



Designation: D3454 – 21

Standard Test Method for Radium-226 in Water¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D3454; 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 measurement of soluble, suspended, and total ^{226}Ra in water in concentrations above 3.7×10^{-3} Bq/L. This test method is not applicable to the measurement of other radium isotopes.

1.2 This test method may be used for quantitative measurements by calibrating with a ^{226}Ra standard, or for relative measurements by comparing the measurements made with each other.

1.3 This test method does not meet the current requirements of Practice D2777.

1.4 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are mathematical conversions to inch-pound units that are provided for information only and are not considered standard.

1.5 Hydrofluoric acid (HF) is very hazardous and should be used in a well-ventilated hood. Wear rubber gloves, safety glasses or goggles, and a laboratory coat. Avoid breathing any HF fumes. Clean up all spills promptly and wash thoroughly after using HF.

1.6 *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.*

1.7 *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.*

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D19 on Water and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D19.04 on Methods of Radiochemical Analysis.

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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 Flowing Process Streams
- D3649 Practice for High-Resolution Gamma-Ray Spectrometry of Water
- D5847 Practice for Writing Quality Control Specifications for Standard Test Methods for Water Analysis
- D7902 Terminology for Radiochemical Analyses

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 For definitions of terms used in this standard, refer to Terminologies D1129 and D7902.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 This test method is based on the emanation and scintillation counting of ^{222}Rn , a gaseous decay product of ^{226}Ra , from a solution.

4.2 ^{226}Ra is collected from water by coprecipitation on a relatively large amount of barium sulfate. The barium-radium sulfate is decomposed by fuming with phosphoric acid, and the resulting glassy melt is dissolved by evaporation with dilute hydrochloric acid to form soluble barium-radium phosphates and chlorides. These salts are dissolved, and the solution is stored for ingrowth of ^{222}Rn . After a suitable ingrowth period, the radon gas is removed from the solution by purging with gas and transferred to a scintillation counting chamber. About 4 h after ^{222}Rn collection, the scintillation chamber is counted for alpha activity. The ^{226}Ra concentration is calculated from the

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.