



Designation: D7598 – 16

Standard Test Method for Determination of Thiodiglycol in Water by Single Reaction Monitoring Liquid Chromatography/Tandem Mass Spectrometry¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D7598; 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 procedure covers the determination of thiodiglycol (TDG) in surface water by direct injection using liquid chromatography (LC) and detected with tandem mass spectrometry (MS/MS). TDG is qualitatively and quantitatively determined by this test method. This test method adheres to single reaction monitoring (SRM) mass spectrometry.

1.2 This test method has been developed by US EPA Region 5 Chicago Regional Laboratory (CRL).

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

1.4 The Detection Verification Level (DVL) and Reporting Range for TDG are listed in [Table 1](#).

1.4.1 The DVL is required to be at a concentration at least 3 times below the reporting limit (RL) and have a signal/noise ratio greater than 3:1. [Fig. 1](#) displays the signal/noise ratio at the DVL.

1.4.2 The RL is the concentration of the level 1 calibration standard as shown in [Table 2](#). The reporting limit for this test method is 100 $\mu\text{g/L}$.

1.5 *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

[D1129 Terminology Relating to Water](#)

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee [D19](#) on Water and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee [D19.06](#) on Methods for Analysis for Organic Substances in Water.

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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.

[D1193 Specification for Reagent Water](#)

[D2777 Practice for Determination of Precision and Bias of Applicable Test Methods of Committee D19 on Water](#)

[D3856 Guide for Management Systems in Laboratories Engaged in Analysis of Water](#)

[D3694 Practices for Preparation of Sample Containers and for Preservation of Organic Constituents](#)

[D5847 Practice for Writing Quality Control Specifications for Standard Test Methods for Water Analysis](#)

[E2554 Practice for Estimating and Monitoring the Uncertainty of Test Results of a Test Method Using Control Chart Techniques](#)

2.2 *Other Documents:*

[EPA publication SW-846 Test Methods for Evaluating Solid Waste, Physical/Chemical Methods](#)³

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions:*

3.1.1 For definitions of terms used in this standard, refer to Terminology [D1129](#).

3.2 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.2.1 *detection verification level, DVL), n*—a concentration that has a signal/noise ratio greater than 3:1 and is at least 3 times below the reporting limit (RL).

3.2.2 *independent reference material, IRM, n*—a material of known purity and concentration obtained either from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) or other reputable supplier. The IRM shall be obtained from a different lot of material than is used for calibration.

3.3 *Acronyms:*

3.3.1 *CCC, n*—Continuing Calibration Check

3.3.2 *IC, n*—Initial Calibration

3.3.3 *LC, n*—Liquid Chromatography

3.3.4 *LCS/LCSD, n*—Laboratory Control Sample/
Laboratory Control Sample Duplicate

³ Available from National Technical Information Service (NTIS), U.S. Department of Commerce, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA, 22161 or at <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/hazard/testmethods/index.htm>.

TABLE 1 Detection Verification Level and Reporting Range

Analyte	DVL (µg/L)	Reporting Range (µg/L)
Thiodiglycol	20	100–10 000

- 3.3.5 *MDL*, *n*—Method Detection Limit
- 3.3.6 *MeOH*, *n*—Methanol
- 3.3.7 *mM*, *n*—millimolar, 1×10^{-3} moles/L
- 3.3.8 *MRM*, *n*—Multiple Reaction Monitoring
- 3.3.9 *MS/MSD*, *n*—Matrix Spike/Matrix Spike Duplicate
- 3.3.10 *NA*, *adj*—Not Available
- 3.3.11 *ND*, *n*—non-detect
- 3.3.12 *P&A*, *n*—Precision and Accuracy
- 3.3.13 *PPB*, *n*—parts per billion
- 3.3.14 *PPT*, *n*—parts per trillion
- 3.3.15 *QA*, *adj*—Quality Assurance
- 3.3.16 *QC*, *adj*—Quality Control
- 3.3.17 *RL*, *n*—Reporting Limit
- 3.3.18 *RSD*, *n*—Relative Standard Deviation
- 3.3.19 *RT*, *n*—Retention Time
- 3.3.20 *SDS*, *n*—Safety Data Sheets
- 3.3.21 *SRM*, *n*—Single Reaction Monitoring
- 3.3.22 *SS*, *n*—Surrogate Standard
- 3.3.23 *TC*, *n*—Target Compound
- 3.3.24 μM , *n*—micromolar, 1×10^{-6} moles/L
- 3.3.25 *VOA*, *n*—Volatile Organic Analysis

4. Summary of Test Methods

4.1 This is a performance based method and modifications are allowed to improve performance.

4.2 For thiodiglycol analysis, samples are shipped to the lab between 0°C and 6°C and analyzed within 7 days of collection. In the lab, the samples are spiked with surrogate, filtered using a syringe-driven filter unit and analyzed directly by LC/MS/MS.

