



Designation: **D7968—17 D7968 – 17a**

Standard Test Method for Determination of Polyfluorinated Compounds in Soil by Liquid Chromatography Tandem Mass Spectrometry (LC/ MS/MS)¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D7968; 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 selected polyfluorinated compounds (PFCs) in a soil matrix using solvent extraction, filtration, followed by liquid chromatography (LC) and detection with tandem mass spectrometry (MS/MS). These analytes are qualitatively and quantitatively determined by this method. This method adheres to multiple reaction monitoring (MRM) mass spectrometry. This procedure utilizes a quick extraction and is not intended to generate an exhaustive accounting of the content of PFCs in difficult soil matrices. An exhaustive extraction procedure for polyfluoroalkyl substances, such as published by Washington et al.,² for difficult matrices should be considered when analyzing PFCs.

1.2 *Units*—The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. No other units of measurement are included in this standard.

1.3 The Method of Detection Limit³ and Reporting Range⁴ for the target analytes are listed in [Table 1](#).

1.3.1 The reporting limit in this test method is the minimum value below which data are documented as non-detects. Analyte detections between the method detection limit and the reporting limit are estimated concentrations and are not reported following this test method. In most cases, the reporting limit is calculated from the concentration of the Level 1 calibration standard as shown in [Table 2](#) for the polyfluorinated compounds after taking into account a 2-g sample weight and a final extract volume of 10 mL, 50 % water/50 % MeOH with 0.1 % acetic acid. The final extract volume is assumed to be 10 mL because 10 mL of 50 % water/50 % MeOH with 0.1 % acetic acid was added to each soil sample and only the liquid layer after extraction is filtered, leaving the solid and any residual solvent behind. It is raised above the Level 1 calibration concentration for PFOS, PFHxA, FHEA, and FOEA; these compounds can be identified at the Level 1 concentration but the standard deviation among replicates at this lower spike level resulted in a higher reporting limit.

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, health and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.5 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards*:⁵

[D653 Terminology Relating to Soil, Rock, and Contained Fluids](#)

[D1193 Specification for Reagent Water](#)

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee [D34](#) on Waste Management and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee [D34.01.06](#) on Analytical Methods.

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² Washington, J. W., Naile, J. E., Jenkins, T. M., and Lynch, D. G., “Characterizing Fluorotelomer and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances in New and Aged Fluorotelomer-Based Polymers for Degradation Studies with GC/MS and LC/MS/MS,” *Environmental Science and Technology*, Vol 48, 2014, pp. 5762–5769.

³ The MDL is determined following the Code of Federal Regulations, 40 CFR Part 136, Appendix B utilizing solvent extraction of soil. Two-gram sample of Ottawa sand was utilized. A detailed process determining the MDL is explained in the reference and is beyond the scope of this standard to be explained here.

⁴ Reporting range concentration is calculated from [Table 2](#) concentrations assuming a 30- μ L injection of the Level 1 calibration standard for the PFCs, and the highest level calibration standard with a 10-mL final extract volume of a 2-g soil sample. Volume variations will change the reporting limit and ranges.

⁵ 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.

TABLE 1 Method Detection Limit and Reporting Range^A

Analyte	MDL (ng/kg)	Reporting Limit (ng/kg)
PFTreA	6.76	25–1000
PFTriA	5.26	25–1000
PFDoA	3.56	25–1000
PFUnA	2.45	25–1000
PFDA	5.54	25–1000
PFOS	18.83	50–1000
PFNA	2.82	25–1000
PFecHS	2.41	25–1000
PFOA	6.24	25–1000
PFHxS	7.75	25–1000
PFHpA	5.80	25–1000
PFHxA	15.44	50–1000
PFBS	6.49	25–1000
PFPeA	20.93	125–5000
PFBA	22.01	125–5000
FHEA	199.04	600–20 000
FOEA	258.37	750–20 000
FDEA	137.46	500–20 000
FOUEA	4.85	25–1000
FhpPa	5.09	25–1000
FHUEA	3.50	25–1000

^AAbbreviations are defined in 3.2.

- [D2777 Practice for Determination of Precision and Bias of Applicable Test Methods of Committee D19 on Water](#)
[D3694 Practices for Preparation of Sample Containers and for Preservation of Organic Constituents](#)
[D3740 Practice for Minimum Requirements for Agencies Engaged in Testing and/or Inspection of Soil and Rock as Used in Engineering Design and Construction](#)
[D3856 Guide for Management Systems in Laboratories Engaged in Analysis of Water](#)
[D5681 Terminology for Waste and Waste Management](#)
[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:*⁶
[EPA SW-846 Test Methods for Evaluating Solid Waste, Physical/Chemical Methods](#)
[40 CFR Part 136 Appendix B Definition and Procedure for the Determination of the Method Detection Limit](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 *reporting limit, RL, n*—the minimum concentration below which data are documented as non-detects.

