



Designation: D4981 – 12

Standard Test Method for Screening of Oxidizers in Waste¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D4981; 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 This test method is intended for use prior to preparation of waste samples for organic analysis. Waste samples that have oxidizing compounds may react with certain reagents in the laboratory (for example, organic solvents).

1.2 This test method is applicable to the analysis of waste liquids, sludges, and solids.

1.3 This test method can neither identify specific oxidizing compounds nor measure concentrations. Since no acid or base is added in this test method, potential oxidizers that require the presence of acid or base will not be detected by this test method.

1.4 It is recommended that, prior to this test, waste samples be screened for water compatibility; see Test Methods [D5058](#).

1.5 This test method is designed and intended as a preliminary test to complement quantitative analytical techniques that may be used to determine the presence of oxidizers in wastes. This test method offers the ability to screen waste for potentially hazardous reactions due to oxidizer content when the more sophisticated techniques are not available or the total waste composition is unknown.

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

1.7 *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

[D1193 Specification for Reagent Water](#)

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee [D34](#) on Waste Management and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee [D34.01.05](#) on Screening Methods.

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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.

[D5058 Practices for Compatibility of Screening Analysis of Waste](#)

[D5681 Terminology for Waste and Waste Management](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 For definitions of terms used in this screening method, refer to Terminology [D5681](#).

3.2 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.2.1 *screening analysis*—A preliminary qualitative or semi-quantitative test that is designed to efficiently give the user specific information about a waste that will aid in determining waste identification, process compatibility, and safety in handling.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 A small portion of the sample is placed onto a strip of potassium iodide (KI) starch paper. The blue color which is the result of oxidizing the potassium iodide to iodine (I_2) in the presence of starch, indicates a positive test for oxidizers.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 This test method is intended for use by those in waste management industries to avoid potentially harmful reactions due to oxidizing compounds in wastes.

6. Interferences

6.1 Materials that mask the KI starch paper, (for example, oils, syrups, etc.) prevent reaction with the test paper or visual detection of a color change.

6.2 Samples or slurries of samples that are already dark colored prior to applying a test portion to the KI starch paper can give false results.

6.3 Oxidizers such as ferric salts may not oxidize organics; however, they may show positive reactions with KI.

6.4 Oxidizers that require the presence of acid or base will give a false negative result. To overcome this problem, run the oxidizer test at acid, base, and neutral pH conditions.

7. Reagents and Materials

7.1 *Purity of Reagents*—Reagent-grade chemicals shall be used in all tests. Unless otherwise indicated, it is intended that all reagents conform to specifications of the Committee on