



Designation: D1240 – 12

Standard Test Methods for Rosin Acids Content of Pine Chemicals, Including Rosin, Tall Oil, and Related Products¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D1240; 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.

1. Scope

1.1 These test methods cover the determination of rosin acids in tall oil, tall oil fatty acid, tall oil rosin, and other pine chemicals products.

1.2 These test methods may not be applicable to adducts or derivatives of rosin, fatty acid, or other pine chemicals products.

1.3 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard. The values given in parentheses are for information only.

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 Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

D1585 Test Methods for Fatty Acids Content of Naval Stores, Including Rosin, Tall Oil, and Related Products

E70 Test Method for pH of Aqueous Solutions With the Glass Electrode

E177 Practice for Use of the Terms Precision and Bias in ASTM Test Methods

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

3. Summary of Test Method

3.1 The rosin acids content is determined by one of two procedures; by selective esterification of fatty acids to form methyl esters followed by titration of the unreacted rosin acids,

by selective esterification of fatty acids to form butyl esters followed by titration of the unreacted rosin acids.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This is revision of the method for measuring rosin acids content combines the three major ways of determining the rosin acids content of pine chemicals products into a single method.

4.1.1 For materials containing less than 15 % rosin, the modified Glidden procedure has gained acceptance. For materials containing more than 15 % rosin the modified Wolfe Method is preferred. The modified Wolfe and modified Glidden procedures differ only in their details. They have been combined here into a single procedure. This procedure can be run using either a potentiometer or an internal indicator to determine the end point of the titration. Use of a potentiometer is preferred and is the referee method. Use of an internal indicator is the principal alternative method. They will be referred to as the Potentiometric Method and the Internal Indicator Method.

5. Reagents

5.1 *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.³ 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.

5.2 Unless otherwise indicated, references to water shall be understood to mean deionized or distilled water.

6. Preparation of Sample

6.1 Homogeneous liquid materials may be used without further preparation.

¹ These test methods are under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D01 on Paint and Related Coatings, Materials, and Applications and are the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D01.34 on Pine Chemicals and Hydrocarbon Resins.

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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* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

³ *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. Pharmaceutical Convention, Inc. (USPC), Rockville, MD.

6.2 Nonhomogeneous liquid materials should be heated until they are homogeneous, then a portion taken for analysis.

6.3 Solid samples are subject to surface oxidation which may affect the results. Prepare the sample for analysis by chipping small pieces from a freshly exposed surface of a lump or lumps and crush to a coarse powder to facilitate weighing and solution. Prepare fresh on the same day, prior to weighing, in order to avoid changes due to surface oxidation of crushed rosin on exposure to the air.

**ROSIN ACIDS CONTENT BY THE
POTENTIOMETRIC METHOD**
(Referee Method)

7. Scope

7.1 This test method covers the determination of rosin acids content of tall oil rosin, tall oil fatty acid, and other pine chemicals products, where the most reproducible results are desired. By using the potentiometric inflection end points, the error due to colorimetric end points is avoided.

8. Summary of Test Method

8.1 A sample is refluxed with methyl sulfuric acid to esterify the fatty acids. The rosin acids and sulfuric acid are then titrated potentiometrically, and the rosin acids content calculated from the difference between the two inflection points obtained.

9. Apparatus

9.1 *pH Meter*—An indicating potentiometer having a limit of error not greater than ±0.1 pH over a range from pH 1 to pH 13, using an alkali-resistant glass electrode and a saturated calomel half-cell. The pH meter shall conform to the requirements of Test Method E70. Alternatively, an automatic potentiometric titrator may be used.

9.2 *Stirrer*, magnetic, equipped with poly(tetrafluoroethylene)-coated stir bar.

9.3 *Buret*, 50-mL capacity, with 0.1-mL divisions. The so-called automatic buret is preferable as its use minimizes errors due to evaporation. The automatic buret should be guarded with soda-lime tubes against the absorption of CO₂ from the air.

9.4 *Erlenmeyer Flask*, 250-mL or larger of a chemically resistant glass with a standard-taper 24/40 joint.

9.5 *Condenser*, water-cooled, equipped with a joint fitting the flask described in accordance with 9.4.

10. Reagents

10.1 *Alcoholic Alkali, Standard Solution (0.5 N)*—Dissolve 33 g of potassium hydroxide (KOH), preferably in pellet form, in methanol (CH₃OH) and dilute to 1 L with methanol. Standardize to ±0.001 N with potassium acid phthalate (C₆H₄COOKCOOH) in 60 mL of water followed by 40 mL of methanol; 2.553 g of potassium acid phthalate will be neutralized by 25.00 mL of 0.5 N KOH solution. Protect the standardized solution against evaporation and absorption of carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the air. Restandardize the solution

frequently, either potentiometrically or colorimetrically, using phenolphthalein as the indicator.

10.1.1 For fatty acids containing low concentrations of rosin acids, 0.1 N alcoholic potassium hydroxide may give superior results.

10.2 *Ethanol (95 %)*—Denatured alcohol conforming to Formula No. 3A or No. 30 of the U.S. Bureau of Internal Revenue, neutralized by the addition of KOH.

10.3 *Methanol (99.5 %)*.

10.4 *Methyl Sulfuric Acid Solution*—Slowly pour 100 g of concentrated sulfuric acid (H₂SO₄ sp gr 1.82 to 1.84), while stirring constantly, into 400 g of methanol. Extreme caution should be taken while preparing the methyl sulfuric acid. Adding sulfuric acid too rapidly may cause the methanol to flash out of its container. Store the methyl sulfuric acid in a glass-stoppered bottle.

10.5 *Toluene*.

11. Procedure

11.1 Weigh the sample to the nearest 0.001 g in a 250-mL flask. Choose the amount of sample so that the second titration will consume between 10 and 30 mL of KOH solution. For rosin acids, this will be about 5 g of material. For fatty acids containing less than 15 % rosin, this will be about 40 g of material. For fatty acids containing less than 3 % rosin acids titrating with 0.1 N KOH may give superior results. Table 1 gives suggested amounts of material to use.

11.2 Dissolve the sample in 100 mL of methanol in a 250-mL flask. If the sample has a high rosin content it may be helpful first to dissolve it in 25 mL of toluene before adding the methanol. For material believed to contain more than 15 % rosin acid, that is, high in rosin, add 5 mL of methyl sulfuric acid, connect the flask assembly, and reflux the solution for 2 to 20 min. (Solid samples must be in solution before beginning reflux.) For materials believed to contain concentrations of rosin acid less than 15 %, that is, low in rosin, use 10 mL of methyl sulfuric and reflux for 20 min. Measure reflux time from the moment the first drop of solvent returns to the flask from the condenser. Cool and transfer to a 400-mL beaker, using a total of 100 mL of methanol (Note 1) in three successive rinsings.

NOTE 1—Ethanol is preferable when an automatic titrator is used.

11.3 Turn the pH meter on and allow a few minutes for it to come to equilibrium. Balance the meter using a standard buffer solution as described in Test Method E70; then rinse the electrodes thoroughly with water and then with alcohol.

TABLE 1 Sample Size and Titrant

Material	Sample Size, g	Reflux Time, min	KOH Normality, N
Rosin	5	2	0.5
Fatty acid, <15 % rosin	40	20	0.5
Fatty acid, <3 % rosin	40	20	0.1