3.1.2 *polyfluorinated compounds, PFCs, n*—in this test method, eleven perfluoroalkyl carboxylic acids, three perfluoroalkylsulfonates, Decafluoro-4-(pentafluoroethyl)cyclohexanesulfonate, and six fluorotelomer acids listed in **Table 1** collectively (not including mass labeled surrogates).

3.2 Abbreviations:

3.2.1 *CCC*—Continuing Calibration Check

3.2.2 *IC*—Initial Calibration

3.2.3 *ppt*—parts per trillion, ng/kg or ng/L

3.2.4 *LC*—Liquid Chromatography

3.2.5 *LCS/LCSD*—Laboratory Control Sample/Laboratory Control Sample Duplicate

3.2.6 *MDL*—Method Detection Limit

3.2.7 *MeOH*—Methanol

3.2.8 *mM*—millimolar, 1×10^{-3} moles/L

3.2.9 *MRM*—Multiple Reaction Monitoring

3.2.10 *MS/MSD*—Matrix Spike/Matrix Spike Duplicate

3.2.11 *NA*—Not available

⁶ Available from National Technical Information Service (NTIS), U.S. Department of Commerce, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA, 22161, <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/hazard/testmethods/index.htm>

TABLE 2 Concentrations of Calibration Standards (ng/L)

Analyte/Surrogate	LV1	LV2	LV3	LV4	LV5	LV6	LV7	LV8	LV9
PFPeA, PFBA	25	50	100	200	300	400	500	750	1000
PFTrEA, PFTriA, PFDaA, PFUnA, PFDA, PFOS, PFNA, PFHxA, PFHpA, PFBS, PFechS, PFOA, PFHxS, FOUEA, FHUEA, FHpPA, MPFBS, MPFHxA, MPFUnA, MPFOA, MPFDA, MPFOS, MPFNA, MPFHxS, MPFBA	5	10	20	40	60	80	100	150	200
FHEA, FOEA, FDEA	100	200	400	800	1200	1600	2000	3000	4000

3.2.12 *ND*—non-detect

3.2.13 *P&A*—Precision and Accuracy

3.2.14 *PFAS*—Perfluoroalkylsulfonate

3.2.15 *PFBS*—perfluorobutylsulfonate

3.2.16 *PFHxS*—perfluorohexylsulfonate

3.2.17 *PFOS*—Perfluorooctylsulfonate

3.2.18 *PFecHS*—Decaloro-4-(pentafluoroethyl)cyclohexanesulfonate

3.2.19 *PFAC*—Perfluoroalkyl Carboxylic Acid

3.2.20 *PFBA*—Perfluorobutanoate

3.2.21 *PFPeA*—Perfluoropentanoate

3.2.22 *PFHxA*—Perfluorohexanoate

3.2.23 *PFHpA*—Perfluoroheptanoate

3.2.24 *PFOA*—Perfluorooctanoate

3.2.25 *PFNA*—Perfluorononanoate

3.2.26 *PFDA*—Perfluorodecanoate

3.2.27 *PFUnA*—Perfluoroundecanoate

3.2.28 *PFTriA*—Perfluorotridecanoate

3.2.29 *PFTrEA*—Perfluorotetradecanoate

3.2.30 *FTAs and FTUAs*—Fluorotelomer and Unsaturated Fluorotelomer Acids

3.2.31 *FHpPA*—3-perfluoropheptyl propanoic acid

3.2.32 *FOUEA*—2H-perfluoro-2-decenoic acid

3.2.33 *FDEA*—2-perfluorodecyl ethanoic acid

3.2.34 *FOEA*—2-perfluorooctyl ethanoic acid

3.2.35 *FHUEA*—2H-perfluoro-2-octenoic acid

3.2.36 *FHEA*—2-perfluorohexyl ethanoic acid

3.2.37 *MPFAS*—Isotopically labeled Perfluoroalkylsulfonates

3.2.38 *MPFHxS*—¹⁸O₂-Perfluorohexylsulfonate

3.2.39 *MPFOS*—¹³C₄-Perfluorooctylsulfonate

3.2.40 *MPFCA*—Isotopically labeled Perfluoroalkylcarboxylates

3.2.41 *MPFBA*—¹³C₄-Perfluorobutanoate

3.2.42 *MPFHxA*—¹³C₂-Perfluorohexanoate

3.2.43 *MPFOA*—¹³C₄-Perfluorooctanoate

3.2.44 *MPFNA*—¹³C₅-Perfluorononanoate

3.2.45 *MPFDA*—¹³C₂-Perfluorodecanoate

3.2.46 *MPFUnA*—¹³C₂-Perfluoroundecanoate

3.2.47 *MPFDaA*—¹³C₂-Perfluorodecanoate

3.2.48 *QA*—Quality Assurance

3.2.49 *QC*—Quality Control

3.2.50 *RL*—Reporting Limit

3.2.51 *RLCS*—Reporting Limit Check Sample

3.2.52 *RSD*—Relative Standard Deviation

3.2.53 *RT*—Retention Time

3.2.54 *SRM*—Single Reaction Monitoring

3.2.55 *SS*—Surrogate Standard

3.2.56 *TC*—Target Compound

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 The operating conditions presented in this test method have been successfully used in the determination of polyfluorinated compounds in soil; however, this test method is intended to be performance based and alternative operating conditions can be used to perform this method provided data quality objectives are attained.

