



Standard Test Method for Carbonizable Substances in Paraffin Wax¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D612; 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.

This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the Department of Defense.

1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers determination of carbonizable substances in paraffin wax. The test method is applicable to paraffin wax for pharmaceutical use, as defined by the U.S. National Formulary, with a melting point as determined in accordance with Test Method D87, between 117 and 149°F (47 and 65°C).

1.2 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are mathematical conversions to SI units that are provided for information only and are not considered standard.

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.* Specific warning statements are given in Annex A1.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

D87 Test Method for Melting Point of Petroleum Wax (Cooling Curve)

D1193 Specification for Reagent Water

3. Summary of Test Method

3.1 Five millilitres of melted wax are treated with 5 mL of concentrated, nitrogen-free sulfuric acid at 158°F (70°C). The color of the acid layer is compared with that of a colorimetric reference standard. If the color is not darker than the standard, the wax is reported as passing the test.

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D02 on Petroleum Products and Lubricants and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D02.10.0A on Physical/Chemical Properties.

Current edition approved Nov. 1, 2007. Published January 2008. Originally approved in 1941. Last previous edition approved in 2004 as D612–88(2004). DOI: 10.1520/D0612-88R07.

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.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This test method is a means for ascertaining whether pharmaceutical paraffin wax conforms to the standards for quality prescribed by the U.S. National Formulary.

5. Apparatus

5.1 *Test Tube*, as shown in Fig. 1, of heat-resistant glass³ fitted with a well-ground glass stopper, the stopper and the tube bearing identical and indestructible numbers. The tube shall be 140 ± 2 mm in length and between 14.5 and 15.0 mm in outside diameter, and shall be calibrated at the 5 ± 0.2 -mL and 10 ± 0.2 -mL liquid levels. The capacity of the tube with stopper inserted shall be between 13.6 and 15.6 mL. A rolled edge may be provided for suspending the tube on the cover of the water bath.

5.2 *Water Bath*, suitable for immersing the test tube above the 10-mL line and equipped to maintain a temperature of $158 \pm 1.0^\circ\text{F}$ ($70 \pm 0.5^\circ\text{C}$). The bath shall be provided with a cover of any suitable material, with holes approximately 16 mm in diameter through which the test tubes may be suspended.

5.3 *Color Comparator*, of a suitable type for observing the color of the acid layer in comparison with the reference standard color solution. The size and shape of the comparator are optional, but the size and shape of the apertures shall conform to the dimensions prescribed in Fig. 1.

6. Reagents

6.1 *Purity of Reagents*—Reagent grade chemicals shall be used in all tests. Unless otherwise indicated, it is intended that all reagents shall conform to the specifications of the Committee on Analytical Reagents of the American Chemical Society, where such specifications are available.⁴ Other grades may be used, provided it is first ascertained that the reagent is of

³ Borosilicate glass has been found satisfactory for this purpose.

⁴ *Reagent Chemicals, American Chemical Society Specifications*, American Chemical Society, Washington, DC. For Suggestions on the testing of reagents not listed by the American Chemical Society, see *Annual Standards for Laboratory Chemicals*, BDH Ltd., Poole, Dorset, U.K., and the *United States Pharmacopeia and National Formulary*, U.S. Pharmacopeial Convention, Inc. (USPC), Rockville, MD.

7.2 Melt a representative portion of the sample on a steam bath or hot water bath. Fill the test tube to the 5-mL mark with H₂SO₄ (94.7 ± 0.2 %). Then add the melted wax, at a temperature not more than 10°F (5.5°C) above its melting point, to the 10-mL mark, insert the stopper loosely, and place the test tube in position in the water bath at 158 ± 1.0°F (70 ± 0.5°C).

7.3 After the test tube has been in the water bath for 5 min, loosen the stopper sufficiently to release any pressure and reinsert, remove the test tube from the bath quickly, hold with a finger over the stopper, and give three vigorous, vertical shakes over an amplitude of about 5 in. (127 mm), shaking the test tube quickly and at a rate corresponding to 5 shakes/s. Repeat every minute. Do not keep the test tube out of the bath longer than 3 s for each shaking period.

