Designation: D3277 – 95 (Reapproved 2001)ε1

Standard Test Methods for Moisture Content of Oil-Impregnated Cellulosic Insulation [1]

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D3277; 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.

ε[1] NOTE—Editorial changes were made in April 2001.

1. Scope

1.1 These test methods cover the determination of the weight percent of water in new or aged, oil-impregnated electrical insulation. These test methods depend on solvent extraction of the water at room temperature. The range from 0.1 to 7.0 % water has been explored.

1.2 There are four test methods, A, B, C, and D. Methods A and B for thin paper and dense materials, respectively, are manual methods for solvent extraction of water from the specimens. Titration is used to determine the amount of water. Method C uses automatic titration to determine the amount of water. Method D is a direct automated method for extraction and detection of the water.

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]

D1533 Test Method for Water in Insulating Liquids by Coulometric Karl Fischer Titration

3. Summary of Test Methods

3.1 These test methods depend on solvent extraction of the moisture at room temperature and Karl Fischer titration (see Test Methods D1533). For paper insulation 0.010 in. (0.25 mm) thick and less, extraction is accomplished by stirring the solvent with small pieces of insulation. In the special case of dense, thick sections, such as pressboard, the extraction rate is increased by delaminating thick sections and pulping the sample in a blender.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 Moisture has an adverse effect on the dielectric strength, dielectric loss, dc resistivity, and aging characteristics of oil-impregnated cellulosic insulating materials.

4.2 When cellulosic insulation such as paper and pressboard are impregnated with and immersed in oil, there is an interchange of moisture between the cellulose and oil until they attain equilibrium with respect to their relative saturations with moisture.

4.3 Considerable care should be taken in using these test methods to measure the water content of dry (<0.5 %) paper and board. Contamination of material by water from the surroundings during sampling and handling may be both rapid and significant in the case of dry test specimens. This is an even greater concern with cellulose insulation prior to oil impregnation.

5. Apparatus

5.1 *Karl Fischer Electrometric Titration Apparatus.*

5.2 *Magnetic Stirrer and TFE-Fluorocarbon Coated Stirring Bars.*

5.3 *Erlenmeyer Flasks*, glass-stoppered, 250-mL.

5.4 *Graduate*, glass, 100-mL.

5.5 *Büchner Funnel*, small porcelain.

5.6 *Micro-Syringe*, total capacity 0.2 mL, 0.01-mL divisions.

5.7 *Blender*, industrial type.

5.8 *Syringe*, 10 mL, ground glass.

5.9 *Drying Oven*, 110± 5°C.

5.10 *Laboratory Desiccator.*

5.11 *Analytical Balance.*

6. Reagents

6.1 *Karl Fischer Reagent*—Commercially available stabilized solution, diluted from approximately 5 mg of water per 1 mL to 2.5 to 3.0 mg of water per 1 mL by adding absolute acetone-free methanol (Methods A and B). For Methods C and D, prepare commercially available solutions for use in automatic titrators in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

[1] These test methods are under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D27 on Electrical Insulating Liquids and Gases and are the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D27.06 on Chemical Test.

Current edition approved June 15, 1995. Published August 1995. Originally published as D3277 – 73. Last previous edition D3277 – 94. DOI: 10.1520/D3277-95R01E01.

[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.

6.2 *Titration Solvent*—Mix 2 volumes of acetone-free methanol and 1 volume of dry chloroform. Keep the solution tightly capped to prevent moisture absorption from the atmosphere.

6.3 *Purity of Reagents*—Use reagent grade chemicals in all tests. Unless otherwise indicated, it is intended that all reagents shall conform to the Committee on Analytical Reagents of the American Chemical Society, where such specifications are available. Other grades may be used, provided that it is first ascertained that the reagent is of sufficiently high purity to permit its use without lessening the accuracy of the determination.

6.4 *Methanol*, acetone-free with no more than 0.001 % acetone.

7. Sampling

7.1 The sampling procedure is not defined since it would be different for different apparatus, whether the samples were new or aged. Sample storage may also vary depending upon expected water content and time between sampling and testing. The assumption is made that the sample is representative of the condition the analyst is attempting to assess.