4.2 For PFC analysis, samples are shipped to the lab on ice and analyzed within 28 d of collection. A sample (2 g) is transferred to a polypropylene tube, spiked with surrogates (all samples) and target PFC compounds (laboratory control and matrix spike samples). The analytes are tumbled for an hour with 10 mL of methanol:water (50:50) under basic condition (pH ~ 9-10 adjusted with ~20 μ L ammonium hydroxide). The samples are centrifuged and the extract, leaving the solid behind, is filtered through a polypropylene filter unit. Acetic acid (~50 μ L) is added to all the filtered samples to adjust the pH ~3-4 and then analyzed by LC/MS/MS.

4.3 Most of the PFC target compounds are identified by comparing the single reaction monitoring (SRM) transition and its confirmatory SRM transition if correlated to the known standard SRM (Table 3) and quantitated utilizing an external calibration. The surrogates and some PFC target analytes (PFPeA, PFBA, FOUEA, and FHUEA) only utilize one SRM transition due to a less sensitive or non-existent secondary SRM transition. As an additional quality control measure, isotopically labeled PFC surrogates (listed in 12.4) recoveries are monitored. There is no correction to the data based upon surrogate recoveries. The final report issued for each sample lists the concentration of PFCs, if detected, or $RL < RL$, if not detected, quantifiable, in ng/kg (dry weight basis) and the surrogate recoveries.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 This test method has been developed by the U.S. EPA Region 5 Chicago Regional Laboratory (CRL).

5.2 PFCs are widely used in various industrial and commercial products; they are persistent, bio-accumulative, and ubiquitous in the environment. PFCs have been reported to exhibit developmental toxicity, hepatotoxicity, immunotoxicity, and hormone disturbance. A draft Toxicological Profile for Perfluoroalkyls from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is available.⁷ PFCs have been detected in soils, sludges, and surface and drinking waters. Hence, there is a need for a quick, easy, and robust method to determine these compounds at trace levels in various soil matrices for understanding of the sources and pathways of exposure.

5.3 This method has been used to determine selected polyfluorinated compounds in sand (Table 4) and four ASTM reference soils (Table 5).

6. Interferences

6.1 All glassware is washed in hot water with detergent and 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 min. All glassware is subsequently rinsed with methanol or acetonitrile.

6.2 All reagents and solvents should be pesticide residue purity or higher to minimize interference problems. The use of PFC-containing caps should be avoided.

6.3 Matrix interferences may be caused by contaminants in the sample. The extent of matrix interferences can vary considerably depending on variations in the sample matrices.

6.4 Contaminants have been found in reagents, glassware, tubing, glass disposable pipettes, filters, degassers, and other apparatus that release polyfluorinated compounds. All of these materials and supplies are routinely demonstrated to be free from interferences by analyzing laboratory reagent blanks under the same conditions as the samples. If found, measures should be taken to remove the contamination or data should be qualified; background subtraction of blank contamination is not allowed.

6.5 The liquid chromatography system used should consist, as much as practical, of sample solution or eluent contacting components free of PFC target analytes of interest.

6.6 Polyethylene LC vial caps or any other target analyte-free vial caps should be used.

6.7 Polyethylene disposable pipettes or target analyte-free pipettes should be used. All disposable pipettes should be checked for release of target analytes of interest.

⁷ A draft Toxicological Profile for Perfluoroalkyls can be found at <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/tp.asp?id=1117&tid=237> (2014).

TABLE 3 Retention Times, SRM Ions, and Analyte-Specific Mass Spectrometer Parameters

