



Designation: E1673 – 96(Reapproved 2006)

Standard Test Method for Percent Suspensibility¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation E1673; 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 is used to determine the percent suspensibility of dry pesticide formulations.

1.2 *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 Section 7.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

D1126 Test Method for Hardness in Water

D1193 Specification for Reagent Water

3. Summary of Test Method

3.1 A known quantity of dry pesticide is slurried into 50 mL of test water in a 100-mL beaker. The slurry is quantitatively transferred to a 250-mL mixing cylinder using additional test water to rinse the beaker. The 250-mL mixing cylinder is then filled to volume with test water. The mixing cylinder is stoppered and inverted 15 complete cycles. The mixing cylinder is allowed to stand for 30 min. After 30 min the top 225 mL is drawn off and the remaining suspension is dried. The residue weight will determine the percent suspensibility.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This test method is designed specifically for dry formulations, but need not be restricted to these materials.

4.2 Either option of this test method (see Section 8) may be used to determine the percent suspensibility.

4.3 This test method may not be applicable to all dry formulations such as those containing either liquids or ingredients that rise to the top upon separation.

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E35 on Pesticides and Alternative Control Agents and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E35.22 on Pesticide Formulations and Delivery Systems.

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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.

4.4 This test method may not be applicable to formulations containing ingredients that decompose under the test conditions.

4.5 This test method may not give reproducible results if flocculation occurs.

4.6 This test method should be run in duplicate.

4.7 Products containing water soluble or volatile components may result in errors.

5. Apparatus

5.1 *Balance*, top loading, with an accuracy of ± 0.01 g or better.

5.2 *Beaker*, 100 mL.

5.3 *Mixing Cylinder*, stoppered, 250 mL, flat bottom, KIMAX series 20039³ or equivalent.

5.4 *Timer*, adjustable, with an accuracy of \pm min.

5.5 *Magnetic Stirrer*, 120 to 1200 rpm, or equivalent.

5.6 *Stir Bar*, magnetic 1 in. in length and $\frac{3}{8}$ in. in diameter (2.5 cm \times 1 cm).

5.7 *Weighing Dish*, aluminum (57 \times 18 mm) or petri dish, or equivalent.

5.8 *Vacuum Apparatus*, see Fig. 1, equipped with a vented stopper to prevent the formation of a vacuum.

5.9 *Filtering Flask*, heavy wall, 500 mL, KIMAX Series 27060³ or equivalent.

5.10 *Gravity Oven*.

5.11 *Centrifuge*, any centrifuge capable of holding a 50 mL or larger tube and maintaining a minimum speed of 1500 rpm.

5.12 *Centrifuge Tube*, plastic or glass, 50 mL or larger.

6. Reagents (Test Water)

6.1 *Purity of Reagents*—Reagent grade chemicals shall be used in all tests. Unless otherwise indicated, it is intended that

³ Available from Fisher Scientific, 711 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15219. Also available from Curtin Matheson Scientific, Inc., P.O. Box 1546, Houston, TX 77251-1546.

