



Standard Test Method for Determination of Solvent Red 164 Dye Concentration in Diesel Fuels¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D 6258; 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 covers the procedure for determining the concentration of dye Solvent Red 164 in commercially available diesel and burner fuels using visible spectroscopy.

NOTE 1—This test method is suitable for all No. 1 and No. 2 grades in Specifications D 396 and D 975 and for grades DMA and DMB in Specification D 2069.

1.2 The concentration ranges specified for the calibration standards are established in response to the Internal Revenue Service dyeing requirements which state that tax-exempt diesel fuel satisfies the dyeing requirement only if it contains the dye Solvent Red 164 (and no other dye) at a concentration spectrally equivalent to 3.9 lb of the solid dye standard Solvent Red 26 per thousand bbl (11.1 mg/L) of diesel fuel.

~~1.3 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard.~~

1.3 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. No other units of measurement are included in this standard.

1.4 *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

D 396 [Specification for Fuel Oils](#)

D 975 [Specification for Diesel Fuel Oils](#)

D 2069 [Specification for Marine Fuels](#)

D 3699 [Specification for Kerosine](#)

D 4057 [Practice for Manual Sampling of Petroleum and Petroleum Products](#)

E 131 [Terminology Relating to Molecular Spectroscopy](#)

E 169 [Practices for General Techniques of Ultraviolet-Visible Quantitative Analysis](#)

E 275 [Practice for Describing and Measuring Performance of Ultraviolet, Visible, Ultraviolet and Near-Infrared Visible Spectrophotometers](#)

E 288 [Specification for Laboratory Glass Volumetric Flasks](#)

E 691 [Practice for Conducting an Interlaboratory Study to Determine the Precision of a Test Method](#)

E 969 [Specification for Glass Volumetric \(Transfer\) Pipettes](#)

2.2 ~~Other Document:~~ *Federal Regulation:*

26 CFR 48.4082-1(b) Federal Excise Tax Regulation

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions:*

3.1.1 For definitions of terms used in this test method, refer to Terminology E 131.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 The absorbance of each sample is recorded over a specified wavelength range, and the scan is analyzed using derivative

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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.

*A Summary of Changes section appears at the end of this standard.

analysis software to determine the dye concentration.

4.2 Derivative analysis methodology is employed to minimize interferences caused by variations in the color and composition of the fuel samples regularly tested using this test method.

4.2.1 Naturally occurring diesel test fuels range in color from water white to nearly black, and many of the samples tested using this test method have also had used oils and other products blended with them. These variations in color and composition have a significant effect upon absorbance characteristics of the samples in the region of the visible spectrum where azo dyes absorb. Standard operating procedures to correct for these background variations would involve running a neat (undyed) sample and subtracting out the background absorbance. In most situations involved with the application of this test method, however, neat material is not available, so no background corrections can be made.

4.2.2 The second derivative of the absorbance of these dyes in the visible region is a function of the fine structure of the dye's absorbance peak (versus its height or area) and is relatively unaffected by changes in background absorbance. Further, the specific sections (maxima and minima) of the second derivative spectra employed for this analysis are a function of the fine structure of the top of the absorbance curve which has been found to be unique to the azo dyes.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 This test method was developed to provide for the enforcement of 26 CFR 48.4082-1(b)₂, which mandates that all tax-exempt diesel fuels be dyed with an amount of Solvent Red 164 at a concentration that is spectrally equivalent to 3.9 lb/10³ bbl (11.1 mg/L) of Solvent Red 26. It is employed to verify that the correct amount of Solvent Red 164 is being added to tax-exempt product at terminals or refineries prior to sale, and to detect the presence of Solvent Red 164 in taxed product intended for on-road use.

5.1.1 Solvent Red 26 is the azo dye shown in Fig. 1. It is the standard against which the concentration of Solvent Red 164 is measured because it is available in a certified pure form. Solvent Red 164 is identical in structure to Solvent Red 26 except that it has hydrocarbon (alkyl) chains incorporated to increase its solubility in diesel and burner fuels. The exact composition of Solvent Red 164 will vary from manufacturer to manufacturer and lot to lot depending upon the extent of alkylation that occurs during production; however, its visible spectrum is virtually identical to the spectrum of Solvent Red 26. Solvent Red 164 is employed in the field (instead of Solvent Red 26) to dye tax-exempt diesel and burner fuels because of its higher solubility and relatively low cost.

6. Apparatus

6.1 *Spectrophotometer*, equipped with automated scanning, background correction, and electronic data storage capabilities, and the ability to automatically record absorbance or transmittance of solutions in the spectral region from 400 to 800 nanometers (nm) with a spectral slit width of 1.0 nm or less (Note 2). Wavelength measurements shall be repeatable and known to be accurate to within ±0.2 nm or less at deuterium peak 656.1 nm. In the absorbance range from 0.01 to 1.0, absorbance measurements shall have a photometric accuracy of ±0.005 or less and a photometric repeatability of ±0.002 or less.

