



Standard Test Method for Sulfur in Petroleum Gas by Oxidative Microcoulometry¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D3246; 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 determination of sulfur in the range from 1.5 to 100 mg/kg (ppm by mass) by weight in hydrocarbon products that are gaseous at normal room temperature and pressure.

NOTE 1—The test method has been tested cooperatively only on high-purity ethylene gas. Precision data have not been developed for other products.

1.2 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. No other units of measurement are included in this 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.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

D1265 Practice for Sampling Liquefied Petroleum (LP) Gases, Manual Method

D1193 Specification for Reagent Water

D3120 Test Method for Trace Quantities of Sulfur in Light Liquid Petroleum Hydrocarbons by Oxidative Microcoulometry

D6299 Practice for Applying Statistical Quality Assurance and Control Charting Techniques to Evaluate Analytical Measurement System Performance

F307 Practice for Sampling Pressurized Gas for Gas Analysis

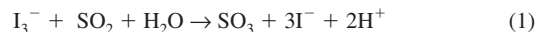
2.2 Other Standards:

Compressed Gas Association Booklets G-4 and G-4-1 on the Use of Oxygen³

3. Summary of Test Method

3.1 A sample is injected into a combustion tube maintained at about 800°C having a flowing stream of gas containing about 80 % oxygen and 20 % inert gas (for example, nitrogen, argon, etc.). Oxidative pyrolysis converts the sulfur to sulfur dioxide which then flows into a titration cell where it reacts with triiodide ion present in the electrolyte. The triiodide thus consumed, is coulometrically replaced and the total current required to replace it is a measure of the sulfur present in the sample injected.

3.2 The reaction occurring in the titration cell as sulfur dioxide enters is:



The triiodide ion consumed in the above reaction is generated coulometrically thus:



3.3 These microequivalents of triiodide (iodine) are equal to the number of microequivalents of titratable sample ion entering the titration cell.

3.4 A liquid blend containing a known amount of sulfur is used for calibration.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 Trace quantities of sulfur compounds in hydrocarbon products can be harmful to many catalytic chemical processes in which these products are used. Maximum permissible levels of total sulfur are normally included in specifications for such hydrocarbons. It is recommended that this test method be used to provide a basis for agreement between two laboratories when the determination of sulfur in hydrocarbon gases is important.

4.2 On liquefied petroleum gas, total volatile sulfur is measured on an injected gas sample. For such material a liquid sample must be used to measure total sulfur.

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D02 on Petroleum Products and Lubricants and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D02.03 on Elemental Analysis.

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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 Available from Compressed Gas Association, 1235 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Arlington, VA 22202.

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