



# Standard Test Method for Wipe Sampling of Surfaces, Indirect Preparation, and Analysis for Asbestos Structure Number Concentration by Transmission Electron Microscopy<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D 6480; 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 a procedure to identify asbestos in samples wiped from surfaces and to provide an estimate of the concentration of asbestos reported as the number of asbestos structures per unit area of sampled surface. The procedure outlined in this test method employs an indirect sample preparation technique. It is intended to disperse aggregated asbestos into fundamental fibrils, fiber bundles, clusters, or matrices. However, as with all indirect sample preparation techniques, the asbestos observed for quantification may not represent the physical form of the asbestos as sampled. More specifically, the procedure described neither creates nor destroys asbestos, but it may alter the physical form of the mineral fiber aggregates.

1.2 This test method describes the equipment and procedures necessary for wipe sampling of surfaces for levels of asbestos structures. The sample is collected onto a particle-free wipe material (wipe) from the surface of a sampling area that may contain asbestos.

1.2.1 The collection efficiency of this wipe sampling technique is unknown and will vary among substrates. Properties influencing collection efficiency include surface texture, adhesiveness, and other factors.

1.2.2 This test method is generally applicable for an estimate of the concentration of asbestos structures starting from approximately 1000 asbestos structures per square centimetre.

1.3 Asbestos identification by transmission electron microscopy (TEM) is based on morphology, electron diffraction (ED), and energy dispersive X-ray analysis (EDXA).

1.4 This test method allows determination of the type(s) of asbestos fibers present.

1.4.1 This test method cannot always discriminate between individual fibers of the asbestos and nonasbestos analogues of the same amphibole mineral.

1.4.2 There is no lower limit to the dimensions of asbestos fibers that can be detected. However, in practice, the lower limit to the dimensions of asbestos fibers, that can be detected,

is variable and dependent on individual microscopists. Therefore, a minimum length of 0.5 μm has been defined as the shortest fiber to be incorporated in the reported results.

1.5 *This test method 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 test method 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 1193 Specification for Reagent Water<sup>2</sup>

D 1356 Terminology Relating to Sampling and Analysis of Atmospheres<sup>3</sup>

D 3670 Guide for Determination of Precision and Bias of Methods of Committee D-22<sup>3</sup>

### 2.2 Government Standard:

40 CFR 763, USEPA, Asbestos-Containing Materials in Schools: Final Rule and Notice, Appendix A to Sub-part E<sup>4</sup>

### 2.3 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Standards:<sup>4</sup>

EPA 600/4-83-043 Analytical Method for the Determination of Asbestos in Water

EPA 747-R-95-001 USEPA, Residential Sampling for Lead: Protocols for Dust and Soil Sampling; Final Report

## 3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—For definitions of general terms used in this test method, refer to Terminology D 1356.

### 3.2 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.2.1 *amphibole asbestos*—amphibole in an asbestiform habit **(1)**.<sup>5</sup>

3.2.2 *analytical sensitivity*—the calculated asbestos structure concentration in asbestos structures/square centimetre, equivalent to counting of one asbestos structure in the analysis calculated using Eq 2.

<sup>2</sup> Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 11.01.

<sup>3</sup> Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 11.03.

<sup>4</sup> Available from Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

<sup>5</sup> The boldface numbers in parentheses refer to the list of references at the end of this standard.

<sup>1</sup> This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D-22 on Sampling and Analysis of Atmospheres and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D22.07 on Sampling and Analysis of Asbestos.

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