



Designation: D5472 – 93(Reapproved 2005)

Standard Test Method for Determining Specific Capacity and Estimating Transmissivity at the Control Well¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This test describes a procedure for conducting a specific capacity test, computing the specific capacity of a control well, and estimating the transmissivity in the vicinity of the control well. Specific capacity is the well yield per unit drawdown at an identified time after pumping started.

1.2 This test method is used in conjunction with Test Method D4050 for conducting withdrawal and injection well tests.

1.3 The method of determining transmissivity from specific capacity is a variation of the nonequilibrium method of Theis (1) for determining transmissivity and storage coefficient of an aquifer. The Theis nonequilibrium method is given in Test Method D4106.

1.4 *Limitations*—The limitations of the technique for determining transmissivity are primarily related to the correspondence between the field situation and the simplifying assumptions of the Theis method.

1.5 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard.

1.6 This standard may involve hazardous materials, operations, and equipment. This standard does not address safety problems 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

D653 Terminology Relating to Soil, Rock, and Contained Fluids

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D18 on Soil and Rock and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D18.21 on Groundwater and Vadose Zone Investigations.

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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.

D4050 Test Method for (Field Procedure) for Withdrawal and Injection Well Tests for Determining Hydraulic Properties of Aquifer Systems

D4106 Test Method for (Analytical Procedure) for Determining Transmissivity and Storage Coefficient of Non-leaky Confined Aquifers by the Theis Nonequilibrium Method

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 *aquifer, confined*—an aquifer bounded above and below by confining beds and in which the static head is above the top of the aquifer.

3.1.2 *aquifer, unconfined*—an aquifer that has a water table.

3.1.3 *control well*—well by which the head and flow in the aquifer is changed by pumping, injecting, or imposing a constant change of head.

3.1.4 *head, static*—the height above a standard datum of the surface of a column of water that can be supported by the static pressure at a given point.

3.1.5 *hydraulic conductivity*—(field aquifer test) the volume of water at the existing kinematic viscosity that will move in a unit time under a unit hydraulic gradient through a unit area measured at right angles to the direction of flow.

3.1.6 *observation well*—a well open to all or part of an aquifer, and used to make measurements.

3.1.7 *specific capacity*—well yield per unit drawdown at an identified time after pumping started.

3.1.8 *storage coefficient*—the volume of water an aquifer releases from or takes into storage per unit surface area of the aquifer per unit change in head.

3.1.9 *transmissivity*—the volume of water at the existing kinematic viscosity that will move in a unit time under a unit hydraulic gradient through a unit width of the aquifer.

3.1.10 For definitions of other terms used in this method see Terminology, D653.

3.2 Symbols and Dimensions:

3.2.1 K —hydraulic conductivity [LT^{-1}]

3.2.2 m —saturated thickness [L]

3.2.3 Q —discharge [L^3T^{-1}]

- 3.2.4 Q/s —specific capacity [$(L^3T^{-1})L^{-1}$]
- 3.2.5 r —well radius [L]
- 3.2.6 s —drawdown [L]
- 3.2.7 S —storage coefficient [dimensionless]
- 3.2.8 T —transmissivity [L^2T^{-1}]
- 3.2.9 T' —provisional value of transmissivity [L^2T^{-1}]
- 3.2.10 t —elapsed time of pumping [T]
- 3.2.11 $u=r^2S/4Tt$ [dimensionless]
- 3.2.12 $W(u)$ —well function of “ u ” [dimensionless]
- 3.2.13 c_1 — $[W(u)/4\pi]$

4. Significance and Use

4.1 Assumptions of the Theis (1) equation affect specific capacity and transmissivity estimated from specific capacity. These assumptions are given below:

- 4.1.1 Aquifer is homogeneous and isotropic.
- 4.1.2 Aquifer is horizontal, of uniform thickness, and infinite in areal extent.
- 4.1.3 Aquifer is confined by impermeable strata on its upper and lower boundaries.
- 4.1.4 Density gradient in the flowing fluid must be negligible and the viscous resistance to flow must obey Darcy’s Law.
- 4.1.5 Control well penetrates and receives water equally from the entire thickness of the aquifer.
- 4.1.6 Control well has an infinitesimal diameter.
- 4.1.7 Control well discharges at a constant rate.
- 4.1.8 Control well operates at 100 percent efficiency.
- 4.1.9 Aquifer remains saturated throughout the duration of pumping.

4.2 Implications of Assumptions and Limitations of Method.

4.2.1 The simplifying assumptions necessary for solution of the Theis equation and application of the method are never fully met in a field test situation. The satisfactory use of the method may depend upon the application of one or more empirical correction factors being applied to the field data.

4.2.2 Generally the values of transmissivity derived from specific capacity vary from those values determined from aquifer tests utilizing observation wells. These differences may reflect 1) that specific-capacity represents the response of a small part of the aquifer near the well and may be greatly influenced by conditions near the well such as a gravel pack or graded material resulting from well development, and 2) effects of well efficiency and partial penetration.

4.2.3 The values of transmissivity estimated from specific capacity data are considered less accurate than values obtained from analysis of drawdowns that are observed some distance from the pumped well.

5. Apparatus

5.1 Apparatus required for specific capacity testing includes control well, control well pump, discharge measuring equipment and water-level measuring equipment. The description and function requirements of this equipment is given in Test Method **D4050**.

6. Conditioning Procedures

6.1 Conditioning procedures are conducted before the test to ensure that the control well is properly equipped and that the well discharge and water-level measuring equipment is operational.

6.1.1 Equip the control well with a calibrated accumulating water meter or another type of calibrated well yield measuring device.

6.1.2 Provide the control well with a system for maintaining a constant discharge.

6.1.3 Equip control well for measuring the pretest water level (prepumping water level) and pumping water levels during the specific capacity test.

6.1.4 Measure static water level immediately before starting the pump.

6.1.5 Start pump and simultaneously measure elapsed time with a stop watch or data recorder. After 3 to 5 minutes well yield and drawdown should be measured and recorded.

6.1.6 If all the equipment is working properly, drawdown measurements can be obtained, and constant discharge maintained, the equipment check can be ended.

6.1.7 Cease pumping and allow the water level to recover to its prepumping level before the specific capacity test procedure (Section 5) is initiated.

7. Test Procedure

7.1 Initiate well discharge.

7.2 Measure the well yield and pumping water level in the control well at predetermined time intervals, for example, 2-, 5-, 10-, 20-, 30-, minutes after discharge is initiated. Adjust the discharge rate during the test to maintain discharge within 5 % of the rate planned.

7.3 While test continues make the following calculations:

7.3.1 Adjust drawdown for effects of desaturation of the aquifer, if applicable (see Section 8).

7.3.2 Determine the specific capacity (see Section 10) and estimate transmissivity (see Section 11). If well bore storage effects are negligible (see Section 9), compare the new value of T to the value used to calculate c_1 , if the value is within 10 %, the test can be terminated.

7.3.3 If control well is not screened through the entire thickness of the aquifer, estimate the transmissivity of the aquifer following procedure in Sections 11 and 12.

8. Correction of Drawdown in an Unconfined Aquifer

8.1 The Theis equation is directly applicable to confined aquifers and is suitable for use with limitations in unconfined aquifers. If the aquifer is unconfined and drawdown is less than 10 percent of the prepumping saturated thickness, little error will be introduced. If drawdown exceeds 25 percent of the prepumping saturated thickness, this test should not be used to estimate transmissivity. For unconfined aquifers with drawdown equal to 10 to 25 percent of the original saturated thickness, correct the drawdown for the effects of reduced saturated thickness by the following formula given by Jacob (2):