



Designation: **D6759 – 09 D6759 – 16**

Standard Practice for Sampling Liquids Using Grab and Discrete Depth Samplers¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D6759; 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 practice describes sampling devices and procedures for collecting samples of liquids or sludges, or both, whose upper surface can be accessed by the suitable device. These devices may be used to sample tanks that have an appropriately sized and located sampling port.

1.2 This practice describes and discusses the advantages and limitations of the following commonly used equipment, some of which can be used for both grab and discrete depth sampling: dipper, liquid grab sampler, swing jar sampler, Bacon Bomb, Kemmerer sampler, Discrete Level sampler, liquid profiler, ~~hidden sludge/water sampler~~, peristaltic pump, and the Syringe sampler.

1.3 This practice provides instructions on the use of these samplers.

1.4 This practice does not address sampling devices for collecting ground water.

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

[D4687 Guide for General Planning of Waste Sampling](#)

[D4840 Guide for Sample Chain-of-Custody Procedures](#)

[D5088 Practice for Decontamination of Field Equipment Used at Waste Sites](#)

[D5283 Practice for Generation of Environmental Data Related to Waste Management Activities: Quality Assurance and Quality Control Planning and Implementation](#)

[D5358 Practice for Sampling with a Dipper or Pond Sampler](#)

[D5612 Guide for Quality Planning and Field Implementation of a Water Quality Measurement Program](#)

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

[D5743 Practice for Sampling Single or Multilayered Liquids, With or Without Solids, in Drums or Similar Containers](#)

[D5792 Practice for Generation of Environmental Data Related to Waste Management Activities: Development of Data Quality Objectives](#)

[D5956 Guide for Sampling Strategies for Heterogeneous Wastes](#)

[D6044 Guide for Representative Sampling for Management of Waste and Contaminated Media](#)

[D6051 Guide for Composite Sampling and Field Subsampling for Environmental Waste Management Activities](#)

[D6232 Guide for Selection of Sampling Equipment for Waste and Contaminated Media Data Collection Activities](#)

[D6233 Guide for Data Assessment for Environmental Waste Management Activities \(Withdrawn 2016\)](#)³

[D6311 Guide for Generation of Environmental Data Related to Waste Management Activities: Selection and Optimization of Sampling Design](#)

[D6323 Guide for Laboratory Subsampling of Media Related to Waste Management Activities](#)

[D6538 Guide for Sampling Wastewater With Automatic Samplers](#)

[D6699 Practice for Sampling Liquids Using Bailers](#)

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D34 on Waste Management and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D34.01.03 on Sampling Equipment.

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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 The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on [www.astm.org](#).

3. Terminology

- 3.1 *discrete depth sample, n*—sample obtained from a defined level within the liquid being sampled.
- 3.2 *grab sample, n*—individual sample collected over a period of time usually not exceeding 15 min and in such a manner as to be representative of conditions at the time of sampling. Grab samples are sometimes called individual or discrete samples.
- 3.3 *representative sample, n*—sample collected such that it reflects one or more characteristics of interest (as defined by the project objectives) of a population from which it was collected. **D5956**
- 3.4 *sample, n*—see Terminology **D5681**.
- 3.5 *sludge, n*—any mixture of solids that settles out of solution. Sludges contain liquids that are not apparent as free liquids (see Practice **D5743**). **D6323**

4. Significance and Use

- 4.1 Sampling at specified depth(s) within a liquid may be needed to confirm or rule out variations within a target population. This practice describes the design and operation of commercially available grab and discrete depth samplers for persons responsible for designing or implementing sampling programs, or both.
- 4.2 These sampling devices are used for sampling liquids in tanks, ponds, impoundments, and other open bodies of water. Some may be used from the edge or bank of the sampling site, whereas some can only be used from a platform, boat, or bridge over the sampling site. Some of the devices described are suitable for sampling slurries and sludges as well as aqueous and other liquids with few or no suspended solids.
- 4.3 Practice **D5743** provides guidance for sampling drums, tanks, or similar containers.
- 4.4 This practice does not address general guidelines for planning waste sampling activities (Guide **D4687**), development of data quality objectives (Practice **D5792**), the design of monitoring systems and determination of the number of samples to collect (Practice **D6311**), in situ measurement of parameters of interest, data assessment and statistical interpretation of resultant data (Guide **D6233**), sample preservation, sampling and field quality assurance (Guide **D5612**), or the selection of sampling locations or obtaining a representative sample (Guide **D6044**).

5. Pre-Sampling

- 5.1 Samples should be collected in accordance with an appropriate work plan (Practice **D5283** and Guide **D4687**) and in accordance with the Data Quality Objectives (Practice **D5792**). The plan should include a worker health and safety section because of the potential hazards associated with sampling wastes.⁴
- 5.2 All equipment shall be clean, dry, and compatible with the anticipated composition of the material being sampled (Practice **D5088**). When sampling a hazardous material, if the exterior of the sample bottle or sampling apparatus contacts the hazardous material, it needs to be cleaned before subsequent steps, such as labelling or sample transfer, are taken.
- 5.3 For samplers with long handles, if high voltage electrical wires could come into contact with the handle, the handle should be made of nonconductive material, such as wood.
- 5.4 For guidance in obtaining a representative sample, see Guide **D6044**.
- 5.5 For guidance in how to prepare composite samples and subsamples in the field, see Guide **D6051**.
- 5.6 Some discrete samples can be taken using bailers (see Practice **D6699**). Additional information on selecting sampling equipment, based on the sample matrix, and the constraints on the use of equipment, based on the physical and chemical properties of the equipment, can be found in Guide **D6232**.

6. Sampling Equipment and Procedures

- 6.1 *Dipper:*
- 6.1.1 *Description*—A dipper can consist of a variety of pieces of equipment assembled in a manner to obtain a sample.
- 6.1.1.1 One type has an adjustable clamp attached to the end of a metal rod or tube, which may be extendable (see Fig. 1). The rod or tube forms the handle and the clamp is used to secure it to a beaker or other sample container.
- 6.1.1.2 Another type of device is made using a stainless steel tube clamped to a moveable bracket that is attached to a rigid handle. The angle of the cup to the handle is adjustable (Practice **D5358**).
- 6.1.2 *Procedure:*
- 6.1.2.1 With the beaker facing downward, lower the dipper beaker into the liquid slowly until it is submerged. Try to cause a minimum of surface disturbance.
- 6.1.2.2 Rotate the beaker through 180°. If there is a current, the mouth of the beaker should face upstream during the rotation.

⁴ *Occupational Safety and Health Guidance Manual for Hazardous Waste Site Activities*, DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No. 85-115 (NTIS No. PB87-162855/LL), NIOSH, OSHA, USCG, EPA, October 1985.

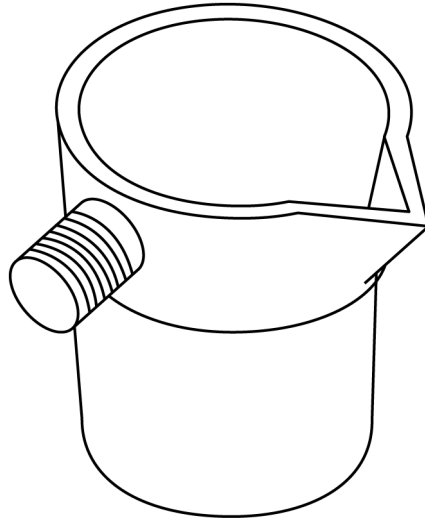


FIG. 1 Dipper

6.1.2.3 Allow the beaker to fill.

6.1.2.4 Slowly bring it to the surface.

6.1.2.5 Transfer the sample, usually by gently pouring the dipper's contents into a clean sample container.

6.1.3 *Advantages and Limitations:*

Advantages
 It is inexpensive.
 When attached to a rigid pole, it can reach to 4 m (10–13 ft) away from the person collecting samples.

Limitations
 It can be used to obtain only surface samples. Because the sample collection chamber is always open, it cannot obtain a sample containing the same strata proportions as the strata at the location being sampled.

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6.2 Liquid Grab Sampler:

6.2.1 Description—A liquid grab sampler consists of a rigid handle with a bottle attached to one end. The bottle is sealed with a plunger that can be opened or closed by moving the cable that is attached to it (see Fig. 2).

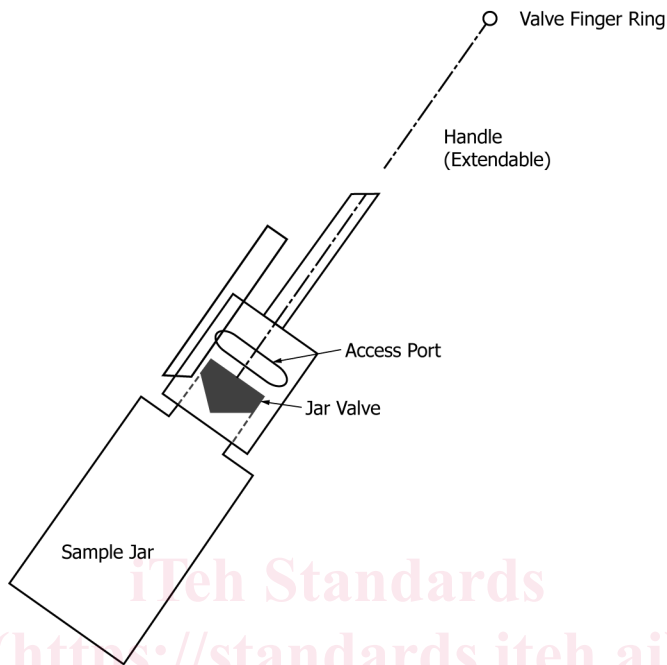


FIG. 2 Liquid Grab Sampler

6.2.2 Procedure—Assemble the liquid grab sampler per the manufacturer’s instructions.

6.2.2.1 When assembled, thread the bottle onto the grab sampler head and tighten by turning the bottle clockwise.

6.2.2.2 Submerge the sampler to the desired depth and pull the split key ring to allow liquid to enter the bottle.

6.2.2.3 Release the ring to close the bottle.

6.2.2.4 Raise the sampler from the liquid.

6.2.2.5 Remove the filled sample bottle and seal it.

6.2.2.6 Clean the outside surface of the sample bottle.

6.2.3 Advantages and Limitations:

- Advantages**
- The sample jar is available commercially in a range of materials;
 - providing the choice of one that is chemically inert to the contaminants of interest;
 - Handles of various lengths can be used to obtain samples from different depths;
 - The sample does not need to be transferred to another container for shipping;
 - The sampler is not opened until the desired sampling depth is reached, that is, it can be used as a discrete depth sampler (see Practice D6699).

- Limitations**
- True depth of sample unknown unless device is vertically deployed;
 - Not able to collect stratified samples of proper proportions;
 - Exterior of sample bottle needs cleaning after immersion in hazardous waste;

Advantages

The sample jar is available commercially in a range of materials, providing the choice of one that is chemically inert to the contaminants of interest. Handles of various lengths can be used to obtain samples from different depths. The sample does not need to be transferred to another container for shipping. The sampler is not opened until the desired sampling depth is reached, that is, it can be used as a discrete depth sampler (see Practice D6699).

Limitations

True depth of sample unknown unless device is vertically deployed. Not able to collect stratified samples of proper proportions. Exterior of sample bottle needs cleaning after immersion in hazardous waste.

6.3 Swing Jar Sampler:

6.3.1 Description—This sampling device consists of a pole that screws into a bottle holder (see Fig. 3). The angle of the bottle

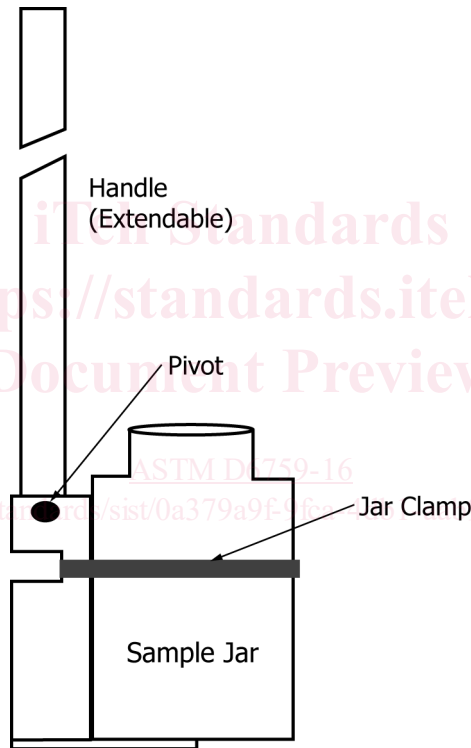


FIG. 3 Swing Jar Sampler

with respect to the pole can be varied.

6.3.2 Procedure:

6.3.2.1 Select the bottle clamp that best fits the desired sample bottle.

6.3.2.2 Connect the pole to the bottle holder and turn it clockwise until snug.

6.3.2.3 Slide the clamp onto the bottle to a point midway between the bottle shoulder and heel.

6.3.2.4 Tighten the screw located in the inner pole screw threads of the bottle holder.

6.3.2.5 Lower the sampler into the liquid slowly with the bottle facing downward until it is submerged to cause minimal surface disturbance.

6.3.2.6 Rotate the bottle through 180°.

NOTE 1—If there is a current, the mouth of the bottle should face upstream during the rotation.

6.3.2.7 Allow the bottle to fill and slowly bring it to the surface.

6.3.2.8 Loosen the screw holding the bottle to the device.

6.3.2.9 Remove the bottle from the holder.

6.3.2.10 For transport to the laboratory, either seal the bottle and clean the exterior or transfer the bottle's contents into a clean sample container.

6.3.3 *Advantages and Limitations:*

Advantages
The sampler can accommodate
–different sample bottle sizes
–up to 960 mL.
It allows collection from various
–angles, including vertical.

Limitations
Not suitable for discrete depth sampling.
Exterior of sample bottle needs
–cleaning after immersion in
–hazardous waste.

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