Chemical	Primary/ Confirmatory	Retention Times (min)	Cone (V)	Collision (eV)	MRM Transition	Primary/ Confirmatory SRM Area Ratio
PFTreA	Primary	10.63	20	13	712.9→668.9	7.4
	Confirmatory		20	30	712.9→169	
PFTriA	Primary	10.17	25	12	662.9→618.9	7.4
	Confirmatory		25	28	662.9→169	
PFDoA	Primary	9.61	10	12	612.9→568.9	8.2
	Confirmatory		10	25	612.9→169	
PFUnA	Primary	9.05	15	10	562.9→519	7.2
	Confirmatory		15	18	562.9→269	
PFDA	Primary	8.45	20	10	512.9→468.9	6.5
	Confirmatory		20	16	512.9→219	
PFOS	Primary	8.78	10	42	498.9→80.1	1.3
	Confirmatory		10	40	498.9→99.1	
PFNA	Primary	7.78	20	10	462.9→418.9	4.9
	Confirmatory		20	16	462.9→219	
PFecHS	Primary	8.1	10	25	460.9→381	2.2
	Confirmatory		10	25	460.9→99.1	
PFOA	Primary	7.11	20	10	412.9→369	3.6
	Confirmatory		20	16	412.9→169	
PFHxS	Primary	7.39	15	32	398.9→80.1	1
	Confirmatory		15	32	398.9→99.1	
PFHpA	Primary	6.35	15	10	362.9→319	4.1
	Confirmatory		15	15	362.9→169	
PFHxA	Primary	5.54	15	8	312.9→269	24.1
	Confirmatory		15	18	312.9→119.1	
PFBS	Primary	5.66	10	30	298.9→80.1	1.6
	Confirmatory		10	25	298.9→99.1	
PFPeA	Primary	4.68	10	8	263→219	NA
PFBA	Primary	3.67	10	8	212.9→169	NA
	Confirmatory		15	20	376.9→293	
FHEA	Primary	6.14	15	6	376.9→313	3.6
	Confirmatory		15	18	476.9→393	
FOEA	Primary	7.54	15	12	476.9→413	4.3
	Confirmatory		15	8	576.8→493	
FDEA	Primary	8.83	15	15	576.8→513	3.2
	Confirmatory		15	15	576.8→513	
FOUEA	Primary	7.54	20	12	456.9→392.9	NA
	Confirmatory		15	12	440.9→337	
FHpPA	Primary	7.54	15	20	440.9→317	1.1
	Confirmatory		15	20	440.9→317	
FHUEA	Primary	6.08	10	12	357→293	NA
MPFBA	Primary	3.67	10	7	217→172.1	NA
MPFHxA	Primary	5.54	15	8	315→270	NA
MPFHxS	Primary	7.39	15	34	402.9→84.1	NA
MPFOA	Primary	7.11	15	10	417→372	NA
MPFNA	Primary	7.81	15	9	467.9→423	NA
MPFOS	Primary	8.78	15	40	502.9→80.1	NA
MPFDA	Primary	8.45	15	10	514.9→470	NA
MPFUnA	Primary	9.05	15	10	564.9→519.9	NA
MPFDoA	Primary	9.61	15	12	614.9→569.9	NA

6.8 Degassers are important to continuous LC operation and most commonly are made of fluorinated polymers. To enable use, an isolator column should be placed after the degasser and prior to the sample injection valve to separate the PFCs in the sample from the PFCs in the LC system.

TABLE 4 Single-Laboratory Recovery Data in Ottawa Sand

Sample	Measured ng/kg from Ottawa Sand P&A Data (400 ng/kg spike for all PFCs except 2000 ng/kg for PFBA and PFPeA and 8000 ng/kg spike for FHEA, FDEA, and FOEA)										
	PFTreA	PFTriA	PFDoA	PFUnA	PFDA	PFNA	PFOA	PFHpA	PFHxA	PFPeA	PFBA
Unspiked 1	<RL	<RL	<RL	<RL	<RL	<RL	<RL	<RL	<RL	<RL	<RL
Unspiked 2	<RL	<RL	<RL	<RL	<RL	<RL	<RL	<RL	<RL	<RL	<RL
P&A 1	389.6	394.3	384.7	376.7	362.1	347.6	345.8	232.9	222.2	1614.9	1344.5
P&A 2	462.1	424.6	397.2	379.1	378.4	376.9	365.9	247.9	229.8	1710.1	1388
P&A 3	402.7	387.7	383.1	365.9	374.7	363.3	347.1	242.4	222.9	1658.9	1376
P&A 4	403.9	397.1	395.4	381.5	379	359.4	342.7	246.8	225.8	1693.6	1401.9
P&A 5	467.2	445.8	412.6	388.5	376.8	370.3	369.7	249.3	231.4	1716.5	1433.4
P&A 6	392.1	385.3	374.2	370.9	353.2	351.7	340.3	236.7	220.5	1659	1366.4
Mean											
Recovery (ng/kg)	419.6	405.8	391.2	377.1	370.7	361.5	351.9	242.7	225.4	1675.5	1385
% Mean	104.9	101.4	97.8	94.3	92.7	90.4	88	60.7	56.4	83.8	69.3
Recovery Standard Deviation	35.4	24.1	13.5	8	10.6	11.1	12.6	6.6	4.4	38.5	30.7
RSD (%)	8.4	5.9	3.5	2.1	2.9	3.1	3.6	11	1.9	2.3	2.2
Sample	PFBS	PFHxS	PFOS	PFechS	FOUEA	FHpPA	FHUEA	FHEA	FOEA	FDEA	
Unspiked 1	<RL	<RL	<RL	<RL	<RL	<RL	<RL	<RL	<RL	<RL	
Unspiked 2	<RL	<RL	<RL	<RL	<RL	<RL	<RL	<RL	<RL	<RL	
P&A 1	337.4	349.1	340.3	342.8	389.5	371.3	372.5	7023.5	8202.6	8564.9	
P&A 2	347.3	358.3	345.9	347.2	408.7	377.2	387.1	7346.1	8542.6	9308	
P&A 3	366.3	330.1	331.7	345.4	401.5	361.4	379	6844.3	7402.4	8989.2	
P&A 4	348.2	343.6	338.3	347.6	404.9	377.5	388.1	7258.2	7551.9	9173.4	
P&A 5	351.8	361.7	365.6	362.6	417.5	395.1	391.8	7461.3	7821.2	9287.4	
P&A 6	336.7	343.4	363.7	342.5	394.5	356.9	374.5	7559.3	8002.2	8367.1	
Mean											
Recovery (ng/kg)	347.9	347.7	347.7	348	402.7	373.2	382.1	7248.8	7920.5	8948.3	
% Mean	87	86.9	86.9	87	100.7	93.3	95.5	90.6	99	111.9	
Recovery Standard Deviation	10.9	11.5	13.9	7.4	10	13.6	7.9	270.4	421.3	395.3	
RSD (%)	3.1	3.3	4	2.1	2.5	3.6	2.1	3.7	5.3	4.4	

