



Designation: F 1519 – 98

Standard Test Method for Qualitative Analysis of Volatile Extractables in Microwave Susceptors Used to Heat Food Products¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F 1519; 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 applicable to complete microwave susceptors.

1.2 This test method covers a procedure for identifying volatile extractables which are released when a microwave susceptor sample is tested under simulated end use conditions. The extractables are identified using gas chromatography/mass spectrometry (GC/MS).

1.3 This test method was evaluated for the identification of a variety of volatile extractables at a level of 0.010 $\mu\text{g}/\text{in.}^2$ of susceptor surface. For extractables not evaluated, the analyst should perform studies to determine the level of extractable at which identification is achievable.

1.4 The analyst is encouraged to run known volatile extractables and/or incorporate techniques such as gas chromatography/high resolution mass spectrometry (GC/HRMS), gas chromatography/infrared spectroscopy (GC/IR) or other techniques to aid in verifying the identity of or identifying unknown volatile extractables. The analyst is referred to Practice E 260 for additional guidance.

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:

E 260 Practice for Packed Column Gas Chromatography²

F 874 Test Method for Temperature Measurement and Profiling for Microwave Susceptors³

F 1308 Test Method for Quantitating Volatile Extractables

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F-2 on Flexible Barrier Materials and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F02.30 on Test Methods.

Current edition approved Oct. 10, 1998. Published March 1999. Originally published as F 1519-94. Last previous edition F 1519-94.

² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 14.01.

³ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 15.09.

in Microwave Susceptors Used for Food Products³
F 1317 Test Method for Calibration of Microwave Ovens³

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 *diffusion trapping*—the collection of volatile extractables on an adsorbent by means of the mass diffusion of the volatile extractables (1).⁴

3.1.2 *microwave susceptors*—packaging material which, when placed in a microwave field interacts with the field and provides heating for the food products the package contains.

3.1.3 *volatile extractables*—those compounds that give > 50 % recovery in spike and recovery studies using the applicable volatile extractables method. Extractability does not necessarily imply migration of the extractable species to the food product being heated on the susceptor.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 The volatile extractables are released from the susceptor when it has been heated to its end use heating conditions (temperature and heating time) using a thermostatically controlled oil bath or calibrated microwave oven. The released volatile extractables are concentrated by diffusion trapping on an adsorbent. After adsorption is complete, the adsorbent is heated to desorb the volatile extractables onto a gas chromatographic column (Refs 1–7). The volatile extractables are then separated using a gas chromatograph and detected by a mass spectrometer. The volatile extractable identifications are confirmed by comparing their retention times and mass spectra to reference compounds under identical GC/MS conditions.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 This test method is intended to identify volatile extractables that may be emitted from microwave susceptor material during use. It may be a useful procedure to assist in minimizing the amount and type of volatile extractables produced. The

⁴ The boldface numbers in parentheses refer to a list of references at the end of this test method.

susceptor design, materials used or manufacturing processes involved can be evaluated.

6. Interferences

6.1 *Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry*—The GC conditions or column given may not exhibit sufficient resolution to identify all the volatile extractables. Alternate techniques should be used to identify the unresolved volatile extractables such as alternate GC conditions, an alternate GC column, GC/HRMS, and/or GC/IR. The retention time and mass spectrum or infrared spectrum of the volatile extractable should be verified with a reference standard.

6.2 *Apparatus and Materials*—Method interferences may be caused by contamination from vials, septa, syringes, etc., leading to misinterpretation of results at trace levels. All of the materials must be routinely demonstrated to be free from contamination under conditions of the analysis by running blanks.

7. Apparatus and Reagents

7.1 *Sample Cutter*—No. 14 cork borer.⁵

7.2 *Glassware*—Wash all glassware thoroughly and dry in a 125°C air oven for a minimum of 4 h prior to using. Use no solvents.

7.2.1 *Vials*—40 mL.⁶

7.2.2 *Culture Tubes*—10 by 75 mm.⁷

7.3 *Vial Caps*—Screw caps for 7.2.1 vials.⁸

7.4 *Vial Septa*—Polytetrafluoroethylene PTFE faced silicon backed septa, 22 mm diameter.⁹ Place septa into a vacuum oven at 135°C for 16 h prior to using.

7.5 *Volatile Adsorbent*—Refer to manufacturer's literature regarding physical, chemical, absorptive and desorptive characteristics of adsorbent.

7.5.1 *Adsorbent*—Tenax TA, 35/60 mesh.¹⁰

7.5.2 *Conditioning*—Plug one end of a 14 cm long, 6.35 outside diameter by 5.3 mm inside diameter tube, premium grade 304 stainless steel¹¹ with a plug of silanized glass wool.¹² Fill tube with adsorbent, and plug other end with silanized glass wool. Connect the tube to the injection port outlet of the GC, set the UHP helium flow to 30 mL/min and condition adsorbent using the following program.