NOTE 2—Instruments having different specifications, for example, minimum slit width 2 to 4 nm, no data storage, diode array spectrophotometers, and so forth, may be used if they provide demonstrably equivalent results. Equivalence can be demonstrated by successful (within reproducibility limits) participation in inter- or intra-laboratory studies using this test method.

6.1.1 For applicable general techniques and methods of testing spectrophotometers to be used in this test method, refer to Practices E 169 and E 275.

6.2 *Sample Cells (Cuvettes)*, one or more fused silica or glass cells having sample path length of 1.0 cm.

6.3 *Analytical Balance*, 0.1 mg sensitivity, ±0.05 mg precision.

6.4 *Volumetric Pipettes*, 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 mL, Class A, according to Specification E 969.

6.5 *Volumetric Flasks*, 100 mL and 250 mL, Class A, borosilicate glass, according to Specification E 288.

7. Reagents

7.1 *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

1-[[2,5-dimethyl-4-[(2-methylphenyl)azo]phenyl]azo]-2-naphthol

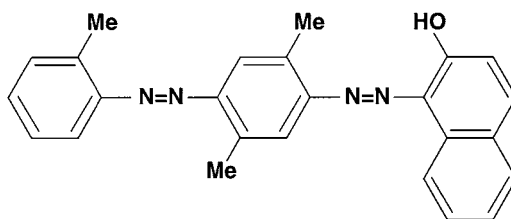


FIG. 1 Structure of Solvent Red 26

such specifications are available.³Other 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.

7.2 *Solvent Red 26 (Dye Standard)*—Dye, Color Index Solvent Red 26, 1-[[2,5-dimethyl-4-[(2-methylphenyl) azo]phenyl]azo]-2-naphthol, Chemical Abstract Services Registry No. 4477-79-6, dry powder with certified purity, and maximum absorbance at 512 ± 20 nm.

7.3 *Kerosine*—1-K, water-white, conforming to Specification D 3699, and having a maximum absorbance against air of 0.08 absorbance units over the wavelength range 450 to 750 nm (1.0 cm cell, 120 nm/min scan rate, slit width 1.0 nm). (**Warning**—Flammable; harmful if swallowed, inhaled, or brought into contact with skin or eyes.)

7.4 *Xylene*—(**Warning**—Extremely flammable; harmful if swallowed, inhaled, or brought into contact with skin or eyes.)

8. Sampling

8.1 Use the principles of Practice D 4057 in acquisition of test sample(s).

8.2 Precautions must be taken to shield the samples from sunlight prior to analysis.

NOTE 3—Studies have shown that exposure to direct sunlight will show a decrease in dye concentration over time.

9. Calibration and Standardization

9.1 *Preparation of Stock Standard* :

9.1.1 *Solvent Red 26*— Weigh approximately 0.0750 g of the dye standard to the nearest 0.1 mg on an analytical balance, quantitatively transfer the dye to a 250 mL volumetric flask, and dilute to mark with xylene. Mix the prepared solution thoroughly.

9.1.2 Determine the exact concentration of dye in the stock standard using the following equation:

$$C = \frac{(M)(P)(1000)}{0.250} \quad (1)$$

where:

C = concentration of active dye ingredient in the stock standard, mg/L,

M = mass of certified dye standard used in preparing the stock standard, g, and

P = purity of certified dye standard used in preparing the stock standard, purity %/100, for example, for a 99.0 % Solvent Red 26 material, $P = 0.99$.

9.1.3 Store the stock standard in tightly capped/sealed brown glass bottles and store in a dark place when not in use to prevent deterioration.

9.2 *Preparation of Working Calibration Standards*:

9.2.1 Pipet the volumes of the stock standard specified below into separate 100 mL volumetric flasks and dilute to volume with kerosine.

Volume of Stock Standard/100 mL	Approximate Concentration of Working Standards
0.0 mL	0 mg/L
1.0 mL	3 mg/L
2.0 mL	6 mg/L
3.0 mL	9 mg/L
4.0 mL	12 mg/L
5.0 mL	15 mg/L

9.2.2 Determine the exact concentration of dye in each working standard using the following equation:

$$C_s = \frac{(V)(C_m)}{100} \quad (2)$$

where:

C_s = concentration of each working standard, mg/L,

V = volume of stock standard, mL, and

C_m = concentration of active dye in stock standard, mg/L.

9.2.3 Store the working calibration standards in tightly capped/sealed brown glass bottles and store in a dark place when not in use to prevent deterioration.

9.3 Using a clean 1.0 cm sample cell, scan each of the working standards against air (empty reference sample compartment) from 450 nm to 750 nm, recording the absorbance for each using a scan rate of 120 nm/min, maximum data recording interval of 0.11 nm, and a maximum slit width of 1.0 nm.

NOTE 4—Other instrument conditions may be used if they can be demonstrated to give equivalent results to this test method (see Note 2).

³Withdrawn.

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 *Annual Standards for Laboratory Chemicals*, BDH Ltd., Poole, Dorset, U.K., and the *United States Pharmacopeia and National Formulary*, U.S. Pharmacopeial Convention, Inc. (USPC), Rockville, MD.