



Standard Test Methods for Calcium and Magnesium In Water¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D511; 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 U.S. Department of Defense.

1. Scope*

1.1 These test methods cover the determination of calcium and magnesium in water by complexometric titration and atomic absorption spectrometric procedures. Two test methods are included, as follows:

Test Method A—Complexometric Titration

Test Method B—Atomic Absorption Spectrometric

Sections

7 – 15

16 – 25

1.2 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are mathematical conversion to inch-pound 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 hazard statements are given in 12.2.6 and 20.6.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

D1129 Terminology Relating to Water

D1193 Specification for Reagent Water

D2777 Practice for Determination of Precision and Bias of Applicable Test Methods of Committee D19 on Water

D3370 Practices for Sampling Water from Closed Conduits

D4691 Practice for Measuring Elements in Water by Flame Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometry

D4841 Practice for Estimation of Holding Time for Water Samples Containing Organic and Inorganic Constituents

D5810 Guide for Spiking into Aqueous Samples

D5847 Practice for Writing Quality Control Specifications for Standard Test Methods for Water Analysis

¹ These test methods are under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D19 on Water and are the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D19.05 on Inorganic Constituents in Water.

Current edition approved Oct. 1, 2014. Published November 2014. Originally approved in 1937. Last previous edition approved in 2009 as D511 – 09. DOI: 10.1520/D0511-14.

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. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—For definitions of terms used in these test methods, refer to Terminology D1129.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 Calcium and magnesium salts in water are the primary components of water hardness which can cause pipe or tube scaling.

5. Purity of Reagents

5.1 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.³ 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.

5.2 *Purity of Water*—Unless otherwise indicated, references to water shall be understood to mean reagent water conforming to Specification D1193, Type I, II, or III water. Type I is preferred and more commonly used. Type II water was specified at the time of round-robin testing of these test methods.

NOTE 1—The user must ensure the type of reagent water is sufficiently free of interferences. The water should be analyzed using this test method.

6. Sampling

6.1 Collect the sample in accordance with Practices D3370.

6.2 If total recoverable calcium and magnesium concentrations are being determined, acidify the water sample with HNO₃ (sp gr 1.42) to a pH of 2 or less immediately at the time of collection; normally about 2 mL/L are required. The holding time for the samples may be calculated in accordance with Practice D4841.

³ *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.

*A Summary of Changes section appears at the end of this standard