfuric Acid* (1 + 1)—Slowly and carefully add 1 volume of sulfuric acid ( $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$ , sp gr 1.84) to 1 volume of water, stirring and cooling the solution during the addition.

8.24 *Zinc Acetate Solution* (100 g/L)—Dissolve 120 g of zinc acetate [ $\text{Zn}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_3\text{O}_2)_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ] in 500 mL of water. Dilute to 1 L.

8.25 *IC Eluent Solution* (100 mM sodium hydroxide, 500 mM sodium acetate, and 0.5 % (v/v) ethylenediamine)—Dissolve 136.1 g of sodium acetate in 800-mL water. Transfer to a 2000-mL volumetric flask, add 10 mL of ethylenediamine, and dilute to mark. Sparge the solution with helium for 20 min. Add 10.4 mL of 50 % sodium hydroxide solution and allow the sparging to continue for an additional 5 min to mix.

8.26 *Ethylene diamine*.

8.27 *Helium*.

8.28 *Sodium Hydroxide Solution* (50 % W/W). Dissolve 100 g NaOH in 100 g of water or purchase a 50 % solution.

8.29 *Sodium Acetate*.

## 9. Hazards

9.1 **Caution**—Because of the toxicity of cyanide, great care must be exercised in its handling. Acidification of cyanide solutions produces toxic hydrocyanic acid (HCN). All manipulations must be done in the hood so that any HCN gas that might escape is safely vented.

9.2 **Warning**—Many of the reagents used in these test methods are highly toxic. These reagents and their solutions

<sup>6</sup> *Reagent Chemicals, American Chemical Society Specifications*, 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.

must be disposed of properly.

## 10. Sample and Sample Preservation

10.1 Collect the sample in accordance with Practices D 3370.

10.2 Minimize exposure of samples to ultraviolet radiation that causes photodecomposition of some metal cyanide complexes and may significantly increase the concentration of free cyanide in the sample. It is recommended that all manipulations of the sample be performed in a well-ventilated hood under incandescent light.

10.3 Oxidizing agents (chlorine) will destroy the cyanide in storage. Sulfide can convert the cyanide to thiocyanate, especially at the pH of the stabilized sample. The presence of either oxidizing agents or sulfides should be determined before the addition of sodium hydroxide preservation or further analysis.

10.3.1 *Oxidizing Agents*—Test for the presence of chlorine by placing a drop of the sample on a strip of potassium iodide-starch test paper which has been previously moistened with the acetic acid solution. Darkening (bluish) of the test paper normally indicates the presence of chlorine. (Manganese dioxide, nitrosyl chloride, etc., if present, may also cause discoloration of the test paper.) Add sodium arsenite solution dropwise to the sample and retest. In the event that a bluish discoloration is still perceptible, repeat the sodium arsenite addition.

10.3.2 *Sulfide*—Test for the presence of sulfide by placing a drop of the sample on a strip of lead acetate test paper which has been previously moistened with the acetic acid solution. Darkening of the test paper indicates the presence of sulfide. The presence of sulfide can be assumed to indicate the absence of oxidizing agents in the sample. Sulfide is removed by treating the sample with small increments of powdered lead carbonate or with the dropwise addition of lead nitrate or lead acetate solution. Black lead sulfide precipitates in samples containing sulfide. Repeat the operation until no more lead sulfide forms, as indicated by testing the supernatant liquid with lead acetate test paper. Immediately filter through dry paper into a dry beaker and stabilize the sample according to 10.4 or 10.5.

10.4 If the sample cannot be analyzed immediately, stabilize it by the addition of sodium hydroxide (NaOH) pellets to a pH of 12 to 12.5 and store it in a closed bottle (dark bottle if available) in a dark and cool environment.

NOTE 5—It has been determined that the use of hydrated lime,  $\text{Ca}(\text{CO}_3)_2$ , for the stabilization of effluents high in carbonate content lowers the recovery of total cyanide from samples. The task group responsible for this standard is pursuing further revision to this section.

## 11. Elimination of Interferences

11.1 The following treatments are for the removal or reduction of substances that can interfere in the various methods. Care must be taken to keep time of pretreatment at a minimum to avoid loss of cyanide (see 9.1).

11.2 Fatty acids that distill and form soaps in the absorption solution can be removed by extraction. Acidify the sample with dilute (1 + 9) acetic acid to a pH 6 to 7, ( **Caution**—see Note 6). Extract with *isooctane*, hexane or chloroform (preference in order named), with a solvent volume equal to 20 % of the

sample volume. One extraction is usually sufficient to reduce the fatty acids below the interference level. Avoid multiple extractions or a long contact time at low pH in order to keep the loss of HCN to a minimum. When the extraction is complete, immediately raise the pH of the sample to 12 to 12.5 with NaOH solution.

