



Designation: D6419 – 00 (Reapproved 2009)

Standard Test Method for Volatile Content of Sheet-Fed and Coldset Web Offset Printing Inks¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This test method describes a procedure for determination of the weight percent volatile content of sheet-fed and coldset web offset printing inks. Test specimens are heated at $110^{\circ} \pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$ for 60 min.

NOTE 1—Coldset web offset printing is often (also) referred to as non-heatset web offset printing.

1.2 This test method is also applicable to sheet-fed and coldset web offset printing ink vehicles.

NOTE 2—Vehicle is the liquid portion of the printing ink. Any substance that is dissolved in the liquid portion of the ink is a part of the vehicle.

1.3 This test method is not applicable to ultra-violet (UV) or electron beam cured materials, which must be cured by exposure to UV light or an electron beam as part of the test for volatile content.

1.4 This test method is based on Test Method D2369, in which the allowable ranges are $\pm 0.1\text{g}$ for specimen weight and $\pm 5^{\circ}\text{C}$ for oven temperature. Interlaboratory studies have shown that specimen weight and oven temperature must both be more tightly controlled in order to improve the precision of test results for sheet-fed and coldset web-offset inks. Such inks typically contain a wide range of high-boiling hydrocarbons and often have a volatile content below 25 %.

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

1.6 *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. For a specific hazard statement see 7.5.1.*

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D01 on Paint and Related Coatings, Materials, and Applications and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D01.56 on Printing Inks.

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2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

D2369 Test Method for Volatile Content of Coatings

D362 Specification for Industrial Grade Toluene (Withdrawn 1989)³

E145 Specification for Gravity-Convection and Forced-Ventilation Ovens

E691 Practice for Conducting an Interlaboratory Study to Determine the Precision of a Test Method

2.2 Other Standards:⁴

EPA Reference Method 24 — Determination of Volatile Matter Content, Water Content, Density, Volume Solids, and Weight Solids of Surface Coatings⁵

3. Summary of Test Method

3.1 A specimen size of $0.300 \pm 0.001\text{g}$ is weighed into an aluminum foil dish, dispersed in 3 mL of toluene, and heated in an oven at $110 \pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$ for 60 min. The percent volatile is calculated from the loss in weight.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This test method is the procedure of choice for determining volatile content of sheet-fed and coldset web offset inks. This information is useful to the ink manufacturer and user and to environmental interests as part of the determination of the mass of volatile organic compounds emitted from the ink.

NOTE 3—Since these inks do not contain water or any materials currently classified by US EPA as negligibly photochemically reactive (exempt solvents), volatile organic compound content is the same as volatile content. The volatile organic compounds in these inks are high boiling hydrocarbon oils which are, according to US EPA guidelines, 95 %

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.

³ The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on www.astm.org.

⁴ Available from U.S. Government Printing Office Superintendent of Documents, 732 N. Capitol St., NW, Mail Stop: SDE, Washington, DC 20401, <http://www.access.gpo.gov>.

⁵ Brezinski, J. J., ed., "Determination of Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) Content in Paints, Inks, and Related Coating Products," MNL 4, ASTM, 1993.