



Standard Test Method for Determination of MTBE, ETBE, TAME, DIPE, tertiary-Amyl Alcohol and C₁ to C₄ Alcohols in Gasoline by Gas Chromatography¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D 4815; 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.

This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the Department of Defense.

1. Scope*

1.1 This test method covers the determination of ethers and alcohols in gasolines by gas chromatography. Specific compounds determined are methyl *tert*-butylether (MTBE), ethyl *tert*-butylether (ETBE), *tert*-amylmethylether (TAME), diisopropylether (DIPE), methanol, ethanol, isopropanol, *n*-propanol, isobutanol, *tert*-butanol, *sec*-butanol, *n*-butanol, and *tert*-pentanol (*tert*-amylalcohol).

1.2 Individual ethers are determined from 0.1 to 20.0 mass %. Individual alcohols are determined from 0.1 to 12.0 mass %. Equations used to convert to mass % oxygen and to volume % of individual compounds are provided.

1.3 Alcohol-based fuels, such as M-85 and E-85, MTBE product, ethanol product, and denatured alcohol, are specifically excluded from this test method. The methanol content of M-85 fuel is considered beyond the operating range of the system.

1.4 Benzene, while detected, cannot be quantified using this test method and must be analyzed by alternate methodology (see Test Method D 3606 or D 4420).

1.5 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. Alternate units, in common usage, are also provided to increase clarity and aid the users of this test method.

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

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

D 1298 Test Method for Density, Relative Density (Specific Gravity), or API Gravity of Crude Petroleum and Liquid Petroleum Products by Hydrometer Method²

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D02 on Petroleum Products and Lubricants and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D02.04 on Hydrocarbon Analysis.

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² Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 05.01.

D 1744 Test Method for Water in Liquid Petroleum Products by Karl Fischer Reagent²

D 3606 Test Method for the Determination of Benzene and Toluene in Finished Motor and Aviation Gasoline by Gas Chromatography³

D 4052 Test Method for Density and Relative Density of Liquids by Digital Density Meter³

D 4057 Practice for Manual Sampling of Petroleum and Petroleum Products³

D 4307 Practice for Preparation of Liquid Blends for Use as Analytical Standards³

D 4420 Test Method for Determination of Aromatics in Finished Gasoline by Gas Chromatography³

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.1.1 *low volume connector*—a special union for connecting two lengths of tubing 1.6-mm inside diameter and smaller. Sometimes this is referred to as zero dead volume union.

3.1.2 *oxygenate*—any oxygen-containing organic compound that can be used as a fuel or fuel supplement, for example, various alcohols and ethers.

3.1.3 *split ratio*—in capillary gas chromatography, the ratio of the total flow of carrier gas to the sample inlet versus the flow of the carrier gas to the capillary column, expressed by

$$\text{split ratio} = (S + C)/C \quad (1)$$

where:

S = flow rate at the splitter vent, and

C = flow rate at the column outlet.

3.1.4 *tert-amyl alcohol*—*tert*-pentanol.

3.2 Acronyms:

3.2.1 *DIPE*—diisopropylether.

3.2.2 *ETBE*—ethyl *tert*-butylether.

3.2.3 *MTBE*—methyl *tert*-butylether.

3.2.4 *TAME*—*tert*-amyl methylether.

3.2.5 *TCEP*—1,2,3-tris-2-cyanoethoxypropane—a gas chromatographic liquid phase.

³ Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 05.02.

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

