



Standard Test Method for Separation of Representative Aromatics and Nonaromatics Fractions of High-Boiling Oils by Elution Chromatography¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D2549; 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 separation and determination of representative aromatics and nonaromatics fractions from hydrocarbon mixtures that boil between 232 and 538°C (450 and 1000°F). Alternative procedures are provided for the separation of 2 g or 10 g of hydrocarbon mixture.

NOTE 1—Some components may not be eluted from the chromatographic column for some types of samples under the conditions used in this method.

NOTE 2—Test Method [D2007](#) is an alternative method of separating high-boiling oils into polar compounds, aromatics, and saturates fractions.

1.2 An alternative procedure is provided to handle samples boiling below 232°C (450°F), but whose 5 % point is above 178°C (350°F) as determined by Test Method [D2887](#). This procedure is given in [Appendix X1](#).

1.3 The values stated in acceptable SI units are to be regarded as the standard. The values given in parentheses are provided for information purposes only.

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

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

[D2007](#) Test Method for Characteristic Groups in Rubber Extender and Processing Oils and Other Petroleum-Derived Oils by the Clay-Gel Absorption Chromatographic Method

[D2425](#) Test Method for Hydrocarbon Types in Middle Distillates by Mass Spectrometry

[D2786](#) Test Method for Hydrocarbon Types Analysis of Gas-Oil Saturates Fractions by High Ionizing Voltage Mass Spectrometry

[D2887](#) Test Method for Boiling Range Distribution of Petroleum Fractions by Gas Chromatography

[D3239](#) Test Method for Aromatic Types Analysis of Gas-Oil Aromatic Fractions by High Ionizing Voltage Mass Spectrometry

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.1.1 *aromatics fraction*—the portion of the sample desorbed with the polar eluants. The aromatics fraction may contain aromatics, condensed naphthenic-aromatics, aromatic olefins, and compounds containing sulfur, nitrogen, and oxygen atoms.

3.1.2 *nonaromatics fraction*—the portion of the sample eluted with *n*-pentane. The nonaromatics fraction is a mixture of paraffinic and naphthenic hydrocarbons if the sample is a straight-run material. If the sample is a cracked stock, the nonaromatics fraction will also contain aliphatic and cyclic olefins.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 A weighed amount of sample is charged to the top of a glass chromatographic column packed with activated bauxite and silica gel. *n*-Pentane is added to the column to elute the nonaromatics. When all of the nonaromatics are eluted, the aromatics fraction is eluted by additions of diethyl ether, chloroform, and ethyl alcohol.

4.2 The solvents are completely removed by evaporation, and the residues are weighed and calculated as the aromatics and nonaromatics fractions of the sample.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 The determination of compound types by mass spectrometry requires, in some instances, a preliminary separation of the petroleum sample into representative aromatics and nonaromatics fractions, as in Test Methods [D2425](#), [D2786](#), and [D3239](#). This test method provides a suitable separation technique for this application.

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee [D02](#) on Petroleum Products, Liquid Fuels, and Lubricants and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee [D02.04.0C](#) on Liquid Chromatography.

Current edition approved April 15, 2012. Published April 2012. Originally approved in 1966. Last previous edition approved in 2007 as D2549–02(2007). DOI: 10.1520/D2549-02R12.

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.