



Designation: ~~D3792-99~~ Designation: D 3792 – 05 (Reapproved 2009)

Standard Test Method for Water Content of Coatings by Direct Injection Into a Gas Chromatograph¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D 3792; 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.

This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the Department of Defense.

1. Scope

1.1 This test method is for the determination of the total water content of waterborne paints. It has been evaluated for latex systems (styrene-butadiene, poly(vinylacetate)-acrylic, acrylic), epoxy acrylic resin systems and acrylic systems. The established working range of this test method is from 15 to 90 %. There is no reason to believe that it will not work outside of this range.

1.2 The values ~~given stated in inch/pound~~ SI units are to be regarded as the ~~preferred unit of measurement standard~~. The values given in parentheses are for information only.

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

D 1193 [Specification for Reagent Water](#)

~~D 1364 Test Method for Water in Volatile Solvents (Karl Fischer Reagent Titration Method)~~ [Specification for Reagent Water](#)

E 180 [Practice for Determining the Precision Data of ASTM Methods for Analysis and Testing of Industrial and Specialty Chemicals](#)

3. Summary of Test Method

3.1 A suitable aliquot of whole paint is internally standardized, diluted with dimethylformamide, and then injected into a gas chromatographic column containing a porous polymer packing that separates water from other volatile components.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 In order to calculate volatile organic content (VOC) in waterborne paints, it is necessary to know the water content. This gas chromatographic test method provides a relatively simple and direct way to determine water content.

5. Apparatus

5.1 *Gas Chromatography*—Any gas-liquid chromatographic instrument equipped with a thermoconductivity detector may be used. Temperature programming capability is preferable, but isothermal operations may be adequate. See Table 1.

5.2 *Column*—The column should be at least ~~4 ft (1.22 m)~~ 1.22 m (4 ft) of ~~3.2-mm (1/8-in.)~~ 3.2-mm (1/8-in.) outside diameter tubing of stainless steel, or other suitable material, lined with a TFE-fluorocarbon coating packed with 60/80 mesh (180 to 250 μ m) porous polymer packing material.³ A longer ~~6-ft (1.83 m)~~ 1.83 m (6-ft) column can be used to improve resolution.

5.3 *Integrator*—Any electronic integrator that can accurately quantify a gas chromatographic peak is acceptable. Alternatively, a recording potentiometer with a full-scale deflection of 1-10mV, full scale response time of 2 s or less and sufficient sensitivity and stability to meet the requirements of 5.1.

5.4 *Liquid Charging Devices*—Micro syringes of 5–10- μ L capacity with a precision of ± 0.01 μ L. Automatic injection of

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee ~~D-1~~ D01 on Paint and Related Coatings, Materials, and Applications and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D01.21 on Chemical Analysis of Paints and Paint 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*, Vol. 11.01, volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

³ Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 06.04.

³ HayeSep R (silanized), was used in the round robin. Any other porous polymer packing or other column giving equivalent or superior performance may be used. These products are available from most gas chromatography suppliers and distributors.

TABLE 1 Suggested Instrument Conditions

Detector	thermal conductivity
Column	1.22 m × 3.2 mm TFE-fluorocarbon coating coated stainless steel
Packing	60/80 mesh porous polymer
Temperatures, °C	
Sample inlet	240
Detector	250
Column	
Initial	140
Final	240
Program rate	40/min
Carrier gas	helium
Flow rate, ml/min	22.0-22.5
Detector current	150 mA
Specimen size	1-2 µl

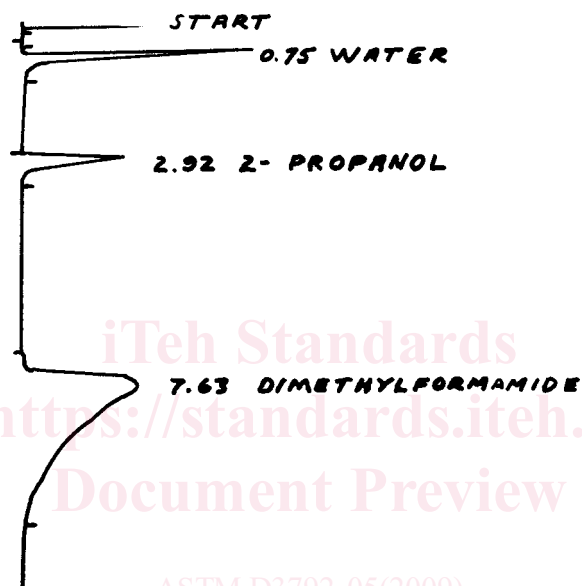


FIG. 1 Typical Chromatogram

samples improves the precision of this test method.

6. Column Conditioning

6.1 *Procedure*—Install the packed column in the gas chromatographic unit leaving the exit end disconnected from the detector. This will prevent any contamination of the detector with the column bleed.

6.1.1 Set the carrier gas flow rate at 20 to 30 mL/min if a ~~1-in. (3.2-mm)~~ 3.2-mm (1/8-in.) outside diameter column is used. Purge the column 5 or 10 min before heating.

6.1.2 Heat the column from room temperature to 200°C at 5°C/min and hold this temperature for at least 12 h (overnight). At the end of this time, heat the column at 5°C/min to 250°C (the maximum temperature for this packing) and hold for several hours. Cool the column to room temperature and connect to the detector.

6.1.3 Reheat the column to 250°C at 5°C/min to observe if there is column bleed. Optimum conditioning of this column may take several cycles of the heating program before a flat recorder baseline is achieved.

6.2 Before each calibration and series of determinations (or daily) condition the column at 200°C for 1 h with carrier gas flow and to eliminate any residual volatile compounds retained on the column.

7. Reagents and Materials

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 such specifications are available.⁴ 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.

⁴ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 15.05-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. Pharmacopeial Convention, Inc. (USPC), Rockville, MD.