TABLE 5 Single-Laboratory Surrogate Recovery Data in Ottawa Sand

Sample	Measured ng/kg from Ottawa Sand – 400 ng/kg spike									
	MPFBA	MPFHxA	MPFHxS	MPFOA	MPFNA	MPFOS	MPFDA	MPFUnA	MPFDoA	
Unspiked 1	420.0	433.5	431.8	428.0	439.4	429.2	442.6	443.3	447.7	
Unspiked 2	366.5	396.8	378.5	384.9	389.8	373.6	404.9	400.8	425.8	
P&A 1	361.1	364.3	356.3	377.0	376.6	354.4	384.9	391.3	409.3	
P&A 2	383.6	378.4	357.3	389.4	379.7	375.7	395.7	399.2	412.2	
P&A 3	374.5	378.5	375.4	390.5	378.6	372.4	382.5	386.9	402.2	
P&A 4	370.1	384.4	366.1	396.3	384.4	374.2	397.8	406.2	420.5	
P&A 5	370.1	386.8	372.0	395.7	381.1	372.8	394.4	399.9	421.5	
P&A 6	363.6	384.8	356.1	397.9	384.9	368.6	389.5	392.3	402.9	
Mean										
Recovery (ng/kg dry weight)	376.2	388.4	374.2	394.9	389.3	377.6	399.0	402.5	417.7	
% Mean	94.0	97.1	93.5	98.7	97.3	94.4	99.8	100.6	104.4	
Recovery Standard Deviation	19.0	20.4	24.9	15.0	20.7	21.9	19.0	17.6	14.9	
RSD (%)	5.1	5.3	6.7	3.8	5.3	5.8	4.8	4.4	3.6	

7. Apparatus

7.1 LC/MS/MS System:

7.1.1 *Liquid Chromatography System*⁸—A complete LC system is required in order to analyze samples; this should include a sample injection system, a solvent pumping system capable of mixing solvents, a sample compartment capable of maintaining

⁸ A Waters Acquity UPLC H-Class System, or equivalent, has been found suitable for use.

required temperature, and a temperature-controlled column compartment. An LC system that is capable of performing at the flows, pressures, controlled temperatures, sample volumes, and requirements of the standard shall be used.

7.1.2 *Analytical Column*⁹—A reverse phase Charged Surface Hybrid Phenyl-Hexyl particle column was used to develop this test method. Any column that achieves adequate resolution may be used. The retention times and order of elution may change depending on the column used and need to be monitored.

7.1.3 *Isolator Column*¹⁰—A reverse phase C18 column was used in this test method to separate the target analytes in the LC system and solvents from the target analytes in the analytical sample. This column was placed between the solvent mixing chamber and the injector sample loop.

7.2 *Tandem Mass Spectrometer System*¹¹—A MS/MS system capable of multiple reaction monitoring (MRM) analysis or any system that is capable of meeting the requirements in this test method shall be used.

7.3 *Centrifuge*—A device to centrifuge the samples.

7.4 *Lab Rotator*¹²—A device to mix the samples by end-over-end rotation.

7.5 *Filtration Device:*

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

7.5.2 A 10-mL lock tip glass syringe size is recommended since a 10-mL sample size is used in this test method.

7.5.3 *Filter Unit*¹³—Polypropylene filter 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.¹⁴ Other reagent grades may be used provided they are first determined to be 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 shall 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 *Vials*—2-mL amber glass autosampler vials or equivalent.

8.5 Polyethylene autosampler vial caps or equivalent.

8.6 *Syringe*—10 or 25 mL filter-adaptable glass syringe with luer lock.

8.7 pH paper (pH range 1-14).

8.8 *Polypropylene Tubes*—15- and 50-mL.

8.9 Class A volumetric glassware.

8.10 *Pipette Tips*—Polypropylene pipette tips free of release agents or low retention coating of various sizes.

