



Designation: E2169 – 17

An American National Standard

Standard Practice for Selecting Antimicrobial Pesticides for Use in Water-Miscible Metalworking Fluids¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation E2169; 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 provides recommendations for selecting antimicrobial pesticides (microbicides) for use in water-miscible metalworking fluids (MWF). It presents information regarding regulatory requirements, as well as technical factors including target microbes, efficacy, and chemical compatibility.

1.2 This guide is not an encyclopedic compilation of all the concepts and terminology uses by chemists, microbiologists, toxicologists, formulators, plant engineers, and regulatory affairs specialists involved in antimicrobial pesticide selection and application. Instead, it provides a general understanding of the selection process and its supporting considerations.

1.3 The values in SI units are to be regarded as the standard.

1.4 *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

- D1067 Test Methods for Acidity or Alkalinity of Water
- D1293 Test Methods for pH of Water
- D3519 Test Method for Foam in Aqueous Media (Blender Test) (Withdrawn 2013)³
- D3946 Test Method for Evaluating the Bacteria Resistance of Water-Dilutable Metalworking Fluids (Withdrawn 2004)³
- D4478 Test Methods for Oxygen Uptake (Withdrawn 1994)³
- D5465 Practices for Determining Microbial Colony Counts

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E34 on Occupational Health and Safety and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E34.50 on Health and Safety Standards for Metal Working Fluids.

Current edition approved March 1, 2017. Published March 2017. Originally approved in 2001. Last previous edition approved in 2012 as E2169 – 12. DOI: 10.1520/E2169-17.

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.

from Waters Analyzed by Plating Methods

E686 Method for Evaluation of Antimicrobial Agents in Aqueous Metal Working Fluids (Withdrawn 2004)³

E1302 Guide for Acute Animal Toxicity Testing of Water-Miscible Metalworking Fluids

E1326 Guide for Evaluating Non-culture Microbiological Tests

E1497 Practice for Selection and Safe Use of Water-Miscible and Straight Oil Metal Removal Fluids

E2144 Practice for Personal Sampling and Analysis of Endotoxin in Metalworking Fluid Aerosols in Workplace Atmospheres

2.2 Government Standards:

29 CFR 1910 Occupational Safety and Health Standards⁴

40 CFR 152 Pesticide Registration and Classification Procedures⁴

40 CFR 158 Pesticide Programs Data Requirements for Registration⁴

49 CFR 100-180 Research and Special Programs Administration, Department of Transportation⁴

PR Notice 2000-1 Applicability of the Treated Articles Exemption to Antimicrobial Pesticides

Directive 98/8/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 1998 concerning the placing of biocidal products on the market

3. Terminology

3.1 *active ingredient (a.i.)*, *n*—the chemical component or components of an antimicrobial pesticide that provides its microbicidal performance.

3.2 *activity spectrum*, *n*—variety or range of microbes against which an antimicrobial pesticide is effective.

3.3 *antimicrobial pesticide*, *n*—chemical additive, registered under 40 CFR 152, for use to inhibit growth, proliferation, or both of microorganisms.

3.3.1 *Discussion*—Antimicrobial pesticides are registered for one or more end-use applications, or sites, for use within an approved dose range.

⁴ Code of Federal regulations available from United States Government Printing Office, Washington, DC.

3.4 *bactericide*, *n*—antimicrobial pesticide specifically or primarily effective against bacteria.

3.5 *biocide*, *n*—any chemical intended for use to kill or inhibit organisms.

3.5.1 *Discussion*—Biocide is a term commonly used synonymously with the preferred *antimicrobial pesticide* or *microbicide*.

3.6 *bioburden*, *n*—the level of microbial contamination (biomass) in a system.

3.6.1 *Discussion*—Typically bioburden is defined in terms of either biomass or numbers of cells per unit volume or mass or surface area material tested (g biomass/mL sample; g biomass/g sample; cell/mL sample, colony forming units (CFU)/mL, and so forth).

3.7 *biodeterioration*, *n*—the loss of commercial value, performance characteristics, or both of a product (metalworking fluid) or material (coolant system or finished parts) through biological processes.