4.3 Thiodiglycol and 3,3'-thiodipropanol (surrogate) are identified by retention time and one SRM transition. The target analyte and surrogate are quantitated using the SRM transitions utilizing an external calibration. The final report issued for each sample lists the concentration of TDG and the 3,3'-thiodipropanol surrogate recovery.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 Thiodiglycol is a Schedule 2 compound under the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). Schedule 2 chemicals include those that are precursors to chemical weapons, chemical weapons agents or have a number of other commercial uses. They are used as ingredients to produce insecticides, herbicides, lubricants, and some pharmaceutical products. Schedule 2 chemicals can be found in applications unrelated to chemical weapons. Thiodiglycol is both a mustard gas precursor

and degradant as well as an ingredient in water-based inks, ballpoint pen inks, dyes and some pesticides.⁴

5.2 This test method has been investigated for use with reagent and surface water.

6. Interferences

6.1 Method interferences may be caused by contaminants in solvents, reagents, glassware and other apparatus producing discrete artifacts or elevated baselines. All of these materials are demonstrated to be free from interferences by analyzing laboratory reagent blanks under the same conditions as samples.

6.2 All glassware is washed in hot water with a detergent, rinsed in hot water followed by distilled water. The glassware is then dried and heated in an oven at 250°C for 15 to 30 minutes. All glassware is subsequently cleaned with acetone, then methanol.

6.3 All reagents and solvents should be pesticide residue purity or higher to minimize interference problems.

6.4 Matrix interferences may be caused by contaminants that are co-extracted from the sample. The extent of matrix interferences can vary considerably from sample source depending on variations of the sample matrix.

7. Apparatus

7.1 LC/MS/MS System:

7.1.1 *Liquid Chromatography (LC) System*—A complete LC system is needed in order to analyze samples.⁵ This should include a sample injection system, a solvent pumping system capable of mixing solvents, a sample compartment capable of maintaining required temperature and a temperature controlled column compartment. A system that is capable of performing at the flows, pressures, controlled temperatures, sample volumes and requirements of the standard may be used.

7.1.2 *Analytical Column*⁶—Any column that achieves adequate resolution may be used. The retention times and order of elution may change depending on the column that is used and need to be monitored.

7.1.3 *Tandem Mass Spectrometer (MS/MS) System*—A MS/MS system capable of MRM analysis.⁷ A system that is capable of performing at the requirements in this standard may be used.

7.2 Filtration Device:

7.2.1 *Hypodermic Syringe*—A luer-lock tip glass syringe capable of holding a syringe-driven filter unit.

⁴ Additional information about CWC and thiodiglycol is available from the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), <http://www.opcw.org>.

⁵ A Waters Alliance High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) System (a trademark of the Waters Corporation, Milford, MA), or equivalent, was found suitable for use. The multi-laboratory study included Agilent and Waters LC systems.

⁶ A SIELC—A Primesep SB 5 µm, 100 Å particle, 150 mm × 2.1 mm, or equivalent, was found suitable for use

⁷ A Waters Quattro micro API mass spectrometer (a trademark of the Waters Corporation, Milford, MA), or equivalent, was found suitable for use. The multi-laboratory study included Applied Biosystems and Waters mass spectrometers.