NOTE 1—A shaking machine may be used provided that the results obtained agree with those obtained by the prescribed manual agitation.

7.4 At the end of 10 min from the time the test tube was first placed in the bath, remove the test tube, immediately place it in the color comparator, and compare the acid layer with 5 mL of the standard colorimetric solution and 5 mL of white mineral oil in a test tube that has been shaken vigorously for 10 s and allowed to stand just long enough for the contents to separate into two layers.

7.5 In some cases the acid remains trapped with the wax as an emulsion, and no lower layer is obtained to compare with

the standard colorimetric solution. When this occurs, compare the emulsion with the standard colorimetric solution and white mineral oil shaken vigorously to give a similar emulsion, and without waiting for the two liquids to separate.

8. Interpretation of Results

8.1 Paraffin wax shall be reported as passing the test when the acid layer is not darker than the reference standard colorimetric solution or, if completely emulsified, when the emulsion is not darker than a similar emulsion produced by vigorously shaking the reference standard colorimetric solution with white mineral oil in equal proportions.

8.2 If the acid layer is darker than the reference standard colorimetric solution, or if the emulsified paraffin wax and acid are darker than a similar emulsion of the reference standard colorimetric solution and white mineral oil in equal proportions, the paraffin wax shall be reported as not passing the test.

9. Precision and Bias

9.1 No statement is made about either the precision or the bias of this test method for measuring carbonizable substances in white refined waxes since the result only states whether there is conformance to the criteria for success specified in the procedure.

10. Keywords

10.1 carbonizable substances; petroleum wax; wax

ANNEX

(Mandatory Information)

A1. WARNING STATEMENTS

A1.1 Glass Cleaning Solution (Nochromix⁵)

Warning—Corrosive, potent, clear liquid. Solution is a mixture of sulfuric acid (concentrated) and Nochromix,⁵ a white crystalline, inorganic oxidizer.

Handle carefully with special highly acid resistant gloves only.

Do not close container airtight.

A1.2 Hydrochloric Acid (Concentrated)

Warning—Poison. Corrosive. May be fatal if swallowed. Liquid and vapor cause severe burns. Harmful if inhaled.

Do not get in eyes, on skin, or on clothing.

Do not breathe vapor, spray, or mist.

Dilute by addition of acid to water.

Keep in tightly closed container in approved acid storage cabinet.

Keep cool.

Loosen closure carefully when opening.

Use with adequate ventilation.

Keep container closed when not in use.

Use protective clothing and goggles when handling.

Wash thoroughly after handling.

A1.3 Sulfuric Acid (Concentrated)

Do not get in eyes, on skin or on clothing.

Do not breathe vapor, spray, or mist.

Dilute by addition of acid to water.

Keep in tightly closed container in approved acid storage cabinet.

Keep cool.

Loosen closure carefully when opening.

Use with adequate ventilation.

Do not allow water to get into container because of violent reaction.

Keep container closed when not in use.

Use protective clothing and goggles when handling.

Wash thoroughly after handling.

A1.4 Sodium Hydroxide

Before using, secure information on procedures and protective measures for safe handling.

Do not get in eyes, on skin, or on clothing.

Avoid breathing dusts or mists.

Do not take internally.

When handling, use chemical safety goggles or face shield, protective gloves, boots, and clothing.

When mixing with water, add slowly to surface of solution to avoid violent spattering. In the preparation of solutions do not use hot water, limit temperature rise, with agitation, to 10°C/min or limit solution temperature to a maximum of 90°C. No single addition should cause a concentration increase greater than 5 %.

A1.5 Acetic Acid (Glacial)

Do not get in eyes, on skin, or on clothing.
Do not breathe vapor, spray or mist.

Dilute by addition of acid to water.
Keep away from heat and open flame.
Keep in tightly closed container in approved acid storage cabinet.
Keep cool.
Loosen closure carefully when opening.
Use with adequate ventilation.
Keep container closed when not in use.
Use protective clothing and goggles when handling.
Wash thoroughly after handling.

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