



Standard Test Method for Soluble Sulfate in Ceramic Whiteware Clays (Photometric Method)¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation C 867; 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 covers the determination of soluble sulfate ions present in water or a filtrate by means of a photometer measuring the turbidity of precipitated barium sulfate. A method of standardizing the photometer for this test method is also given.

1.2 Soluble sulfate ions may be removed from clays or clay-water slurries by leaching with water during mixing and subsequent filter pressing. To remove all the sulfate ions would require an impractical number of washings; therefore, this test method should be considered a control test and not a quantitative analysis for SO₄ ions.

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.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

C 324 Test Method for Free Moisture in Ceramic Whiteware Clays²

D 1193 Specification for Reagent Water³

2.2 *American Chemical Society Document:*
Specification for Reagent Chemicals⁴

3. Apparatus

3.1 *Balance*, accurate to 0.0001 g.

3.2 *High-Speed Mixer*⁵.

3.3 *Filter Press*, capable of operating at 690 kPa (100 psi).⁶

3.4 *Glass Beakers*, Erlenmeyer Flasks.

3.5 *Transfer Pipets*.

3.6 *Spectrophotometer* and accessories.⁷

3.7 *Measuring Spoon*, to hold approximately 0.2 g of BaCl₂ or THQ Cup.

3.8 Other usual laboratory equipment, including timers, etc.

4. Reagents

4.1 *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.⁸ Other grades may be used, provided it is first ascertained that the reagent is of sufficiently high purity to permit its use without lessening the accuracy of the determination.

4.2 *Purity of Water*—Unless otherwise indicated, references to water shall be understood to mean Type IV Grade reagent water as defined in Specification D 1193.

4.3 Barium Chloride (BaCl₂·H₂O) crystals, 20 to 30 mesh.⁹

4.4 *Salt-Acid Reagent*—may be obtained from the Betz laboratories.¹⁰ However, it can be prepared from: 23.6 ml HCl, 253.0 gm NaCl, 976.4 ml distilled water. This solution should be stored in an automatic pipettor for accurate measurement.

4.5 *Glycerine Reagent*—a mixture of equal volumes of c. p. glycerine and reagent grade water or it may be purchased from a laboratory supply house. This solution should be stored in an automatic pipettor for accurate measurement.

4.6 *Standard Sulfate Solution*—a solution of c. p. sodium sulfate in reagent grade water at a concentration which contains exactly 100 ppm of sulfate ion. This solution may be prepared as required or obtained from the Betz corporation.¹⁰

5. Standardization of Apparatus

5.1 It should be noted that the instrument requires about 30

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² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 15.02.

³ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 11.01.

⁴ Available from American Chemical Society, 1155 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036.

⁵ The Hamilton Beach Mixer, Waring Blender, or similar apparatus have been found satisfactory for this purpose.

⁶ The Baroid No. 300, available from NL Industries, Inc., Houston, TX, has been found satisfactory for this purpose.

⁷ The Bausch and Lomb Spec 20 Photometer, available from Milton-Roy Co., 820 Linden Ave., Rochester, NY 14625; Leitz-Rouy Photometer, available from E. Leitz Inc., Instrument Div., 24 Link Dr., Rockleigh, NJ 07647; Betz Photometer, available from Betz Laboratories, Somerton Rd., Trevose, PA 19047; and Hach Photometer, available from Hach Co., P.O. Box 389, Loveland, CO 80539, have been found satisfactory for this purpose.

⁸ *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 *Analar Standards for Laboratory Chemicals*, BDH Ltd., Poole, Dorset, U.K., and the *United States Pharmacopeia and National Formulary*, U.S. Pharmaceutical Convention, Inc. (USPC), Rockville, MD.

⁹ Fisher Scientific Catalog No. B-36, available from Fischer Scientific Co., 585 Alpha Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15238, has been found satisfactory for this purpose.

¹⁰ Betz Laboratories, Somerton Road, Trevose, PA 19047.