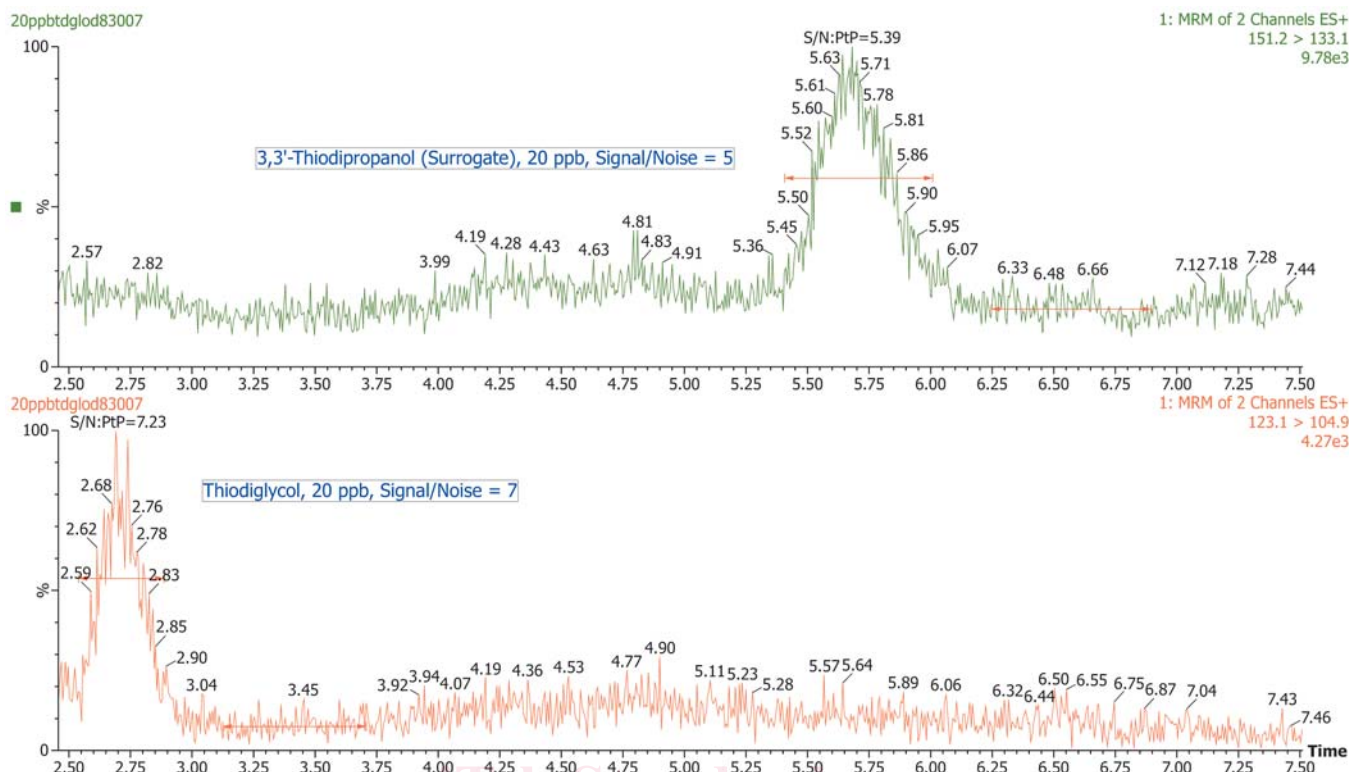


FIG. 1 Example SRM Chromatograms Signal/Noise at Detection Verification Level

TABLE 2 Concentrations of Calibration Standards (PPB)

Analyte/Surrogate	LV 1	LV 2	LV 3	LV 4	LV 5	LV 6	LV 7
Thiodiglycol	100	250	500	1000	2500	5000	10 000
3,3'-Thiodipropanol	100	250	500	1000	2500	5000	10 000

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7.2.1.1 A 25-mL lock tip glass syringe size is recommended since a 25-mL sample size is used in this test method.

7.2.2 *Filter Unit*⁸—A PVDF befilter units were used to filter the samples.

8. Reagents and Materials

8.1 *Purity of Reagents*—High-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) pesticide residue analysis and spectrophotometry grade chemicals shall be used in all tests. Unless indicated otherwise, it is intended that all reagents shall conform to the Committee on Analytical Reagents of the American Chemical Society.⁹ Other reagent grades may be

⁸ A Millex HV Syringe Driven Filter Unit PVDF 0.45 μm (Millipore Corporation, Catalog # SLHV033NS; Millex is a trademark of Merck KGAA, Darmstadt, Germany) has been found suitable for use for this test method, any filter unit may be used that meets the performance of this test method may be used.

⁹ *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 *Annual Standards for Laboratory Chemicals*, BDH Ltd., Poole, Dorset, U.K., and the *United States Pharmacopeia and National Formulary*, U.S. Pharmacopeial Convention, Inc. (USPC), Rockville, MD.

used provided they are first determined they are of sufficiently high purity to permit their use without affecting the accuracy of the measurements.

8.2 *Purity of Water*—Unless otherwise indicated, references to water shall be understood to mean reagent water conforming to Type 1 of Specification D1193. It must be demonstrated that this water does not contain contaminants at concentrations sufficient to interfere with the analysis.

8.3 *Gases*—Ultrapure nitrogen and argon.

8.4 Acetonitrile (CAS # 75-05-8).

8.5 Methanol (CAS # 67-56-1).

8.6 Acetone (CAS # 67-64-1).

8.7 Ammonium formate (CAS # 540-69-2).

8.8 Formic acid (64-18-6).

8.9 Thiodiglycol (CAS # 111-48-8).

8.10 3,3'-Thiodipropanol (CAS # 10595-09-2).

9. Hazards

9.1 Normal laboratory safety applies to this method. Analysts should wear safety glasses, gloves, and lab coats when

working in the lab. Analysts should review the Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for all reagents used in this test method.

10. Sampling

10.1 *Sampling*—Grab samples must be collected in ≥ 25 -mL pre-cleaned amber glass bottles with Teflon-lined caps demonstrated to be free of interferences. This test method requires a 25-mL sample size per analysis. Conventional sampling practices should be followed. Refer to Guide D3856 and Practices D3694.