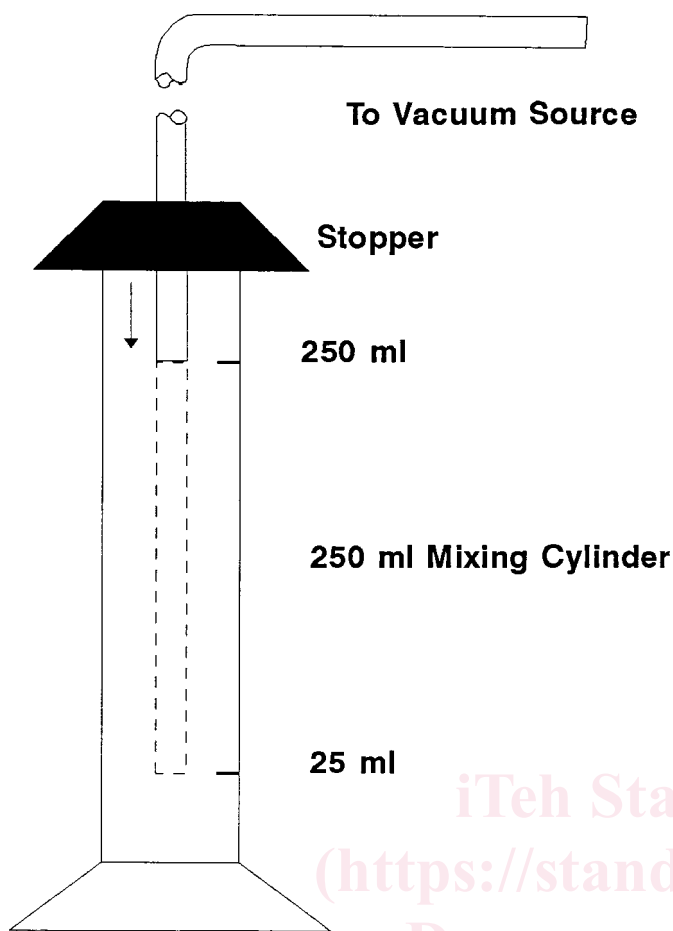


FIG. 1 Vacuum Apparatus

all reagents shall conform to the specifications of the Committee on Analytical Reagents of the American Chemical Society where such specifications are available.⁴

6.2 *Purity of Water*—Unless otherwise indicated, reference to water shall be understood to mean reagent water, Type IV, as defined by Specification D1193.

NOTE 1—Type IV grade reagent water may be prepared by distillation, ion exchange, reverse osmosis, electrodialysis, or a combination thereof.

6.3 *Synthetic Hard Water Stock*—Transfer 12.14 g of anhydrous calcium chloride (CaCl₂) and 5.55 g of magnesium chloride hexahydrate (MgCl₂·6H₂O) to a 1000-mL volumetric flask. Dissolve the reagents with approximately 750 mL of water and equilibrate to 20°C. Dilute the solution to 1000 mL total volume with water at 20°C, stopper the flask and mix the solution thoroughly. This mixture is equivalent to 13 680 ppm as calcium carbonate (CaCO₃) and is based on a compositional ratio of 4:1 calcium carbonate to magnesium carbonate.

⁴ *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. Pharmaceutical Convention, Inc. (USPC), Rockville, MD.

6.3.1 *Soft Water*—Equivalent to a total hardness of 34.2 ppm as calcium carbonate (CaCO₃). Transfer 2.50 mL of synthetic hard water stock by pipet to a 1000-mL volumetric flask and dilute to volume with water at 20°C. Mix solution thoroughly.

NOTE 2—It is recommended that total hardness be checked in accordance with Test Method MT-73, CIPAC 1, EDTA titration.⁵ An alternate method is provided in Test Method D1126 where the value is represented as CaCO₃. A value within ± % of the nominal hardness value is acceptable.

6.3.2 *Hard Water*—Equivalent to a total hardness of 342 ppm as calcium carbonate (CaCO₃). Transfer 25 mL of synthetic hard water stock by buret to a 1000-mL volumetric flask and dilute to volume with water at 20°C. Mix this solution thoroughly (see Note 2).

6.3.3 *Extra-Hard Water*—Equivalent to a total hardness of 1000 ppm as calcium carbonate (CaCO₃). Transfer 73.1 mL of synthetic hard water stock by buret to a 1000-mL volumetric flask and dilute to volume with water at 20°C. Mix this solution thoroughly (see Note 2).

6.3.4 *Other Test Waters*—Other synthetic waters can be prepared by using the following calculation:

$$\text{Desired Water Hardness} \div 13.680 = \quad (1)$$

[millilitres of synthetic hard water stock at 20°C to be

diluted volumetrically to 1000 mL with water at 20°C]

6.4 *Other Carriers*—Carriers other than water may be used when appropriate.

7. Safety Precautions

7.1 Before testing, read the precautionary statements on the product label or the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS), or both. Take proper precautions to prevent skin contact and inhalation of the fines or vapors, or both. Take care to prevent contamination of the surrounding area. Always wear the appropriate safety equipment and, where indicated, wear respiratory devices approved by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) for the product being tested.

8. Procedure

8.1 Option A (Evaporation):

8.1.1 Each sample should be run in duplicate.

8.1.2 Weigh a 4-g sample into a weighing dish. Record the sample weight (W_1) to an accuracy of ±0.10g.

8.1.3 Transfer the sample into a 100-mL beaker containing 50 mL of test water and stir with a magnetic stirrer at high speed for two min.

8.1.4 Quantitatively transfer the slurry from 8.1.3 into a 250 mL mixing cylinder using up to 100 mL of additional test water to rinse the beaker.

8.1.5 Fill the mixing cylinder to the 250 mL mark with test water.

8.1.6 Stopper and invert the mixing cylinder 15 complete cycles, 2 s per cycle.

⁵ "Analysis of Technical and Formulated Pesticides," *CIPAC Handbook*, Vol 1, compiled by Ashworth, R. de B., Henriot, J., Lovett, J. F., Collaborative International Pesticide Analytical Council Ltd., Great Britain, 1970.