



Designation: D5088 – 02(Reapproved 2008)

Standard Practice for Decontamination of Field Equipment Used at Waste Sites¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D5088; 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 practice covers the decontamination of field equipment used in the sampling of soils, soil gas, sludges, surface water, and groundwater at waste sites which are to undergo both physical and chemical analyses.

1.2 This practice is applicable only at sites where chemical (organic and inorganic) wastes are a concern. It is not intended for use at radiological, mixed (chemical and radiological), or biohazard sites.

1.3 Procedures are included for the decontamination of equipment which comes into contact with the sample matrix (sample contacting equipment) and for ancillary equipment that has not contacted the portion of sample to be analyzed (non-sample contacting equipment).

1.4 This practice is based on commonly recognized methods by which equipment may be decontaminated. The procedures described for sample contacting equipment are commonly prescribed, however there is a minimum of scientific data that supports these methods (Mickam et al. 1989², Parker^{3,4}, 1995). Therefore the user is reminded of the importance of QA/QC samples that document decontamination effectiveness and that these samples can be used to modify or enhance decontamination techniques. Decontamination at radiologically contaminated sites should refer to Practice **D5608**.

1.5 This practice is applicable to most conventional sampling equipment constructed of metallic and synthetic materials. The manufacturer of a specific sampling apparatus should be contacted if there is concern regarding the reactivity of a decontamination rinsing agent with the equipment.

¹ This practice 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.

Current edition approved Sept. 15, 2008. Published October 2008. Originally approved in 1990. Last previous edition approved in 2002 as D5088 – 02. DOI: 10.1520/D5088-02R08.

² Mickam, J. T., Bellandi, R., and Tift, Jr., E. C., *Equipment Decontamination Procedures for Ground Water and Vadose Zone Monitoring Programs: Status and Prospects*, *Ground Water Monitoring Review*, Vol 9, No. 2, 1989, pp. 100–121.

³ Parker, L. V., *A Literature Review on Decontaminating Groundwater Sampling Devices: Organic Contaminates*, CRREL Report 95–14, U.S. Army Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory, Hanover, NH, 1996.

⁴ Parker, L. V., and Ranney, T. A., *Decontamination Materials Used in Groundwater Sampling Devices*, CRREL Special Report 97–24, U.S. Army Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory, Hanover, NH, 1997a.

1.6 *This practice offers an organized collection of information or a series of options and does not recommend a specific course of action. This document cannot replace education or experience and should be used in conjunction with professional judgement. Not all aspects of this practice may be applicable in all circumstances. This ASTM standard is not intended to represent or replace the standard of care by which the adequacy of a given professional service must be judged, nor should this document be applied without consideration of a project's many unique aspects. The word "Standard" in the title of this document means only that the documents has been approved through the ASTM consensus process.*

1.7 *This standard does not purport to address the 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:*⁵

D653 Terminology Relating to Soil, Rock, and Contained Fluids

D5608 Practices for Decontamination of Field Equipment Used at Low Level Radioactive Waste Sites

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions:*

3.1.1 *contaminant*—an undesirable substance not normally present or an unusually high concentration of a naturally occurring substance in water or soil.

3.1.2 *control rinse water*—water used for equipment washing and rinsing having a known chemistry.

3.1.3 *decontamination*—the process of removing or reducing to a known level undesirable physical or chemical constituents, or both, from a sampling apparatus to maximize the representativeness of physical or chemical analyses proposed for a given sample.

⁵ 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.

3.1.4 *non-sample contacting equipment*—related equipment associated with the sampling effort, but that does not directly contact the sample (for example, augers, drilling rods, excavations machinery).

3.1.5 *quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC)*—the efforts completed to evaluate the accuracy and precision of a sampling or testing procedure, or both.

3.1.6 *sample contacting equipment*—equipment that comes in direct contact with the sample or portion of sample that will undergo chemical analyses or physical testing (for example, groundwater well bailer, split-spoon sampler, soil gas sampling probe).

3.1.7 For definitions of other terms used in this practice, see Terminology **D653**.

4. Summary of Practice

4.1 Two different procedures are presented for the decontamination of sample-contacting and non-sample contacting equipment. The procedures have been developed based on a review of current state and federal guidelines, as well as a summary of commonly employed procedures. In general, sample contacting equipment should be washed with a detergent solution followed by a series of control water, desorbing agents and deionized water rinses. Nonsample contacting equipment should be washed with a detergent solution and rinsed with control water. Although such techniques may be difficult to perform in the field, they may be necessary to most accurately evaluate low concentrations of the chemical constituent(s) of interest.

4.2 Prior to initiating a field program that will involve equipment decontamination, a site specific equipment decontamination protocol should be prepared for distribution to the individuals involved with the particular sampling program. Information to be presented in the protocol should include:

4.2.1 Site location and description,

4.2.2 Statement of the sampling program objective and desired precision and accuracy, that is, is sampling effort for gross qualitative evaluation or for trace concentration, parameter specific evaluations,

4.2.3 Summary of available information regarding soil types, hydrogeology and anticipated chemistry of the materials to be sampled,

4.2.4 Listing of equipment to be used for sampling and materials needed for decontamination,

4.2.5 Detailed step by step procedure for equipment decontamination for each piece or type of equipment to be utilized and procedures for rinse fluids containment and disposal as appropriate,

4.2.6 Summary of QA/QC procedures and QA/QC samples to be collected to document decontamination completeness including specific type of chemical analyses and their associated detection limit, and

4.2.7 Outline of equipment decontamination verification report.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 An appropriately developed, executed and documented equipment decontamination procedure is an integral and essential part of waste site investigations. The benefits of its use include:

5.1.1 Minimizing the spread of contaminants within a study area and from site to site,

5.1.2 Reducing the potential for worker exposure by means of contact with contaminated sampling equipment, and

5.1.3 Improved data quality and reliability.

5.2 This practice is not a substitute for a well-documented Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) program. Because the ultimate test of a decontamination procedure is its ability to minimize erroneous data, a reasonable QA/QC program must be implemented.

5.3 This practice may not be applicable to all waste sites. When a sampling effort is completed to determine only the general range of chemical concentrations of interest less rigorous decontamination procedures can be adequate. Investigators should have the flexibility to modify the decontamination procedures with due consideration for the sampling objective or if QA/QC documentation supports alternative decontamination methods.

5.4 At sites where the reactivity of sampling equipment to decontamination washes creates concern for the generation of undesirable chemical by-products, the use of dedicated sampling equipment should be considered.

5.5 This practice, where applicable, should be used before, between, and after the completion of sampling events.

5.6 This practice is appropriate for use at sites where chemical (organic and inorganic) contamination is known or expected. The application of this practice to other types of sites radiological, mixed (radiological and chemical), or biohazard contaminated sites may not be applicable. The application of this practice to these types of sites should be undertaken with care and consideration, along with QA/QC documentation that supports the effectiveness of these decontamination techniques.

6. Reagents

6.1 *Detergent*, non-phosphate detergent solution.⁶

6.2 *Acid Rinse (inorganic desorbing agent)*, 10 % nitric or hydrochloric acid solution-made from reagent grade nitric or hydrochloric acid and deionized water (1 % is to be applied to low-carbon steel equipment).

6.3 *Solvent Rinse (organic desorbing agent)*, isopropanol, acetone, or methanol; pesticide grade.

6.4 *Control Rinse Water*, preferably from a water system of known chemical composition.

6.5 *Deionized Water*, organic-free reagent grade.

⁶ Liquinox or Detergent 8 or similar solution has been found suitable for this purpose. Detergent 8 is recommended for spray cleaning.