3.8 *biofilm*, *n*—a film or layer composed of microorganisms, biopolymers, water, and entrained organic and inorganic debris that forms as a result of microbial growth, proliferation, and excretion of polymeric substances at phase interfaces (liquid-liquid, liquid-solid, liquid-gas, and so forth). (Synonym: *skin-nogen layer*.)

3.9 *bioresistant*, *adj*—able to withstand biological attack.

3.9.1 *Discussion*—Bioresistant, or recalcitrant, chemicals are not readily metabolized by microorganisms.

3.10 *biostatic*, *adj*—able to prevent existing microbial contaminants from growing or proliferating, but unable to kill them.

3.10.1 *Discussion*—Biostatic additives may be registered antimicrobial pesticides or unregistered chemicals with other performance properties. The difference between biocidal and biostatic performance may be attributed to dose, chemistry, or both.

3.11 *contamination control*, *n*—maintenance of bioburden at an operationally defined level, at or below which the bioburden does not affect the fluid or system adversely.

3.12 *demand*, *n*—the sum of all factors that contribute to decreasing the effective concentration of antimicrobial pesticide.

3.12.1 *Discussion*—Processes contributing to demand include, but are not limited to, reaction with microbes, reactions with other chemicals in the fluid, adsorption onto surfaces, absorption into materials, and temperature.

3.13 *dose*, *n*—concentration of antimicrobial pesticide added to treated solution.

3.13.1 *Discussion*—Dose is generally expressed as either ppm active ingredient (a.i.) or ppm as supplied (a.s.).

3.14 *fungicide*, *n*—antimicrobial pesticide specifically or primarily effective against fungi.

3.15 *half-life* ($T_{1/2}$), *n*—time required for concentration of a microbicide to diminish to one-half its initial concentration.

3.16 *lethal dose*, *n*—concentration at which treatment kills at least one of test subjects.

3.16.1 *Discussion*—The LD_{50} is the term used in toxicology defining the dose that kills fifty percent of the test population.

3.17 *microbicide*, *n*—synonymous with antimicrobial pesticide.

3.18 *minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC)*, *n*—lowest treatment dose that will prevent test population from growing, proliferating, or otherwise contributing to biodeterioration.

4. Summary of Practice

4.1 Microorganisms can grow in all water-miscible metalworking fluids including water-miscible metal removal fluids, a subset of the broader class of metalworking fluids. Consequences of uncontrolled microbial contamination in metalworking fluids may include biodeterioration, rancidity, and aerosolization of potentially pathogenic microbes and toxic or allergenic microbial cell constituents. Consequently, microbial contamination control is desirable from both operational and industrial hygiene perspectives.

4.2 Antimicrobial pesticides are used to prevent biodeterioration and may also reduce the risk of disease associated with the use of water-miscible metalworking fluids. They may be used in-drum, on-site, or both. Antimicrobial pesticides work either by killing microbes, inhibiting specific undesirable microbial activities, or both in the treated fluid. Antimicrobial pesticides used in metalworking fluids include representatives from a number of chemical groups. Consequently, antimicrobial pesticides vary widely in their mode of action, compatibility with other fluid components, and other performance properties.

4.3 The process of selecting an antimicrobial pesticide for use in metalworking fluids shall include, minimally, confirmation that the product is (1) approved for the intended application; (2) compatible with other fluid and system constituents; and (3) effective. Other considerations including, but not limited to intended application, target microbes, desired speed of action, performance persistence, handling precautions, toxicological properties, water and oil miscibility, and waste treatability may affect microbicide selection.

4.4 Microbicide selection begins with a fundamental understanding of the coolant formulation chemistry, biodeterioration control strategy, and specific customer needs. General background information⁵ regarding MWF system management is available in Practice E1497 and elsewhere. Armed with this information, candidate microbicides can be selected for further evaluation. Products that meet all of the selection criteria are ultimately tested in field application. Since antimicrobial pesticide efficacy can diminish over time, the selection process may be viewed as cyclic. Moreover, since microbicides can be toxic, they require rigorous and competent product stewardship throughout their use cycle.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 This practice summarizes the steps in the antimicrobial pesticide selection process, reviewing technical and regulatory

⁵ Organization Resources Counselors. *Management of the Metal Removal Fluid Environment*. Web site: <http://www.aware-services.com/orc/2000>.