



Designation: E 776 – 87 (Reapproved 1996)

Standard Test Method for Forms of Chlorine in Refuse-Derived Fuel¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers the determination of the forms of chlorine in refuse-derived fuel—three (RDF): total chlorine, water-soluble chloride, and water-insoluble chlorine.

1.2 This test method may be applicable to any waste material from which a laboratory analysis sample can be prepared.

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.* For specific precautionary statements see Section 6 and 11.2.1.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*

D 1193 Specification for Reagent Water²

E 144 Practice for Safe Use of Oxygen Combustion Bombs³

E 180 Practice for Determining the Precision of ASTM Methods for Analysis and Testing of Industrial Chemicals⁴

E 287 Specification for Burets³

E 711 Test Method for Gross Calorific Value of Refuse-Derived Fuel by the Bomb Calorimeter⁵

E 829 Practice for Preparing Refuse-Derived Fuel (RDF) Laboratory Samples for Analysis⁵

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D34 on Waste Management and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D34.06 on Recovery and Reuse.

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² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 11.01.

³ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 14.02.

⁴ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 15.05.

⁵ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 11.04.

3.1.1 *refuse-derived fuels*—solid forms of refuse-derived fuels from which appropriate analytical samples may be prepared are defined as follows in *ASTM STP 832*:⁶

RDF-1—Wastes used as a fuel in as-discarded form with only bulky wastes removed.

RDF-2—Wastes processed to coarse particle size with or without ferrous metal separation.

RDF-3—Combustible waste fraction processed to particle sizes, 95 % passing 2-in. square screening.

RDF-4—Combustible waste fraction processed into powder form, 95 % passing 10-mesh screening.

RDF-5—Combustible waste fraction densified (compressed) into the form of pellets, slugs, cubettes, or briquettes.

3.1.2 *total chlorine*—all chlorine as determined in the refuse-derived fuel.

3.1.3 *water-insoluble chlorine*—water-insoluble chlorides and chlorine in the refuse-derived fuel.

3.1.4 *water-soluble chloride*—those chlorides which are water-solubilized by water extraction as determined in the refuse-derived fuel.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 The forms of chloride and chlorine are determined. The various procedures in the method convert the forms of chlorine into a water-soluble chloride form that can be quantitated by titration.

4.1.1 *Total Chlorine*—The sample is combusted in an oxygen atmosphere. The chlorine is converted to chloride and absorbed in an alkaline solution.

4.1.2 *Water-Soluble Chlorides*—A portion of the analysis sample is successively extracted with hot chloride-free water.

4.1.3 *Water-Insoluble Chlorine*—Water-insoluble chlorine is calculated from the results of the total chlorine and the water-soluble chloride determination where:

$$\text{water-insoluble chlorine} = \text{total chlorine} - \text{water-soluble chlorides} \quad (1)$$

⁶ *Thesaurus on Resource Recovery Terminology*, ASTM STP 832, ASTM, 1983, p. 72.

