



Designation: D6661 – 10

# Standard Practice for Field Collection of Organic Compounds from Surfaces Using Wipe Sampling<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D6661; 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.

## 1. Scope

1.1 This practice addresses sampling of organic compounds (i.e., PCBs, dioxins, many pesticides and similar compounds) from smooth nonporous surfaces using a solvent-wetted wipe sampling method. Samples are collected in a manner that permits the solvent extraction of the organic compound(s) of interest from the wipes and subsequent determination using a laboratory analysis technique such as gas chromatography with a suitable detector. This practice is, however, unsuitable for the collection of volatile organic compounds.

1.2 This practice should only be used to collect samples for the determination of organic compound(s) on a loading basis (e.g., mass per unit area). It cannot be used to collect samples for the determination of organic compounds on a concentration basis (e.g., mass per unit mass).

1.3 This wipe sampling practice is not recommended for collecting samples of organic compounds from rough or porous surfaces such as upholstery, carpeting, brick, rough concrete, ceiling tiles, and bare wood. It is also not intended for the collection of dust samples (see Practice E1278) or sampling to estimating human exposure to contaminated surfaces.

1.4 To ensure valid conclusions are reached, a sufficient number of samples must be obtained as directed by a sampling design (the number and location of samples including quality control samples) and a quality assurance/quality control plan. This practice does not address the sampling designs used to achieve the data quality objectives (see Practice D5792).

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.*

<sup>1</sup> This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D34 on Waste Management and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D34.01.02 on Sampling Techniques.

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## 2. Referenced Documents

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

D4687 Guide for General Planning of Waste Sampling

D5681 Terminology for Waste and Waste Management

D5792 Practice for Generation of Environmental Data Related to Waste Management Activities: Development of Data Quality Objectives

E1278 Guide for Radioactive Pathway Methodology for Release of Sites Following Decommissioning (Withdrawn 2005)<sup>3</sup>

## 3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—For definitions of terms used in this practice, refer to Terminology D5681.

### 3.2 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.2.1 *wipe, n*—sorbent material (e.g., cotton gauze) that is rubbed on a surface to collect a sample for chemical analysis.

## 4. Summary of Practice

4.1 A wipe sample is collected from a smooth nonporous surface with a solvent-wetted wipe following a specified pattern of wiping to ensure complete coverage of an area of specified dimensions. The wipe is then extracted and analyzed to detect and quantify (at least semiquantitatively) the presence of organic compounds on surfaces.

## 5. Significance and Use

5.1 Wipe sampling is typically used by persons involved in hazardous waste site investigations to characterize the areal extent and the level of contamination on walls, floors, equipment, etc. Wipe sampling is also used to determine compliance with regulations.

5.2 There are many factors that contribute to variation in sampling results during wipe sampling including, the use of different pressures applied to the wipe, different kinds of wipes,

<sup>2</sup> For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org), or contact ASTM Customer Service at [service@astm.org](mailto:service@astm.org). For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

<sup>3</sup> The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org).