



Standard Practice for Separation and Concentration of Ignitable Liquid Residues from Fire Debris Samples by Passive Headspace Concentration with Solid Phase Microextraction (SPME)¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This practice describes the procedure for removing small quantities of ignitable liquid residues from samples of fire debris. An adsorbent material is used to extract the residue from the static headspace above the sample. Then, analytes are thermally desorbed in the injection port of the gas chromatograph (GC).

1.2 This practice is best suited for screening fire debris samples to assess relative ignitable liquid concentration and for extracting ignitable liquid from aqueous samples.

1.3 This practice is suitable for extracting ignitable liquid residues when a high level of sensitivity is required due to a very low concentration of ignitable liquid residues in the sample.

1.3.1 Unlike other methods of separation and concentration, this method recovers a minimal amount of the ignitable residues present in the evidence, leaving residues that are suitable for subsequent resampling.

1.4 Alternate separation and concentration procedures are listed in Section 2.

1.5 This standard cannot replace knowledge, skill, or ability acquired through appropriate education, training, and experience and should be used in conjunction with sound professional judgment.

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.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

E1386 Practice for Separation of Ignitable Liquid Residues from Fire Debris Samples by Solvent Extraction

E1388 Practice for Static Headspace Sampling of Vapors from Fire Debris Samples

E1412 Practice for Separation of Ignitable Liquid Residues from Fire Debris Samples by Passive Headspace Concentration with Activated Charcoal

E1413 Practice for Separation of Ignitable Liquid Residues from Fire Debris Samples by Dynamic Headspace Concentration onto an Adsorbent Tube

E1492 Practice for Receiving, Documenting, Storing, and Retrieving Evidence in a Forensic Science Laboratory

E1618 Test Method for Ignitable Liquid Residues in Extracts from Fire Debris Samples by Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry

3. Summary of Practice

3.1 A fiber coated with a polydimethylsiloxane stationary phase is exposed to the headspace of the fire debris sample container to extract ignitable liquid residues. The fiber, which is housed in a needle similar to a syringe needle, is introduced directly in the injection port of a gas chromatograph to thermally desorb the analytes.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This practice is suited ideally for screening samples for the presence, relative concentration, and potential class of ignitable liquid residues in fire debris.

4.2 This is a very sensitive separation procedure, capable of isolating small quantities of ignitable liquid residues from a

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E30 on Forensic Sciences and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E30.01 on Criminalistics.

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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.