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## Standard Test Method for Acid Number (Empirical) of Synthetic and Natural Waxes<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D1386; 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 ( $\epsilon$ ) 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 covers the determination of the acid number of synthetic waxes and natural waxes. The number is obtained by direct titration of the material and indicates the amount of free acid present.

1.2 This test method, using an ethanol-xylene mixture, is applicable to all natural waxes, including carnauba. The test method is also applicable to oxidized microcrystalline waxes, oxidized Fischer-Tropsch, oxidized polyethylene, and montan esters.

1.3

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 Document

2.1 ASTM Standards:<sup>2</sup>

E200 Practice for Preparation, Standardization, and Storage of Standard and Reagent Solutions for Chemical Analysis

### 3. Terminology

3.1 Definition:

3.1.1 acid number or acid value—the number of milligrams of potassium hydroxide necessary to neutralize 1 g of the sample.

### 4. Significance and Use

4.1 This test method is used to determine the property of acid functionality. Acid functionality determines the utility of the wax as well as being a significant Quality Control test.

### 5. Apparatus

5.1 Analytical Balance.

5.2 Buret, 50-mL, with 0.1-mL graduations.

5.3 Flasks, acid value, 250-mL.

### 6. Reagents and Materials

6.1 Purity of Reagents—Reagent-grade chemicals or equivalent, as specified in Practice E200, shall be used in all tests.

6.2 Ethanolic Potassium Hydroxide, Standard Solution (0.1 N)—Dissolve 6.6 g of potassium hydroxide in 5.6 g of distilled water. Dilute with USSD3A denatured ethanol or 95 % ethanol to 1000 mL. Standardize with 0.1 N hydrochloric acid.

6.3 Phenolphthalein Indicator Solution (10 g/litre)—Dissolve 1 g of phenolphthalein in 100 mL of USSD3A, denatured ethanol or 95 % ethanol.

6.4 Xylene.

### 7. Procedure

7.1 Transfer 1 to 2 g of the sample, weighed to the nearest 0.001 g, to a 250-mL acid-value flask. Add 40 mL of xylene. Heat on a hot plate or water bath to put the sample into solution. Occasional swirling may be necessary.

<sup>1</sup> This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D21 on Polishes and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D21.02 on Raw Materials. Current edition approved Sept. 1, 2004; June 2010. Published September 2004; June 2010. Originally approved in 1955 as D1386 - 55 T. Last previous edition approved in 1998 as D1386 - 98(2004). DOI: 10.1520/D1386-98R04; 10.1520/D1386-10.

<sup>2</sup> 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.