



Designation: D 3898 – 93 (Reapproved 1998)

Standard Test Method for Chromic Oxide in Basic Chromium Tanning Liquors¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers the determination of chromic oxide in chrome tanning liquors, either simple, with added aluminum or zirconium, or with the usual masking complexing agents.

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.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

D 2807 Test Method for Chromic Oxide in Leather (Perchloric Acid Oxidation)²

3. Summary of Test Method

3.1 The solution is oxidized with sodium peroxide until the chromium is completely converted to the chromate ion. The solution is boiled to complete oxidation of organic materials and to destroy excess peroxide; it is then cooled and acidified. Potassium iodide is added and the liberated iodine is titrated with standardized sodium thiosulfate.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 The procedure described is for the quality control for manufacturing liquors and specifications for the purchase of such liquors.

4.2 The chromium content of the liquors determines the amount to be used to obtain the desired degree of tannage, and hence may be a matter for specification in the purchase of leather.

5. Interferences

5.1 The test method is generally the most accurate and convenient for the purpose. However, if the liquor contains iron or copper, which interfere with the sodium thiosulfate

titration, or complex organic or inorganic reducing agents (sodium thiosulfate, for example) which are not oxidized by alkaline peroxide but reduce hexavalent chromium on acidification, an alternate procedure must be used. The perchloric acid method described in Test Method D 2807, using the ferrous sulfate titration, is suitable, although the results obtained may be one to two percent low.

6. Reagents and Materials

6.1 *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, where such specifications are available.³ 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.

6.2 *Purity of Water*—Unless otherwise indicated, reference to water shall be understood to mean distilled water or water of equal purity.

6.3 *Sodium Peroxide*, (Na_2O_2). Store in original metal can.

6.4 *Starch Indicator*, 1 %—Make a paste of 1 g of soluble starch in about 10 mL of water, add 90 mL water and boil for 1 min with stirring. Cool and add 1 drop of chloroform. The solution is subject to decomposition and should be renewed if a deep blue color is not obtained on addition of 1 drop of indicator to a solution of 1 drop tincture of iodine in 100 mL of water.

6.5 *Sodium Thiosulfate Solution*, 0.1 N—Dissolve 24.85 g of $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$ in water, add 1 g Na_2CO_3 , and dilute to 1 L.

6.5.1 *Standardization*—Dry potassium dichromate ($\text{K}_2\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_7$) in an oven at 130°C for 2 h and cool in a desiccator. Weigh into a glass stoppered Erlenmeyer flask (500 mL) about 0.2 g of potassium dichromate to an accuracy of 0.1 mg. Dissolve in 250 mL water, add 15 mL 1:4 hydrochloric acid, 20 mL of 10 % potassium iodide solution, stopper the flask and allow to stand 5 min in the dark. Titrate with the sodium thiosulfate to be standardized. When the color of the solution

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D-31 on Leather and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D31.06 on Chemical Analysis-General Methods. This test method was developed in cooperation with the American Leather Chemists Assoc.

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² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 15.04.

³ *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.