



Standard Test Method for Analysis of Phenol by Capillary Gas Chromatography¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D 6142; 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 determination of known impurities in phenol by gas chromatography (GC). It is generally meant for the analysis of phenol of 99.9 % or greater purity.

1.2 The following applies to all specified limits in this test method: for purposes of determining conformance with this test method, an observed value or calculated value shall be rounded off “to the nearest unit” in the last right-hand digit used in expressing the specification limit in accordance with the rounding-off method of Practice E 29. Precision data is based on impurity concentrations of 15 to 70 mg/kg. Users of this test method believe it is linear over a wider range.

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.* For specific hazard statements, see Section 9.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

D 3852 Practice for Sampling and Handling Phenol, Cresols, and Cresylic Acid²

D 4790 Terminology of Aromatic Hydrocarbons and Related Chemicals²

E 29 Practice for Using Significant Digits in Test Data to Determine Conformance with Specifications³

E 355 Practice for Gas Chromatography Terms and Relationships⁴

E 691 Practice for Conducting an Interlaboratory Study to Determine the Precision of a Test Method³

E 1510 Practice for Installing Fused Silica Open Tubular Capillary Columns in Gas Chromatographs⁴

2.2 Other Document:

OSHA Regulations, 29 CFR, paragraphs 1910.1000 and 1910.1200⁵

3. Terminology

3.1 See Terminology D 4790 for definition of terms used in this method.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 A known amount of an internal standard is added to a sample of phenol. The prepared sample is mixed and analyzed by a gas chromatograph equipped with a flame ionization detector (FID). The peak area of each impurity and the internal standard is measured. The amount of each impurity is calculated from the ratio of the peak area of the internal standard versus the peak area of the impurity. Results are reported in milligrams per kilogram.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 This test method is suitable for setting specifications on phenol and for use as an internal quality control tool where phenol is produced or is used in a manufacturing process. It may also be used in development or research work involving phenol. It is generally applied to determining those commonly occurring impurities such as mesityl oxide, cumene, hydroxyacetone, acetone, alpha-methylstyrene, 2-methylbenzofuran, acetophenone, o-cresol, and m & p-cresol.

5.2 Purity is commonly reported by subtracting the determined expected impurities from 100.00. However, a gas chromatographic analysis cannot determine absolute purity if unknown components are contained within the material being examined.

6. Interferences

6.1 The internal standard chosen must be sufficiently resolved from any impurity and the phenol peak.

6.2 Any solvent used must also be sufficiently resolved from any impurity, the internal standard, and the phenol peak.

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D16 on Aromatic Hydrocarbons and Related Chemicals and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D16.02 on Oxygenated Aromatics.

Current edition approved Feb. 10, 2003. Published April 2003. Originally approved in 1997. Last previous edition approved in 1997 as D 6142 - 97.

² Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 06.04.

³ Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 14.02.

⁴ Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 03.06.

⁵ Available from U.S. Government Printing Office Superintendent of Documents, 732 N. Capitol St., NW, Mail Stop: SDE, Washington, DC 20401.