NOTE 6—**Caution:** Perform this operation in the hood and leave the sample there until it is made alkaline after the extraction.

11.3 Aldehydes combine with cyanides to form cyanohydrins which can hydrolyze to acids under distillation conditions. Hydrogen cyanide is not liberated and is not available for quantitative determination in the absorption solution. The formation of cyanohydrins also interferes in the direct colorimetric determination (Test Method D and spot test). Identification and removal of aldehydes is described in Appendix X2.

11.3.1 Glucose and other sugars if present in the sample can also form cyanohydrins with cyanide at the pH of preservation.

11.4 Carbonate in high concentration can affect the distillation procedure by causing the violent release of carbon dioxide with excessive foaming when acid is added prior to distillation, and by lowering the pH of the absorption solution. Calcium hydroxide is added slowly with stirring to a pH of 12 to 12.5. After the precipitate settles, the supernatant liquid is decanted and used for the determination of cyanide.

11.4.1 However, if the sample contains insoluble complex cyanide compounds, they will not be included in the determination. In this event, a measured amount of well-mixed treated sample can be filtered quantitatively through a glass-fiber or a membrane filter (47-mm or less). The filter is rinsed with dilute (1 + 9) acetic acid until the effervescence ceases, and the entire filter with the insoluble material is added to the filtrate prior to distillation.

11.5 Nitrite and nitrate in the sample can react under conditions of the distillation with other contaminants present to form cyanides. The addition of an excess of sulfamic acid to the sample prior to the addition of sulfuric acid will eliminate this interference.

11.6 Thiocyanate and other sulfur containing compounds can decompose during distillation. Sulfur, hydrogen sulfide, sulfur dioxide, etc., formed can be distilled into the absorption solution. The addition of lead ion to the absorption solution before distillation followed by filtration of the solution before the titration or the colorimetric procedure is used will eliminate sulfur and sulfide interference. Absorbed sulfur dioxide forms sodium sulfite which reacts with chloramine-T in the colorimetric determination. Test for the presence of chloramine-T by placing a drop of solution on a strip of potassium iodide test paper previously moistened with dilute acetic acid. If the test is negative, add chloramine-T until a positive test is obtained.

11.6.1 Cyanide can be measured in the presence of sulfur containing compounds by using IC to separate the interferences from the cyanide (16.5).

11.7 Thiocyanate in the presence of ferric ion is quantitatively determined by the colorimetric procedure. Test Method D outlines a procedure for masking any cyanide amenable to chlorination in order to determine thiocyanate by difference.

11.8 Substances which contribute color or turbidity interfere with Test Method D.

## TEST METHOD A—TOTAL CYANIDES AFTER DISTILLATION

NOTE 7—**Warning:** Add slowly; heat is generated and foaming may occur.

### 12. Scope

12.1 This test method covers the determination of cyanides in water, including the iron cyanide complexes (total cyanide).

12.2 The cyanide in some cyano complexes of transition metals, for example, cobalt, gold, platinum, etc., is not determined.

12.3 Either the titration, colorimetric or selective ion electrode procedure can be used to quantify the cyanide concentration.

12.4 This test method has been used successfully on reagent and surface water and coke plant, refinery, and sanitary waste waters. It is the user's responsibility to assure the validity of the test method for the water matrix being tested.

### 13. Interferences

13.1 All the chemical compounds listed in Section 6 can interfere.

13.2 For the removal of these interferences, proceed as instructed in Sections 10 and 11.

### 14. Apparatus

14.1 The schematic arrangement of the distillation system is shown in Fig. 1.

14.2 For the required apparatus, refer to Section 7.

### 15. Reagents and Materials

15.1 Refer to Section 8.

### 16. Procedure

#### 16.1 Distillation Procedure:

16.1.1 Set up the apparatus as shown in Fig. 1.

16.1.2 Add 10.0 mL of NaOH solution (40 g/L) to the absorber. Dilute with water to obtain an adequate depth of liquid. Do not use more than 225 mL of total volume in the absorber.

16.1.3 Attach the absorber to the vacuum and connect to the condenser.

16.1.4 Place 500 mL of the sample in the flask. If cyanide content is suspected to be more than 10 mg/L, use an aliquot so that no more than 5 mg of cyanide is in the distilling flask and dilute to 500 mL with water. Annex A1 describes a procedure for establishing the approximate cyanide content. Verify a negative reaction in the spot-plate technique by using 500 mL of the sample.

16.1.5 Connect the flask to the condenser.

16.1.6 Turn on the vacuum and adjust the air flow to approximately 1 bubble per second entering the boiling flask through the air-inlet tube.