8.11 Polyethylene disposable pipettes.

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

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

8.14 Ammonium acetate (CAS # 631-61-8).

8.15 Acetic acid (CAS # 64-19-7)

8.16 2-Propanol (isopropyl alcohol, CAS # 67-63-0).

8.17 Ammonium hydroxide (CAS # 1336-21-6).

8.18 Ottawa sand (CAS # 14808-60-7).

⁹ A Waters Acquity UPLC CSH Phenyl-Hexyl, 2.1 × 100 mm and 1.7- μ m particle size column, or equivalent, has been found suitable for use. It was used to develop this test method and generate the precision and bias data presented in Section 16.

¹⁰ A Waters Acquity UPLC BEH C18, 2.1 × 50 mm and 1.7- μ m particle size column, or equivalent, has been found suitable for use.

¹¹ A Waters Xevo TQ-S triple quadrupole mass spectrometer, or equivalent, has been found suitable for use.

¹² A Lab Rotator, or equivalent, has been found suitable to mix samples.

¹³ An Acrodisc Gx/F/0.2 μ m GHP membrane syringe driven filter unit, or equivalent, has been found suitable for use.

¹⁴ *Reagent Chemicals, American Chemical Society Specifications*, American Chemical Society, Washington, D.C. For suggestions on the testing of reagents not listed by the American Chemical Society, see *Annual Standards for Laboratory Chemicals*, EDH Ltd., Poole, Dorset, U.K. and the *United States Pharmacopeia and National Formulary*, U. S. Pharmacopeial Convention, Inc. (USPC), Rockville, MD.

8.19 PFC Standards:¹⁵

- 8.19.1 Perfluorobutylsulfonate (PFBS, CAS # 29420-49-3).
- 8.19.2 Perfluorohexylsulfonate (PHF_xS, CAS # 3871-99-6).
- 8.19.3 Perfluorooctylsulfonate (PFOS, CAS # 1763-23-1).
- 8.19.4 Perfluorobutanoate (PFBA, CAS # 375-22-4).
- 8.19.5 Perfluoropentanoate (PFPeA, CAS # 2706-90-3).
- 8.19.6 Perfluorohexanoate (PFH_xA, CAS # 307-24-4).
- 8.19.7 Perfluoroheptanoate (PFHpA, CAS # 375-85-9).
- 8.19.8 Perfluorooctanoate (PFOA, CAS # 335-67-1).
- 8.19.9 Perfluorononanoate (PFNA, CAS # 375-95-1)
- 8.19.10 Perfluorodecanoate (PFDA, CAS # 335-76-2).
- 8.19.11 Perfluoroundecanoate (PFUnA, CAS # 2058-94-8).
- 8.19.12 Perfluorododecanoate (PFDoA, CAS # 307-55-1).
- 8.19.13 Perfluorotridecanoate (PFTriA, CAS # 72629-94-8).
- 8.19.14 Perfluorotetradecanoate (PFTreA, CAS # 376-06-7).
- 8.19.15 Decafluoro-4-(pentafluoroethyl)cyclohexanesulfonate (PFechS, CAS # 67584-42-3).
- 8.19.16 3-perfluoropheptyl propanoic acid (FHpPA, CAS # 812-70-4).
- 8.19.17 2H-perfluoro-2-decenoic acid (FOUEA, CAS # 70887-84-2).
- 8.19.18 2-perfluorodecyl ethanoic acid (FDEA, CAS # not available).
- 8.19.19 2-perfluorooctyl ethanoic acid (FOEA, CAS # 27854-31-5).
- 8.19.20 2H-perfluoro-2-octenoic acid (FHUEA, CAS # not available).
- 8.19.21 2-perfluorohexyl ethanoic acid (FHEA, CAS # 53826-12-3).

8.20 PFC Surrogates:¹⁶

- 8.20.1 ¹⁸O₂-Perfluorohexylsulfonate (MPFH_xS).
- 8.20.2 ¹³C₄-Perfluorooctylsulfonate (MPFOS).
- 8.20.3 ¹³C₄-Perfluorobutanoate (MPFBA).
- 8.20.4 ¹³C₂-Perfluorohexanoate (MPFH_xA).
- 8.20.5 ¹³C₄-Perfluorooctanoate (MPFOA).
- 8.20.6 ¹³C₅-Perfluorononanoate (MPFNA).
- 8.20.7 ¹³C₂-Perfluorodecanoate (MPFDA).
- 8.20.8 ¹³C₂-Perfluoroundecanoate (MPFUnA).
- 8.20.9 ¹³C₂-Perfluorododecanoate (MPFDoA).

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 material safety data sheets (MSDS) for all reagents used in this method.

