



Standard Test Method for Determination of Traces of Methanol in Propylene Concentrates by Gas Chromatography¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D 4864; 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.

^{ε1} NOTE—Warning notes were placed in the text editorially in November 2000.

1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers the determination of methanol in propylene concentrates in the range of approximately 4 to 40 mg/kg (parts-per-million by weight).

1.2 The values stated in acceptable SI units are to be regarded as the standard.

NOTE 1—There is no direct acceptable SI equivalent for screw threads.

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. Specific hazard statements are given in 11.1.1 and 12.11.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*

D 4307 Practice for Preparation of Liquid Blends for Use as Analytical Standards²

E 260 Practice for Packed Column Gas Chromatography³

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions:*

3.1.1 *propylene concentrate*—concentrate containing more than 90 % propylene.

3.2 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.2.1 *outage tube*—a length of 6.35-mm (¼ in.) outside diameter SS tubing normally attached to the inside end of a valve used on a pressure sampling cylinder. It is used to facilitate removal of a set quantity of liquified sample to prevent overpressuring the cylinder.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 A known weight of water is pressured into a sample cylinder containing a known amount of liquified propylene. The contents in the cylinder are shaken and the water/methanol phase is withdrawn. A reproducible volume of the extract is then injected into a gas chromatograph (GC) equipped with either a thermal conductivity or a flame ionization detector. The methanol concentration is calculated from the area of the methanol peak using calibration and extraction factors obtained from synthetic blends of known methanol content.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 Methanol is a common impurity in propylene. It can have a deleterious effect on various processes that use propylene as a feedstock.

6. Interferences

6.1 There are no known interferences using the GC columns referenced in this test method. However, any water-soluble component that co-elutes with methanol on any other GC column used would interfere.

7. Apparatus

7.1 *Gas Chromatograph*—Any GC equipped with either flame ionization or thermal conductivity detectors with an overall sensitivity sufficient to detect at least 4 mg/kg of methanol.

7.2 *Column*—Any GC column that separates methanol from water, other alcohols, and any co-extracted hydrocarbons.

NOTE 2—See Table 1 for a suitable list of columns and Fig. 1 and Fig. 2 for examples of chromatograms. Also, refer to Practice E 260 for typical instructions in preparing such columns. Alternatively, columns can be purchased from commercial sources.

7.3 *Data Handling System*—Any commercially available GC integrator or GC computer system capable of accurately integrating the area of the methanol peak is satisfactory.

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.D0.03 on C4 Test Methods.

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² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 05.02.

³ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 14.02.