16.1.7 Add 20 mL of magnesium chloride solution (8.13) through the air inlet tube. If the sample contains nitrite or nitrate, add 15 mL of sulfamic acid solution (8.21).

16.1.8 Rinse the air-inlet tube with a few mL of water and allow the air flow to mix the content of the flask for approximately 3 min.

16.1.9 Carefully add 50 mL of H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> solution (1 + 1) through the air-inlet tube.

16.1.10 Turn on the condenser cooling water. Heat the solution to boiling, taking care to prevent the solution from backing into the air-inlet tube.

16.1.11 Maintain the air flow as in 16.1.6.

16.1.12 Reflux for 1 h.

16.1.13 Turn off the heat, but maintain the air flow for at least an additional 15 min.

16.1.14 Quantitatively transfer the absorption solution into a 250-mL volumetric flask. Rinse absorber and its connecting tubes sparingly with water and add to the volumetric flask.

16.1.15 Dilute to volume with water and mix thoroughly.

16.1.16 Determine the concentration of cyanide in the absorption solution by one of the four procedures (16.2, 16.3, 16.4, or 16.5).

#### 16.2 Titration Procedure:

16.2.1 Place 100 mL of the absorption solution or an accurately measured aliquot diluted to 100 mL with NaOH solution (1.6 g/L) in a flask or beaker.

16.2.2 Add 0.5 mL of rhodanine indicator solution.

16.2.3 Titrate with standard silver nitrate solution (8.17) using a microburet to the first change from yellow to salmon pink.

16.2.4 Titrate a blank of 100 mL of NaOH solution (1.6 g/L) (8.20).

16.2.5 Record the results of the titration and calculate the cyanide concentration in the original samples according to Eq 1 (17.1).

#### 16.3 Colorimetric Procedure:

##### 16.3.1 Standardization:

16.3.1.1 Prepare a series of cyanide standards based on the cell path which is used (Table 1). For this purpose use 50-mL glass-stoppered volumetric flasks or graduated cylinders.

16.3.1.2 Follow 16.3.2.2 through 16.3.2.6 of the procedure.

16.3.1.3 Calculate the absorption factor (17.2.1).

##### 16.3.2 Procedure:

16.3.2.1 Pipet an aliquot of the absorption liquid, such that the concentration falls within the standardization range, into a 50-mL glass-stoppered volumetric flask or graduated cylinder.

16.3.2.2 Dilute to 40 mL with the NaOH solution (1.6 g/L).

16.3.2.3 Place 40 mL of NaOH solution (1.6 g/L) in a flask

**TABLE 1 Guide for Selection of Appropriate Cell Paths**

Standard Solution No.	Millilitres of Standard Solution	Final Concentration, $\mu\text{g}$ CN/mL	Cell Length, cm		
	50 mL		1.0	5.0	10.0
IV	5.0	0.0025			X
IV	10.0	0.0050		X	X
IV	15.0	0.0075		X	X
IV	20.0	0.0100		X	X
IV	25.0	0.0125		X	X
IV	30.0	0.0150		X	X
IV	40.0	0.0200		X	
III	5.0	0.0250	X	X	
III	10.0	0.0500	X		
III	15.0	0.0750	X		
III	20.0	0.1000	X		
III	25.0	0.1250	X		
III	30.0	0.1500	X		
	0.0 (blank)		X	X	X

or cylinder for a blank. (Carry out the following steps of the procedure on the blank also.)

16.3.2.4 Add 1 mL of chloramine-T solution and 1 mL of acetate buffer, stopper, mix by inversion two or three times, and allow to stand for exactly 2 min.

16.3.2.5 Add 5 mL of pyridine-barbituric acid reagent, dilute to volume with water, mix thoroughly, and allow to stand exactly 8 min for color development.

16.3.2.6 Measure at the absorbance maximum at 578 nm. Measure absorbance (A) versus water.

16.3.2.7 Calculate the concentration of cyanide (mg CN/L) in the original sample following equations given in 17.2.

#### 16.4 Selective Ion Electrode Procedure:

##### 16.4.1 Standardization:

16.4.1.1 Place 100-mL aliquots of standard solutions I, II, III, and IV in 250-mL beakers.

16.4.1.2 Follow 16.4.2.2 and 16.4.2.3.

16.4.1.3 Pipet 10- and 50-mL aliquots of standard solution IV into 250-mL beakers and dilute to 100 mL with NaOH solution (1.6 g/L).

16.4.1.4 Follow 16.4.2.2 and 16.4.2.3 of the procedure, starting with the lowest concentration.

16.4.1.5 Plot concentration values of the standardizing solutions on the logarithmic axis of semilogarithmic graph paper versus the potentials developed in the standardizing solutions on the linear axis. Follow manufacturer's instructions for direct-reading ion meters.