10. Sampling

10.1 *Sampling and Preservation*—Grab samples are collected in glass or polypropylene containers. Sample containers and contact surfaces with PTFE shall be avoided. As part of the overall quality assurance program for this test method, field blanks exposed to the same field conditions as samples are collected and analyzed according to this test method to assess the potential for field contamination. This test method is based on a 2-g sample size per analysis. If different sample sizes are used, spiking solution amounts may need to be modified. Conventional sampling practices should be followed with the caution that PFC-containing products may be present in sampling equipment. All sampling equipment and supplies shall be PFC-free in order to prevent contamination of the samples. EPA publications SW-846 may be used as a sampling guide. Samples shall be shipped on ice with a trip blank. Once received, the sample temperature is taken and should be less than 6 °C. If the receiving temperature is greater than 6 °C, the sample temperature is noted in the case narrative accompanying the data. Samples should be stored refrigerated between 0 and 6 °C from the time of collection until analysis. The sample should be analyzed within 28 d of collection. No holding time study has been done on the various soil matrices tested in this test method. Holding time may vary depending on the matrix, and individual laboratories should determine the holding time in their matrix.¹⁷

11. Preparation of LC/MS/MS
11.1 LC Chromatograph Operating Conditions:

¹⁵ PFC Standards may be difficult to find; some sources of PFC standards that have been found suitable for use were from Aldrich Chemical Company, Wellington Laboratories, Inc., and Wako Laboratory. Standards from other vendors may be used.

¹⁶ PFC surrogates from Wellington Laboratories Inc., or equivalent, have been found suitable for use.

¹⁷ A guide to help and determine sample holding times can be found at http://www.epa.gov/esd/cmb/research/bs_033cmb06.pdf (2014).

11.1.1 Injections of all standards and samples are made at a 30- μ L volume. Other injection volumes may be used to optimize conditions. Standards and sample extracts shall be in a 50:50 methanol:water solution containing 0.1 % acetic acid. In the case of extreme concentration differences amongst samples, it is wise to analyze a blank after a concentrated sample and before a dilute sample to minimize carryover of analytes from injection to injection. However, there should not be carryover between samples. The LC utilized to develop this test method has a flow through LC needle design. The gradient conditions for liquid chromatography are shown in **Table 6**.

11.2 *LC Sample Manager Conditions:*

11.2.1 *Needle Wash Solvent*—60 % acetonitrile/40 % 2-propanol; Time: 5 min.

11.3 *Mass Spectrometer Parameters:*

11.3.1 To acquire the maximum number of data points per SRM channel while maintaining adequate sensitivity, the tune parameters may be optimized according to the instrument used. Each peak requires at least ten scans per peak for adequate quantitation. This test method contains nine surrogates, which are isotopically labeled PFCs, and 21 PFCs which are split up into 18 MRM acquisition functions to optimize sensitivity. Variable parameters regarding retention times, SRM transitions, and cone and collision energies are shown in **Table 3**. Mass spectrometer parameters used in the development of this method are listed below:

11.3.1.1 The instrument is set in the Electrospray negative source setting.

11.3.1.2 Capillary Voltage: 0.75 kV.

11.3.1.3 Cone: Variable depending on analyte.

11.3.1.4 Extractor: 2 Volts.

11.3.1.5 Source Temperature: 150 °C.

11.3.1.6 Desolvation Gas Temperature: 450 °C.

11.3.1.7 Desolvation Gas Flow: 800 L/h.

11.3.1.8 Cone Gas Flow: 200 L/h.

11.3.1.9 Collision Gas Flow: 0.15 mL/min.

11.3.1.10 Low Mass Resolution 1: 2.6.

11.3.1.11 High Mass Resolution 1: 14.

11.3.1.12 Ion Energy 1: 1.

11.3.1.13 Entrance Energy: 1.

11.3.1.14 Collision Energy: Variable depending on analyte.

11.3.1.15 Exit Energy: 1.

11.3.1.16 Low Mass Resolution 2: 2.5.

11.3.1.17 High Mass Resolution 2: 14.

11.3.1.18 Ion Energy 2: 3.

11.3.1.19 Gain: 1.0.

11.3.1.20 Multiplier: 511.1.

11.3.1.21 Inter-Scan Delay: 0.004 s.

12. Calibration and Standardization

12.1 The mass spectrometer shall be calibrated as per manufacturer’s specifications before analysis. Analytical values satisfying test method criteria have been achieved using the following procedures. Prepare all solutions in the lab using Class A volumetric glassware.

12.2 *Calibration and Standardization*—To calibrate the instrument, analyze nine calibration standards of the polyfluorinated compounds prior to sample analysis as shown in **Table 2**. Calibration stock standard solution is prepared from the target and

TABLE 6 Gradient Conditions for Liquid Chromatography

Time (min)	Flow (mL/min)	Percent 95 % Water: 5 % Acetonitrile	Percent Acetonitrile	Percent 95 % Water: 5 % Acetonitrile, 400 mM Ammonium Acetate
0	0.3	95	0	5
1	0.3	75	20	5
6	0.3	50	45	5
13	0.3	15	80	5
14	0.4	0	95	5
17	0.4	0	95	5
18	0.4	95	0	5
21	0.4	95	0	5

surrogate spike solutions directly to ensure consistency. Stock standard Solution A containing the polyfluorinated compounds and surrogates is prepared at Level 9 concentration and aliquots of that solution are diluted to prepare Levels 1 through 8. 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. At a minimum five calibration levels are required when using a linear calibration curve and six calibration levels are required when using a quadratic calibration curve. An initial nine-point curve may be used to allow for the dropping of the lower level calibration points if the individual laboratory's instrument cannot achieve low detection limits on certain PFCs. This should allow for at least a five- or six-point calibration curve to be obtained. No problems were encountered while using the nine-point calibration curve in developing this test method.