10.2 *Preservation*—Store samples between 0°C and 6°C from the time of collection until analysis. Analyze the sample within 1 day of collection.

11. Preparation of LC/MS/MS

11.1 LC Chromatograph Operating Conditions:⁵

11.1.1 Injection volumes of all calibration standards and samples are 50 μ L. The first sample analyzed after the calibration curve is a blank to ensure there is no carry-over. The gradient conditions for the liquid chromatograph are shown in Table 3.

11.1.2 *Temperatures*—Column, 30°C; Sample compartment, 15°C.

11.1.3 *Seal Wash*—Solvent: 50 % Acetonitrile/50 % Water; Time: 5 minutes.

11.1.4 *Needle Wash*—Solvent: 50 % Acetonitrile/50 % Water; Normal Wash, approximately 13 second wash time.

11.1.5 *Autosampler Purge*—Three loop volumes.

11.1.6 Specific instrument manufacturer wash/purge specifications should be followed in order to eliminate sample carry-over in the analysis of TDG.

11.2 Mass Spectrometer Parameters:⁷

11.2.1 In order to acquire the maximum number of data points per SRM channel while maintaining adequate sensitivity, the tune parameters may be optimized according to your instrument. Each peak requires at least 10 scans per peak for adequate quantitation. This standard contains only one target compound and one surrogate which are in different SRM experiment windows in order to optimize the number of scans and sensitivity. Variable parameters regarding retention times, SRM Transitions and cone and collision energies are shown in Table 4.

The instrument is set in the Electrospray (+) positive setting.
 Capillary Voltage: 3.5 kV
 Cone: Variable depending on analyte (Table 4)
 Extractor: 2 Volts
 RF Lens: 0.2 Volts
 Source Temperature: 120°C
 Desolvation Temperature: 300°C
 Desolvation Gas Flow: 500 L/hr
 Cone Gas Flow: 25 L/hr
 Low Mass Resolution 1: 14.5
 High Mass Resolution 1: 14.5
 Ion Energy 1: 0.5
 Entrance Energy: -1
 Collision Energy: Variable depending on analyte (Table 4)
 Exit Energy: 2
 Low Mass Resolution 2: 15
 High Mass resolution 2: 15
 Ion Energy 2: 0.5
 Multiplier: 650
 Gas Cell Pirani Gauge: 3.3×10^{-3} Torr
 Inter-Channel Delay: 0.02 seconds
 Inter-Scan Delay: 0.1 seconds
 Repeats: 1
 Span: 0 Daltons
 Dwell: 0.1 Seconds

12. Calibration and Standardization

12.1 The mass spectrometer must be calibrated per manufacturer specifications before analysis. In order that analytical values obtained using this test method are valid and accurate within the confidence limits of the test method, the following procedures must be followed when performing the test method.

12.2 *Calibration and Standardization*—To calibrate the instrument, analyze seven calibration standards containing the seven concentration levels of TDG and 3,3'-thiodipropanol prior to analysis as shown in Table 2. A calibration stock standard solution is prepared from standard materials or purchased as certified solutions. Stock standard solution A (Level 7) containing TDG and 3,3'-thiodipropanol is prepared at Level 7 concentration and aliquots of that solution are diluted to prepare Levels 1 through 6. The following steps will produce standards with the concentration values shown in Table 2. The analyst is responsible for recording initial component weights carefully when working with pure materials and correctly carrying the weights through the dilution calculations.

12.2.1 Prepare stock standard solution A (Level 7) by adding to a 100-mL volumetric flask individual methanol solutions of the following: 250 μ L of TDG and 3,3'-thiodipropanol each at 4 g/L, dilute to 100 mL with water. The preparation of the Level 7 standard can be accomplished using different volumes and concentrations of stock solutions as is accustomed in the individual laboratory. Depending on stock concentrations prepared, the solubility at that concentration will have to be ensured.

12.2.2 Aliquots of Solution A are then diluted with water to prepare the desired calibration levels in 2-mL amber glass LC vials. The calibration vials must be used within 24 hours to ensure optimum results. Stock calibration standards are routinely replaced every six months if not previously discarded for quality control failure. Calibration standards are not filtered.

12.2.3 Inject each standard and obtain a chromatogram for each one. An external calibration is used monitoring the SRM transition of each analyte. Calibration software is utilized to

TABLE 3 Gradient Conditions for Liquid Chromatography

Time (min)	Flow (μ L/min)	Percent CH ₃ CN	Percent Water	Percent 500 mmolar Ammonium Formate/2% Formic Acid
0	300	0	95	5
2.5	300	0	95	5
6	300	90	5	5
10	300	90	5	5
12	300	0	95	5
16	300	0	95	5