7.1.1 Dried cellulose absorbs moisture at an extremely fast rate. Precautions such as using polyethylene gloves for handling sample materials, and flushing the sample bottles with nitrogen during sampling have been found to be good practices, especially when testing for low levels of moisture in cellulose. Drying the sample bottle may cause a slight negative bias, but this would be expected to be much smaller than the positive bias that would occur if moist air were left in a sample container. Other practices, such as placing the paper immediately into a bottle containing the oil from the apparatus from which it was taken, leaving little or no air space and a high solid to liquid weight ratio, have been found to preserve the water content. The time element during which the paper sample is exposed to ambient conditions must be minimized and kept under several minutes when low (<1 %) water contents are expected. Another method of preservation that has been used is to wrap large sections of paper in plastic wrap followed by a layer of foil wrap.

8. Standardization of Reagent by Distilled Water (Test Methods A and B)

8.1 Add about 100 mL of solvent (chloroform-methanol) to the clean titration flask. Turn on the indicating circuit and magnetic stirrer and adjust the potentiometer to maximum deflection. (Check the battery every day.) Then add the Karl Fischer reagent in large amounts to neutralize the water present in the solvent. At first the needle will deflect due to local concentrations of the unreacted reagent about the electrodes, but will fall back to near the original position. As the end point is reached, the needle will fall back more and more slowly after each addition of Karl Fischer reagent. The end point is reached when, after addition of a single drop of reagent, the needle remains at rest near the position of maximum deflection for 30 s.

8.2 Partially fill a small-volume syringe (such as a Gilmont micrometer syringe of 0.2-mL capacity) with distilled water.

8.3 Weigh the syringe and its contents to the nearest 0.1 mg on an analytical balance.

8.4 Deliver from 0.03 to 0.05 mL of water into the neutralized solvent.

8.5 Reweigh the syringe to determine the exact weight of water added to the neutralized titration solvent.

8.6 Reneutralize the solution by titrating with the Karl Fischer reagent.

8.7 Calculate the water equivalent of the Karl Fischer reagent (grams of water per millilitre of Karl Fischer reagent) by dividing the weight of water added, in grams, by the volume in millilitres of Karl Fischer reagent required for titration of the added water.

9. Procedure

9.1 *Test Method A (0.010 in. (0.254 mm) or Thinner Paper)*:

9.1.1 Proceed in accordance with 8.1.

9.1.2 Dry the solvent containing more than 50 ppm of water by weight, which may be achieved by numerous techniques. One technique is to pass the solvent through a 30 by 1½-in. (76 by 4-cm) column containing 3A molecular sieve dried at 250°C under vacuum for at least 4 h. Purging with dry nitrogen instead of using a vacuum and the use of other temperatures can also achieve properly prepared molecular sieve material. Regardless of the test method used, test the dried solvent using a Karl Fischer apparatus to verify that the water content is less than 50 ppm by weight. Store the dried solvent under nitrogen.

9.1.3 Add 100 mL of titration solvent to each of two Erlenmeyer flasks which have previously been pre-dried for a minimum of 4 h at 125°C. Place a dry TFE-fluorocarbon coated stirring bar (about 1½ in. (38 m) long by 5⁄16 in. (8 mm) in diameter) in each flask.

9.1.4 To one flask, add 2 to 3 g of paper sample to be analyzed, cut into strips ½ by 1½ in. (13 by 38 mm) or smaller.

9.1.5 Insert a stopper in each flask and agitate contents for 40 to 50 min.

9.1.6 Decant the solvent from the flask containing the paper strips into the titration chamber of the Karl Fischer apparatus and titrate.

9.1.7 Place the paper strips in a weighing dish, dry for at least 4 h at 110°C, cool to room temperature in a desiccator, and weigh. This weight, minus the tare, is the specimen weight.

9.1.8 Repeat 9.1.6 for the flask that did not contain any paper. This is the blank.

9.1.9 Determine percent weight of water in the paper as follows:

$$\text{Water, wt \%} = [([1.03\ V_2 - V_1]F) \times 100]/W \quad (1)$$

where:

1.03 = correction factor for the loss of solvent during this analytical procedure due to adsorption of solvent into the paper,

V_2 = Karl Fischer reagent required for titration of the solvent from the flask containing the paper strips, mL,

V_1 = Karl Fischer reagent required for titration of the solvent from the flask containing no paper, mL,