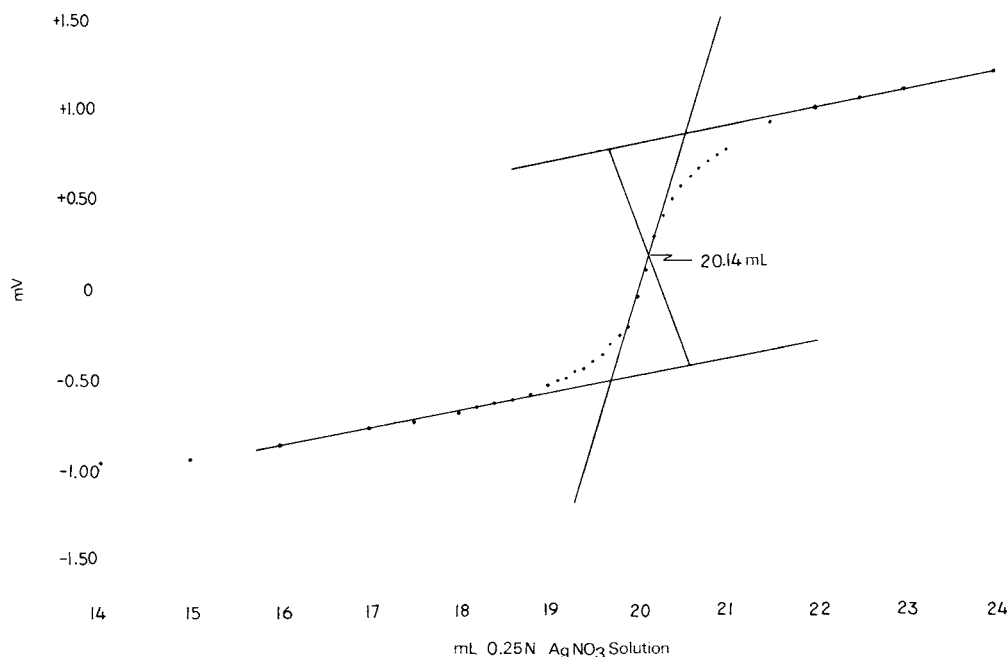


FIG. 1 Graph From a Potentiometric Titration of Chloride

4.2 The chlorides contained in the alkaline solution (4.1.1) and the extraction solution (4.1.2) are determined by potentiometric (see Section 13) or modified Volhard titration (see Section 14).

5. Significance and Use

5.1 The standard is available to producers and users of RDF for determining the content and forms of chlorine present in the fuel.

6. Precautions

6.1 Due to the origins of RDF in municipal waste, common sense dictates that some precautions should be observed when conducting tests on the samples. Recommended hygienic practices include use of gloves when handling RDF; wearing dust masks (NIOSH-approved type), especially while milling RDF samples; conducting tests under negative pressure hood when possible; and washing hands before eating or smoking.

7. Interferences

7.1 Potentiometric Titration Method A:

7.1.1 Iodide and bromide are also titrated as chloride. Ferricyanide causes high results and must be removed. Chromate and dichromate interfere and should be reduced to the chromic state or be removed. Ferric iron interferes if present in an amount substantially higher than the amount of chloride. Chromic ions, ferrous ions, and phosphates do not interfere.

7.1.2 Grossly contaminated sample solutions usually require pretreatment. Where contamination is minor, some contaminants can be destroyed simply by the addition of nitric acid.

7.2 Volhard Titration Method B:

7.2.1 Compounds that have a strong oxidizing action interfere by reacting with thiocyanate. These compounds should be

reduced beforehand by treatment with ferrous sulfate or a similar reducing agent.

7.2.2 Salts of mercury and palladium interfere by reacting with thiocyanate. They may be removed by precipitation with hydrogen sulfide before the addition of silver nitrate. The excess of sulfide is easily removed by gently boiling the acid solution for a few minutes. Sulfite can be eliminated in the same way.

7.2.3 Cyanide is also precipitated by silver nitrate. It is usually determined separately by the Liebig-Deniges method and a correction is applied to the results of the Volhard titration.⁷

7.2.4 The Volhard method, as with the potentiometric method, directly applied to a mixture of halides can determine only total halide content excluding fluoride. Preliminary treatment is necessary for the determination of chloride alone in a mixture.⁸

8. Apparatus

8.1 *Balance*, having a sensitivity of 0.1 mg.

8.2 *Apparatus for Bomb Combustion of the Sample*.

8.2.1 *Oxygen Bomb*, similar to that used in the determination of the calorific value of refuse-derived fuels as described in Test Method E 711E 711.

8.2.2 *Capsule*, for holding the sample, approximately 25 mm in diameter at the top, approximately 12 mm deep, and conforming to Test Method E 711E 711.

8.2.3 *Firing Wire*, as specified in Test Method E 711E 711.

8.2.4 *Firing Circuit*, as specified in Test Method E 711E 711.

⁷ Scott's *Standard Method of Chemical Analysis*, edited by M. H. Furman, D. Van Nostrand Co., Inc., New York, NY.

⁸ Koltoff, I. M., and Stenger, V. A., *Volumetric Analysis II*, Interscience Publishers, Inc., New York, NY.

8.2.5 *Metal Vessel*, cylindrical, such that the bomb will be fully immersed when approximately 2 L of water are added.

8.3 *Magnetic Stirrer and Stirring Bars*.

8.4 *Apparatus for Potentiometric Titration*:

8.4.1 *Potentiometric Titration Assembly*, using a silver indicator electrode and a calomel reference electrode containing a saturated sodium nitrate solution as a bridge.

NOTE 1—All glassware and graduated apparatus should be Class A or equivalent as described in Specification E 287E 287.

9. Reagents

9.1 *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.⁹ 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.

9.2 *Purity of Water*—Unless otherwise indicated, reference to water shall be understood to mean at least Type III reagent water conforming to Specification D 1193D 1193.

9.3 *Potassium Hydroxide Solution (0.2 N)*—Dissolve 13.2 g of potassium hydroxide (KOH) in water and dilute to 1 L with water.

9.4 *Oxygen*—The oxygen used for combustion shall be free of combustible matter. Oxygen manufactured from liquid air, guaranteed to be greater than 99.5 % pure, will meet this requirement.