##### 16.4.2 Procedure:

16.4.2.1 Place 100 mL of the absorption solution (or an accurately measured aliquot diluted to 100 mL with NaOH solution (1.6 g/L)) in a 250-mL beaker.

NOTE 8—Check a small portion of the solution for sulfide. If it is present, add either the  $\text{PbCO}_3$  or  $\text{Pb}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_3\text{O}_2)_2$  before inserting the electrodes.

16.4.2.2 Place the beaker on a magnetic stirrer, place a TFE-fluorocarbon-coated stirring bar in the solution, stir at a predetermined constant rate, and maintain constant temperature.

16.4.2.3 Insert the cyanide specific ion electrode and the reference electrode in the solution and measure potential or the cyanide concentration following the manufacturer's instructions.

16.4.2.4 Use values found from the graph or direct-reading ion meter to calculate the concentration in the original sample following Eq 5 (17.3).

#### 16.5 Ion Chromatography Procedure:

##### 16.5.1 Standardization:

16.5.1.1 Place 2-mL of standard solutions I, II, III, and IV into HPLC autosampler vials if using an autosampler, or other capped glass vial if using a manual injector.

16.5.1.2 Follow 16.5.2.1 through 16.5.2.4 to standardize the IC detector response by injection of 10  $\mu\text{L}$  of each standard solution.

NOTE 9—A 10- $\mu\text{L}$  injection was used for the interlaboratory study. Other levels can be used provided the analyst confirms the precision and bias is equivalent with that generated using the 10- $\mu\text{L}$  injection.

16.5.1.3 Measure the area under the cyanide peak. This is the detector response.

16.5.1.4 Plot concentration values of the standard solution versus detector response. Follow manufacturer's instruction for IC systems with computer controlled data stations.

##### 16.5.2 Procedure:

16.5.2.1 Set the ion chromatograph to operate at the following conditions or as required for instrument being used:

(a) *Flow Rate*: 1.0 mL/min.

(b) *Pulsed-Electrochemical Detector* operated in a dc amperometric mode with a silver-working-electrode set at  $-0.05$  V in relation to a standard Ag/AgCl-reference electrode or an equivalent detector.

(c) *Column*, Dionex IonPac As 10 anion-exchange,  $4 \times 250$  mm and matching guard column or equivalent.

(d) *Temperature*: Ambient.

(e) *Sample size*: 10  $\mu\text{L}$ .

16.5.2.2 Prime the IC pump and ensure that the flow rate is 1.0 mL/min. Allow the detector to warm up for 30-60 min to stabilize the baseline.

16.5.2.3 Inject 10- $\mu\text{L}$  of sample solution into the IC system.

16.5.2.4 Cyanide will elute in the retention time frame of 7.5-9.0 min depending upon column effective equivalency, eluant preparation, and temperature effects. Sulfide will elute in the 4.0-6.0 min time frame and will pose no interference with the cyanide analysis.

16.5.2.5 Measure the area under the cyanide peak. This is the detector response.

16.5.2.6 Use values found from the graph or data station to calculate the concentration in the original sample following Eq 5 (17.3).

## 17. Calculation

17.1 *Titration Procedure*—Calculate the concentration in milligrams of CN per litre in the original sample using Eq 1:

$$\text{mg CN/L} = [(A - B) \times N \text{ AgNO}_3 \times 0.052/\text{mL original sample}] \times (250/\text{mL aliquot used}) \times 10^6 \quad (1)$$

where:

A = AgNO<sub>3</sub> solution to titrate sample, mL, and

B = AgNO<sub>3</sub> solution to titrate blank, mL.

17.2 *Colorimetric Procedure*—Calculate the concentration in milligrams of CN per litre as follows:

17.2.1 *Slope and Intercept of Standard Curve*—Calculate the slope on the standard curve, *m*, and the intercept on *c*-axis, *b*, using Eq 2 and Eq 3, respectively:

$$m = \frac{n\sum ca - \sum c\sum a}{n\sum a^2 - (\sum a)^2} \quad (2)$$

$$b = \frac{\sum a^2\sum c - \sum a\sum ac}{n\sum a^2 - (\sum a)^2} \quad (3)$$

where:

*a* = absorbance of standard solution,

*c* = concentration of CN<sup>-</sup> in standard, mg/L, and

*n* = number of standard solutions.

17.2.1.1 the blank concentration, 0.0 mg CN<sup>-</sup>/L, and the absorbance of the blank must be included in the calculation of slope and intercept.

17.2.2 *Concentration*—Calculate the concentration of cyanides using Eq 4: