



Designation: D4948 – 89 (Reapproved 2016)

Standard Test Method for Determination of the Upper Layer Separated from a Viscous Liquid¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D4948; 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 covers the determination of the amount of liquid separated as an upper layer in a 24-h period from viscous solutions or dispersions that contain dispersed solids such as paints, enamels, pigmented lacquers, adhesives, polishes, and other similar materials.

NOTE 1—The amount of clear liquid that separates during this test is one of the criteria in the United Nations Recommendations on the Transportation of Dangerous Goods² for the placement of flammable viscous liquids into packing groups related to flash points (See 4.1).

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

1.3 *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:*³

D3925 Practice for Sampling Liquid Paints and Related Pigmented Coatings

3. Summary of Test Method

3.1 A measured amount of the material to be tested is placed in a graduated cylinder and allowed to stand undisturbed for 24 h. The volume percent of the separated top layer is then determined.

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D01 on Paint and Related Coatings, Materials, and Applications and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D01.21 on Chemical Analysis of Paints and Paint Materials.

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² *Transport of Dangerous Goods: Recommendations of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods*, United Nations; 3rd ed., New York, 1984.

³ 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.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 The United Nations Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods in their recommended regulations place materials having a flash point below 23°C (73.5°F) in Packing Group II. However, if viscous substances such as paint and related coatings, adhesives, polishes, etc., meet certain requirements, they can be placed in Group III along with materials having a flash point between 23 and 60.5°C (73.5 and 140°F). One of the requirements is that less than 3 % of clear liquid separates from the bulk of the material when subjected to this test method.

4.2 At the present time most international regulatory bodies such as the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) use the U.N. Recommendations. It is anticipated that most national transportation regulatory bodies will adopt the U.N. Recommendations as their regulations for control of transportation of hazardous materials. At present the United States permits the transshipment of hazardous materials through the United States to other countries under regulations of the IMO and ICAO.

5. Apparatus

5.1 *Graduated Cylinder*, 100-mL, TC, glass-stoppered, 295-mm total height and 29-mm inside diameter.

5.2 *Constant Temperature Cabinet or Room*, at $23 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ ($73.5 \pm 3.5^\circ\text{F}$).

6. Sampling

6.1 Obtain a uniform quart sample of the material using standard methods for sampling in accordance with Practice D3925.

7. Conditioning

7.1 Store the sample or a representative portion at a constant temperature of $23 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ ($73.5 \pm 3.5^\circ\text{F}$) until the sample reaches a uniform temperature of 23°C (73.5°F).

8. Procedure

8.1 Thoroughly stir the sample to obtain uniform consistency and, in the case of materials containing particles, uniform dispersion of these particles.