Injection temperature	250°C
Temperature 1	70°C
Time 1	30 min
Rate	10°C/min
Temperature 2	250°C
Time 2	60 min

7.5.3 *Storage*—Cap both ends of the tube after it cools, move to a chemical free area, uncap one end, remove glass wool, tap tube to transfer adsorbent to 40 mL glass vial, purge

vial with UHP helium or argon for 1 min and seal with a conditioned PTFE/silicon septa (PTFE surface toward adsorbent). Exercise care in handling the adsorbent.

7.5.4 *Blanks*—The adsorbent should be tested for contamination prior to being used.

7.6 *Oil Bath*—Circulating bath capable of being heated to 250 ± 1°C.¹³ Use silicone oil¹⁴ to heat vials.

7.7 *Thermometers*—Capable of measuring up to 250°C.¹⁵ Calibrate thermometer with a NIST standardized thermometer¹⁶ to ensure its accuracy.

7.8 *GC/MS System*:

7.8.1 *Gas Chromatograph*—¹⁷, capable of temperature programming. The inlet carrier gas line should be equipped with a valve¹⁸ capable of being completely opened and closed within 1 s.

7.8.2 The injector should have a removable glass liner or insert, having a volume of at least 300 µL or 40 mg of adsorbent. The injector should have a closure that allows the liner/insert to be inserted and the injector sealed within 5 s. Modification of the injector may be required (2) through (6).

7.8.3 *GC Column*—60M Stabilwax, 0.25 mm ID, 0.5 µm df.¹⁹

7.8.4 *Mass Spectrometer*, capable of scanning from 35 to 300 amu every 2 s or less when mass spectral data are obtained in the electron—impact ionization mode at a nominal electron energy of 70 eV.²⁰

7.8.5 *Data System*—An interfaced data system (DS) is required to acquire, store, reduce and output mass spectral data. The computer software must allow searching of any GC/MS data file for ions of a specific nominal mass and plot its abundance versus time or scan number. This type of plot is defined as an extracted ion current profile (EICP).

7.9 *Performance Volatile Standard for GC/MS System*:

7.9.1 *Stock Volatile Mixture*—Pipet in accordance with Table 1 the appropriate volume into a 100 mL volumetric flask which has been half filled with hexane. After all compounds have been added, fill to mark with hexane and mix well. Alternate compounds may be substituted. Refrigerate mixture at 4°C until needed.

7.9.2 *Performance Volatile Standard*—Dilute stock volatile mixture in step 7.9.1 1:1000 with hexane. Alternate dilutions may be made. Refrigerate standard at 4°C until needed.

7.10 *Susceptor Blank*—Obtain a representative sample of susceptor material to be tested. Bake in an air oven overnight at 105°C to remove any volatile extractables present. Store in a clean, sealed glass container (for example, desiccator) until needed.

⁵ Catalog No. 07-845E, Fisher Scientific, P.O. Box 4060, Plano, TX 75074, or equivalent.

⁶ Catalog No. 9534, Alltech Associates, Inc., 2051 Waukegan Rd., Deerfield, IL 60015, or equivalent.

⁷ Catalog No. 14-962-10A, Fisher Scientific, or equivalent.

⁸ Catalog No. 95321, Alltech Associates, Inc., or equivalent.

⁹ Catalog No. 95322, Alltech Associates, Inc., or equivalent.

¹⁰ Catalog No. 04915 and 049151, Alltech Associates, Inc., or equivalent.

¹¹ Catalog No. 303010ST, Alltech Associates, Inc., or equivalent.

¹² Catalog No. 4038, Alltech Associates, Inc., or equivalent.

¹³ Catalog No. L-01268-52, Cole Palmer Instrument Company, 7425 North Oak Park Ave., Chicago, IL 60648, or equivalent.

¹⁴ Catalog No. L-01294-00, Cole Palmer Instrument Co., or equivalent.

¹⁵ Catalog No. 14-995-5#, Fisher Scientific, or equivalent.

¹⁶ Catalog No. 15041D, Fisher Scientific, or equivalent.

¹⁷ 5890 Gas Chromatograph, Hewlett Packard Company, 3000 Hanover St., Palo Alto, CA 94304, or equivalent.

¹⁸ Catalog No. 2328, Alltech Associates, Inc., or equivalent.

¹⁹ Catalog No. 10641, Restek Corp., Penn Eagle Industrial Park, 100 Benner Circle, Bellefonte, PA 16823-8812, or equivalent.

²⁰ 5971A Mass Selective Detector, Hewlett Packard Company, 3000 Hanover Street, Palo Alto, CA 94304, or equivalent.