



Standard Test Methods for Pore Water Extraction and Determination of the Soluble Salt Content of Soils by Refractometer¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D4542; 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 These test methods cover a rapid procedure for squeezing pore water from finegrained soils for the purpose of determining the amount of soluble salts present in the extracted pore water.

1.2 These test methods were developed for soils having a water content equal to or greater than approximately 14 %, for example, marine soils. An extensive summary of procedures for extracting pore water from soils has been presented by Kriukov and Manheim (1).²

1.3 These test methods are not generally applicable for determining the soluble salt content of the pore water extracted from coarse-grained soils, such as clean sands and gravels.

1.4 Test Method A provides a procedure using a refractometer with a refraction index scale; Test Method B provides a procedure using a refractometer with a parts per thousand (ppt) scale.

1.5 *Units*—The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard.

1.6 All observed and calculated values shall conform to the guidelines for significant digits and rounding established in Practice D6026 unless superseded by these test methods.

1.6.1 The procedures used to specify how data are collected/recorded and calculated in the standard are regarded as the industry standard. In addition, they are representative of the significant digits that generally should be retained. The procedures used do not consider material variation, purpose for obtaining the data, special purpose studies, or any considerations for the user's objectives; and it is common practice to increase or reduce significant digits of reported data to be commensurate with these considerations. It is beyond the scope of these test methods to consider significant digits used in analysis methods for engineering data.

1.7 *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.*

1.8 All observed and calculated values shall conform to the guidelines for significant digits and rounding established in Practice D6026.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards*:³

D653 Terminology Relating to Soil, Rock, and Contained Fluids

D3740 Practice for Minimum Requirements for Agencies Engaged in Testing and/or Inspection of Soil and Rock as Used in Engineering Design and Construction

D6026 Practice for Using Significant Digits in Geotechnical Data

E832 Specification for Laboratory Filter Papers

2.2 *Federal Document*:

GG-S-945a Specification for Syringe and Needle, Disposable, Hypodermic, Sterile, Single Injection⁴

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*:

3.1.1 For definitions of common terms in this standard, refer to Terminology D653.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 The soluble salt content may be used to correct the index properties of soils such as water content, void ratio, specific gravity, degree of saturation, and dry density).

4.2 Minimize the time period between sampling and testing to reduce chemical changes, which may occur within the soil sample.

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D18 on Soil and Rock and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D18.06 on Physical-Chemical Interactions of Soil and Rock.

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² The boldface epsilon (ϵ) in parentheses refer to the list of references appended to this standard.

³ 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.

⁴ Available from Naval Publications and Forms Center, 5801 Tabor Ave., Philadelphia, PA, 19120.