



Standard Test Method for Evaluating the Effectiveness of Cleaning Agents¹

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INTRODUCTION

Many systems require a high degree of cleanliness. For example, gaseous and liquid oxygen systems must be clean, particularly of hydrocarbons, to avoid the potential hazard of a reaction and subsequent fire or explosion. Typically, chlorinated solvents have been used to clean systems and equipment that must be free of hydrocarbons and other contaminants. Environmental concerns dictate that suitable replacements are needed. This test method presents a procedure that may be used to evaluate candidate aqueous or non aqueous cleaning agents.

1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers a procedure for evaluating the capability of cleaning agents and processes to remove contamination to the desired level.

1.2 The test coupons provide a relatively rough surface to which contamination can easily adhere.

1.3 The capability of a particular cleaning agent depends upon the method by which it is used and the characteristics of the article being cleaned, such as size, shape, and material. Final evaluation of the cleaning agent should include testing of actual products and production process.

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

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.* Specific precautionary statements are given in Note 2.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

D 1193 Specification for Reagent Water²

E 177 Practice for Use of the Terms Precision and Bias in ASTM Test Methods³

E 691 Practice for Conducting an Interlaboratory Study to Determine the Precision of a Test Method³

F 331 Test Method for Nonvolatile Residue of Halogenated Solvent Extract from Aerospace Components (Using Ro-

tary Flash Evaporator)⁴

G 94 Guide for Evaluating Metals for Oxygen Service³

G 121 Practice for Preparation of Contaminated Test Coupons for the Evaluation of Cleaning Agents³

2.2 ANSI Standard:

D46.1 Surface Texture (Surface Roughness, Waviness, Lay)⁵

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 *cleaning effectiveness factor (CEF), n*—the fraction of contaminant removed from an initially contaminated test coupon and determined by gravimetric techniques.

3.1.2 *residual contamination R_c , n*—the absolute mass of contaminant remaining after the cleaning process and expressed in milligrams per square centimetre of area or optionally as milligrams per square foot.

3.1.3 *surface roughness, R_A , n*—the arithmetic average deviation of the surface profile from the centerline, normally reported in micrometres.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 This test method provides quantitative results as to the ability of a specific cleaning agent/process for removing selected contaminants from standard coupons. The coupons used for testing are prepared in accordance with Practice G 121. Cleaning is performed using a cleaning tank with or without ultrasonic agitation, elevated temperature or other cleaning enhancement features and depends on the manufacturer's instructions. The effectiveness of the cleaning process is represented as CEF, the cleaning effectiveness factor, that is the fraction of the contaminant removed as determined by gravimetric techniques. A control coupon is used to account for any

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² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 11.01.

³ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 14.02.

⁴ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 15.03.

⁵ Available from American National Standards Institute, 11 W. 42nd St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10036.

corrosion or material removal effects due to the cleaning agent/process.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 The purpose of this test method is to define a procedure for evaluating the capability of cleaning agents to clean metallic coupons. Based on the outcome of the testing, suitable cleaning agents may be selected for cleaning in general and for oxygen service in particular.

5.2 The cleaning parameters can be changed and the test method can be repeated. The usual cleaning parameters include cleaning agent concentration, temperature, and time; type and strength of ultrasonic energy or agitation, if used, and others.

NOTE 1—Usual cleaning parameters are based on the manufacturer's recommendations.

6. Apparatus

6.1 Materials:

6.1.1 *Test Coupon*, prepared in accordance with Practice G 121. The mass of the coupon is approximately 30 to 45 g but will vary significantly for each selected material. Typical materials used in oxygen systems are described in Guide G 94.

6.1.2 *Control Coupon*—This is uncontaminated and is subjected to the identical cleaning procedure as the contaminated coupons and serves to evaluate corrosion, erosion of the test coupons.

6.1.3 *Cleaning Agent*, prepared according to the manufacturer's instructions. Specification D 1193 Type II water shall be used for preparing aqueous solutions.

