



Designation: D4584 – 05

Standard Test Method for Measuring Apparent pH of Electrocoat Baths¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D4584; 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 test method covers the measurement of the free hydrogen ion concentration of electrocoat baths and their ultrafiltrates.

1.2 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard. The values given in parentheses 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.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

D1193 Specification for Reagent Water

D1293 Test Methods for pH of Water

E70 Test Method for pH of Aqueous Solutions With the Glass Electrode

E180 Practice for Determining the Precision of ASTM Methods for Analysis and Testing of Industrial and Specialty Chemicals

3. Summary of Test Method

3.1 A specimen of a well-agitated electrocoat bath is placed in a stirrer-equipped container and the pH measured with a pH meter and associated glass and reference electrodes.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 The pH is the measure of the free hydrogen ion concentration of a sample, and it indicates whether an electrocoat bath is acidic, neutral, or basic. Since pH measurements of good precision are made in aqueous solutions, it is suggested

that the pH measurements of electrocoat baths are only semi-quantitative, and therefore such measurements should be referred to as apparent pH measurements.

4.2 The pH of electrocoat paints is used for research, production, and quality control or electrocoat bath process control.

4.3 Other related methods for determining the pH of water or aqueous systems are described in Test Methods D1293 and E70.

5. Apparatus

5.1 *pH Meter,*

5.2 *Glass and Reference Electrodes.*

NOTE 1—Due to the polarity of electrocoat materials it is desirable to use a separate set of electrodes for each bath polarity, cathodic and anodic, because a bath of opposite polarity poisons the electrodes. A desired practice is to rinse the electrodes after each measurement with an appropriate solvent for the electrocoat material.

5.3 *Thermometer,* capable of 0.5°C accuracy with a – 2 to 32°C range.

6. Reagents

6.1 *Reference Standard Solutions,* commercial standards of pH 4.0, 7.0, and 10.0.

6.2 *Purity of Water*—References to water shall be understood to mean water conforming to Type II of Specification D1193.

7. Sampling and Sample Preparation

7.1 The sample should be obtained while the electrocoat bath is under proper circulation so that a uniform material is obtained. In case of an ultrafiltrate, the material should be thoroughly mixed or stirred prior to sampling to assure uniformity.

7.2 After sampling and prior to removing a test specimen it is mandatory that the sample be shaken or stirred until it is homogeneous and free of any settled material. This is particularly important if there is any delay between the sampling of the bath and the preparation of the specimens for the test. The absence of settled material can be ascertained visually (in a transparent container) or by inserting a spatula, scraping the bottom of the container to make sure that there is no settled

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D01 on Paint and Related Coatings, Materials, and Applications and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D01.21 on Chemical Analysis of Paints and Paint Materials.

Current edition approved Jan. 1, 2005. Published February 2005. Originally approved in 1986. Last previous edition approved in 1999 as D4584 - 86 (1999). DOI: 10.1520/D4584-05.

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.