Designation: D6730 – 01 (Reapproved 2016)

Standard Test Method for Determination of Individual Components in Spark Ignition Engine Fuels by 100–Metre Capillary (with Precolumn) High-Resolution Gas Chromatography[1]

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D6730; 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 individual hydrocarbon components of spark-ignition engine fuels and their mixtures containing oxygenate blends (MTBE, ETBE, ethanol, and so forth) with boiling ranges up to 225 °C. Other light liquid hydrocarbon mixtures typically encountered in petroleum refining operations, such as blending stocks (naphthas, reformates, alkylates, and so forth) may also be analyzed; however, statistical data was obtained only with blended spark-ignition engine fuels.

1.2 Based on the cooperative study results, individual component concentrations and precision are determined in the range from 0.01 % to approximately 30 % by mass. The test method may be applicable to higher and lower concentrations for the individual components; however, the user must verify the accuracy if the test method is used for components with concentrations outside the specified ranges.

1.3 This test method also determines methanol, ethanol, *t*-butanol, methyl *t*-butyl ether (MTBE), ethyl *t*-butyl ether (ETBE), and *t*-amyl methyl ether (TAME) in spark ignition engine fuels in the concentration range from 1 % to 30 % by mass. However, the cooperative study data provided insufficient statistical data for obtaining a precision statement for these compounds.

1.4 Although a majority of the individual hydrocarbons present are determined, some co-elution of compounds is encountered. If this test method is utilized to estimate bulk hydrocarbon group-type composition (PONA), the user of such data should be cautioned that some error will be encountered due to co-elution and a lack of identification of all components present. Samples containing significant amounts of naphthenic (for example, virgin naphthas) constituents above *n*-octane may reflect significant errors in PONA-type groupings. Based on the gasoline samples in the interlaboratory cooperative study, this test method is applicable to samples containing less than 25 % by mass of olefins. However, some interfering co-elution with the olefins above C_7 is possible, particularly if blending components or their higher boiling cuts such as those derived from fluid catalytic cracking (FCC) are analyzed, and the total olefin content may not be accurate. