



Standard Test Method for Silt Density Index (SDI) of Water¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers the determination of the silt density index (SDI) of water. This test method can be used to indicate the quantity of particulate matter in water and is applicable to relatively low (<1.0 NTU) turbidity waters such as well water, filtered water, or clarified effluent samples. Since the size, shape, and nature of particulate matter in water may vary, this test method is not an absolute measurement of the quantity of particulate matter.

1.2 This test method is not applicable for reagent grade water Types I, II, and III of Specification D1193, or effluents from most reverse osmosis and ultrafiltration systems.

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

D1129 Terminology Relating to Water

D1193 Specification for Reagent Water

D3370 Practices for Sampling Water from Closed Conduits

E1 Specification for ASTM Liquid-in-Glass Thermometers

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—For definitions of terms used in this test method, refer to Terminology D1129.

3.2 *Definitions:*

3.2.1 *silt density index (SDI)*—an index calculated from the rate of plugging of a 0.45- μ m membrane filter.

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D19 on Water and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D19.08 on Membranes and Ion Exchange Materials.

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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. Summary of Test Method

4.1 Water is passed through a 0.45- μ m membrane filter at a constant applied gage pressure of 207 kPa (30 psi), and the rate of plugging of the filter is measured.

4.2 The SDI is calculated from the rate of plugging.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 The SDI can serve as a useful indication of the quantity of particulate matter in water.

5.2 The SDI can be used to determine effectiveness of various processes such as filtration or clarification used to remove particulate matter.

5.3 The SDI has been empirically correlated with the fouling tendency of some water treatment equipment such as reverse osmosis devices.

5.4 The SDI may vary as a function of water temperature, and values obtained at different temperatures may not necessarily be comparable.

5.5 The SDI will vary with the membrane filter manufacturer. Thus, SDI values obtained with filters from different membrane manufacturers cannot be comparable.

6. Apparatus

6.1 *SDI Assembly*, as schematically described in Fig. 1. All wetted parts should be made of high-quality stainless steel or plastic to prevent contamination by corrosion products. Do not use reactive materials such as carbon steel or cast iron. Suitable filter holders, designed to withstand an operating gage pressure of 350 kPa (50 psi) can be obtained from suppliers of membrane filters.

6.2 *Membrane Filter:*

6.2.1 *Membrane*—white hydrophillic, mixed cellulose nitrate (50–75 %) and cellulose acetate (MCE).

6.2.2 *Mean Pore Size*—0.45 μ m.

6.2.3 *Diameter*—47 mm nominal, plain.

6.2.4 *Thickness*—115–180 μ m.

6.2.5 *Pure Water Flow Time*—25–50 seconds/500 mL.

6.2.6 *Pressure*—91.4–94.7 kPa (13.3–13.8 psi).

6.2.7 *Bubble Point*—179–248 kPa (26.0–36.0 psi).

6.2.8 Use only filters that are packaged in the same orientation.