9.5 *Sodium Chloride (NaCl)*—Primary standard quality (purity of 100 ± 0.02 %).

9.6 *Sodium Chloride, Primary Standard Solution (0.025 N)*—Crush 10 to 20 g of primary standard sodium chloride (NaCl) to 100-mesh fineness and dry in a glass container at 120°C for 2 h. Stopper and keep desiccated. Dissolve 5.844 g \pm 0.1 mg of dried primary standard NaCl in water and dilute to 1 L. Dilute 25.00 mL of this solution to 100.0 mL.

9.7 *Methanol*.

9.8 *Nitric Acid (1 + 1)*—Mix equal volumes of concentrated nitric acid (HNO₃, sp, gr, 1.42) and water.

9.9 *Silver Nitrate, Standard Solution (0.025 N)*—Dissolve 4.247 g of silver nitrate (AgNO₃) in water and dilute to 1 L. Store in an amber glass bottle. Standardize against 0.025 N sodium chloride solution as directed in 13.1.1 and 14.1.1.

9.10 *Potassium Chromate – Potassium Dichromate Indicator*—(K₂CrO₄– K₂Cr₂O₇)—Dissolve 4.2 g of K₂CrO₄ and 0.7 g of K₂Cr₂O₇ in 100 mL of water.

9.11 *Nitrobenzene*.

9.12 *Ferric Ammonium Sulfate Indicator Solution*—Add sufficient concentrated HNO₃(sp gr 1.42) to a cold saturated solution of ferric ammonium sulfate [FeNH₄(SO₄)₂·12H₂O] to remove the brown color.

9.13 *Potassium Thiocyanate, Standard Solution (0.025 N)*—Dissolve 3 g of potassium thiocyanate (KCNS) in freshly

distilled or boiled water, dilute to 1 L, and standardize against 0.025 N AgNO₃ solution as directed in 14.1.2.

10. Sampling

10.1 RDF products are frequently nonhomogeneous. For this reason significant care should be exercised to obtain a representative laboratory sample from the RDF lot to be characterized.

10.2 The sampling method for this procedure should be based on agreement between the involved parties.

10.3 The laboratory sample must be air-dried and the particle size reduced to pass a 0.5-mm screen as described in Practice E 829E 829. This procedure must be performed carefully to preserve the sample's representative characteristics (other than particle size) while preparing the analysis sample to be used in the procedures.

PREPARATION OF CHLORINE SOLUTIONS FOR ANALYSIS

11. Total Chlorine (Oxygen Bomb Method)

11.1 *Preparation of Sample and Bomb* (see Note 3):

11.1.1 *Sample Weight*—Weigh to the nearest 0.1 mg about 1 g of thoroughly mixed air-dried analysis RDF sample into the bomb capsule. A pellet may be made from the air-dried analysis RDF sample, accurately weighed, and placed into the bomb capsule. Place the capsule containing the sample into the capsule holder.

NOTE 2—There is a tendency for chlorine to adhere to the bomb walls, especially if the bomb is pitted or has been used previously to determine high levels of chlorine. Unless the bomb is thoroughly cleaned before use, the blanks may have values in excess of reality.

11.1.2 *Firing Wire*—Connect a length of firing wire to the ignition terminals in such a manner that the loop of firing wire is in contact with the sample.

11.1.3 *Bomb Preparation*—Add 20 to 25 mL of 0.02 N potassium hydroxide solution to the bomb and wet the entire internal surface of the bomb with this solution (see Note 3). Assemble the bomb.

NOTE 3—Sodium hydroxide solution at appropriate concentration may be used.

11.2 *Addition of Oxygen*—Admit oxygen to the bomb slowly to avoid blowing the sample from the capsule until a pressure of 25 atm is reached.

11.2.1 **Caution**—The following precautions are recommended for safe calorimeter operation. Additional precautions are given in Practice E 144E 144.

11.2.1.1 The weight of RDF sample and the pressure of the oxygen admitted to the bomb must not exceed the bomb manufacturer's recommendations.

11.2.1.2 Bomb parts should be inspected carefully after each use. Threads on the main closure should be checked frequently for wear. Cracked or significantly worn parts should be replaced. The bomb should be returned to the manufacturer occasionally for inspection and possibly proof firing.

11.2.1.3 The oxygen supply cylinder should be equipped with an approved type of safety device, such as a reducing valve, in addition to the needle valve and pressure gage used in

⁹ Reagent Chemicals, American Chemical Society Specifications, Am. Chemical Soc., Washington, DC. For suggestions on the testing of reagents not listed by the American Chemical Society, see "Analar Standards for Laboratory U.K. Chemicals," BDH Ltd., Poole, Dorset, and the "United States Pharmacopeia."