12.2.1 Calibration stock standard Solution A (Level 9, **Table 2**) is prepared from the target and surrogate spike solutions directly to ensure consistency. 500 µL of surrogate spike (20 µg/L), 500 µL Target Spike I, and 500 µL of PFC Target Spike II (refer to **Table 7**) is added to a 50-mL volumetric flask and diluted to 50 mL with 50:50 methanol:water containing 0.1 % acetic acid. The preparation of the Level 9 standard can be accomplished using appropriate volumes and concentrations of stock solutions as per a particular laboratory's standard procedure. It is critical to ensure that analytes are solubilized in the Level 9 standard.

12.2.2 Aliquots of Solution A are then diluted with 50:50 methanol:water containing 0.1 % acetic acid to prepare the desired calibration levels in 2-mL amber glass LC vials. The calibration vials shall be used within 24 h to ensure optimum results. The end calibration check shall be prepared in a separate LC vial near the mid-level. All calibration standards should only be used once. The analyte concentration in the vial may change after the vial cap is pierced because the vial caps do not reseal after puncture. Changing the caps immediately after the injection should alleviate this problem. Calibration standards are not filtered.

12.2.3 Inject each standard and obtain its chromatogram. An external calibration technique is used to monitor the primary and confirmatory SRM transitions of each analyte. Calibration software is utilized to conduct the quantitation of the target analytes and surrogates using the primary SRM transition. The ratios of the primary/confirmatory SRM transition area counts are given in **Table 3** and will vary depending on the individual tuning conditions. The primary/confirmatory SRM transition area ratio shall be within 35 % of the individual labs' accepted primary/confirmatory SRM transition area ratio. The primary SRM transition of each analyte is used for quantitation of and the confirmatory SRM transition for confirmation. This gives added confirmation by isolating the parent ion, forming two product ions via fragmentation, and relating it to the retention time in the calibration standard.

12.2.4 Depending on sensitivity and matrix interference issues dependent on sample type, the confirmatory SRM transition can be used as the primary SRM transition for quantitation during analysis. This shall be explained in a narrative accompanying the data. A new primary/confirmatory ion ratio will then be determined if switching the SRM transitions used to quantitate and confirm. The new primary/confirmatory SRM transition area ratio is required to be within 35 % of the individual labs' new primary/confirmatory SRM transition area ratio.

12.2.5 The calibration software manual should be consulted to use the software correctly. The quantitation method is set as an external calibration using the peak areas in ppt units. Concentrations may be calculated using the data system software to generate linear regression or quadratic calibration curves. Forcing the calibration curve through the origin ($X = 0, Y = 0$) is not recommended.

12.2.6 Linear calibration may be used if the coefficient of determination, r^2 , is ≥ 0.98 for the analyte. The point of origin is excluded and a fit weighting $1/X$ is used in order to give more emphasis to the lower concentrations. If one of the calibration standards other than the high or low point causes the r^2 of the curve to be < 0.98 , this point shall be re-injected or a new calibration curve shall be regenerated. Each calibration point used to generate the curve shall have a calculated percent deviation less than 30 % from the generated curve. If the low or high point(s), or both, are excluded, minimally a five-point curve is acceptable but the reporting range shall be modified to reflect this change.

12.2.7 Quadratic calibration may be used if the coefficient of determination, r^2 , is ≥ 0.99 for the analyte. The point of origin is excluded, and a fit weighting of $1/X$ is used in order to give more emphasis to the lower concentrations. If one of the calibration standards causes the curve to be < 0.99 , this point shall be re-injected or a new calibration curve shall be regenerated. If the low or high point(s), or both, are excluded, minimally a six-point curve is acceptable but the reporting range shall be modified to reflect this change. Each calibration point used to generate the curve shall have a calculated percent deviation less than 30 % from the generated curve.

TABLE 7 PFC Target Spike Solutions (PPB)

Analyte	Concentration of Analyte in PFC Target Spike Solutions		
	PFC High Target Spike Solutions		PFC Reporting Limit Spike Solution
	Target Spike I	Target Spike II	
PFTreA, PFTriA, PFDoA, PFUnA, PFDA, PFOS, PFNA, PFHxA, PFHpA, PFBS, PFechS, PFOA, PFHxS	20 µg/L	—	2 µg/L
PFBA, PFPeA	100 µg/L	—	10 µg/L
FOUEA, FHUEA, FHpPA	—	20 µg/L	2 µg/L
FHEA, FOEA, FDEA	—	400 µg/L	40 µg/L