



Designation: D3279 – 19

Standard Test Method for *n*-Heptane Insolubles¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D3279; 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 the mass percent of asphaltenes as defined by insolubility in normal-heptane solvent. It is applicable to all solid and semi-solid petroleum asphalts containing little or no mineral matter, to gas oils, to heavy fuel oils, and to crude petroleum that has been topped to a cut-point of 343 °C or higher.

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

1.3 The text of this standard references notes and footnotes which provide explanatory material. These notes and footnotes (excluding those in tables and figures) shall not be considered as requirements of the standard.

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, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.* See Section 7 for a specific hazard statement.

1.5 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

C670 Practice for Preparing Precision and Bias Statements for Test Methods for Construction Materials

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D04 on Road and Paving Materials and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D04.47 on Miscellaneous Asphalt Tests.

Current edition approved June 15, 2019. Published June 2019. Originally approved in 1973. Last previous edition approved in 2012 as D3279 – 12. DOI: 10.1520/D3279-19.

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. Summary of Test Method

3.1 The sample is dispersed in *n*-heptane and filtered through a glass-fiber pad. The insoluble material is washed, dried, and weighed.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This test method is useful in quantifying the asphaltene content of petroleum asphalts, gas oils, heavy fuel oils, and crude petroleum. Asphaltene content is defined as those components not soluble in *n*-heptane.

5. Apparatus and Materials

5.1 The assembly of the dispersing apparatus is illustrated in Fig. 1 with details of the component parts as follows:

5.1.1 *Erlenmeyer Flask*, of 250-mL capacity adapted to an Allihn-type reflux condenser.

5.1.2 *Magnetic Stirrer and Magnetic-Stirrer Hot Plate*.

5.1.3 *Bitumen Crucible or Gooch Crucible*, glazed inside and outside with the exception of the outside bottom surface. The approximate dimensions shall be a diameter of 44 mm at the top tapering to 36 mm at the bottom and a depth of 20 to 30 mm.

5.1.4 *Glass Microfiber Filter Pad*, 32 to 34 mm in diameter, fine porosity, fast flow rate, 1.5- μ m particle retention.

5.1.5 *Filter Flask*, heavy-wall with side tube, 500-mL capacity.

5.1.6 *Filter Tube*, 40 to 42 mm in inside diameter.

5.1.7 *Rubber Tubing*, or adapter for holding Gooch crucible on the filter tube.

NOTE 1—Other suitable assemblies permitting vacuum filtration with a crucible may be used.

5.1.8 *Oven*, capable of maintaining a temperature of 110 $\pm$ 5 °C.

5.1.9 *Desiccator*, of suitable size, charged with an effective desiccant.

5.1.10 *Balance*, capable of making the required measurements to an accuracy of at least 0.0001 g.

6. Reagent

6.1 *n*-Heptane, 99.0 minimum mol % (pure grade).