6.2 Equipment:

6.2.1 *Cleaning Tank*, A vessel of sufficient size to conduct a number of evaluations simultaneously. Testing is enhanced by having automatic temperature and time controls. A cleaning tank with ultrasonics may be used.

6.2.2 *Balance*, accuracy to 0.1 mg. However, 0.01 mg accuracy is desirable to detect contamination levels of 10 mg/m² (1 mg/ft²) or less.

6.2.3 *Beaker Holder*—A device to support beakers in the ultrasonic cleaner tank such that the beakers do not contact the bottom and sides of the tank.

7. Test Procedure

7.1 Prepare a minimum of six test coupons by Practice G 121.

7.2 Indicate the masses of coupons in grams as *MX_y* where *X* is the coupon designation (number, letter, or name) and *y* = 1 indicates a clean coupon, *y* = 2 indicates a contaminated coupon and *y* = 3 indicates a coupon after cleaning.

7.3 Designate one coupon as the control coupon to undergo cleaning without contamination.

7.4 Measure the mass of the control and test coupons (recording them as *MX₁* as previously defined).

7.5 Contaminate five test coupons in accordance with Practice G 121.

7.6 Measure the mass of all contaminated test coupons (recording them as *MX₂* as previously defined).

7.7 Process the control coupon in the test cleaning solution separately from the contaminated test coupons.

7.8 The contaminated test coupons can be processed in

independent beakers held in the cleaning tank or as a batch in a single beaker.

7.9 Clean the test and control coupons in the candidate cleaning agent by the manufacturer's procedure or selected procedure.

7.9.1 Prepare the cleaning agent in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

7.9.2 Select beakers of suitable size to accommodate the test coupons and fit the beaker holder.

7.9.3 Wash the beakers thoroughly with a solution of liquid, surface-active cleaning agent in hot water and rinse with type II water.

7.9.4 Fill the beakers with the cleaning agent solution to a level that will ensure the test coupons are submerged.

7.9.5 Fill the cleaning tank to its operating level with the transfer fluid and preheat to desired test temperature.

7.9.6 Place the beakers in the beaker holder in the tank so that the liquid levels in the tank and beakers are approximately equal.

7.9.7 Allow the temperatures of the tank fluid and cleaning agent in the beakers to equilibrate at the desired temperature.

7.9.8 Suspend the test coupons and control coupon in the cleaning agent, using a wire hook of the same material as the coupon or a compatible material. Position the coupons such that they do not touch the beaker or one another.

7.9.9 Begin agitation or sonication in the cleaning process and start the timer.

7.9.10 Upon completing the required cleaning time, discontinue the agitation or sonication, and remove the coupons from the cleaning agent.

7.9.11 Rinse the test coupon in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

7.9.12 Allow the suspended coupons to dry overnight or in a forced convection oven for one hour.

NOTE 2—**Warning:** Do not place test coupons directly in the oven after application of the solution containing the contaminant. A fire may result if the solvent is flammable or rapid evaporation of the solvent may cause spattering of the contaminant thereby reducing the amount of contaminant on the test coupon. It is recommended that the test coupons be air dried until no traces of a liquid phase are visible.

7.9.13 Determine the final mass of each test coupon (recording them as *MX₃* as previously defined), including the control coupon.

8. Calculation

8.1 *Validation of Procedure*—Examine the control coupons to determine whether they lost mass (such as might occur if there was corrosion occurring, if the coupons were dissolving, or if the standard cleaning procedure used prior to contamination had left residue on the coupons); gained mass (such as might occur if the solution was plating a material on their surfaces, or was depositing contaminant rather than removing it) or exhibited the same mass. The simplest valid test procedure is one in which there is no change in the control-coupon's mass to within the measurement error of the balance.

8.1.1 If the control coupon is designated *MC*, and, if $|MC_3 - MC_1| < \text{balance error}$, then the experiment is valid. Proceed to calculate a cleaning effectiveness factor.

8.1.2 If $|MC_3 - MC_1|$ is greater than the balance error, the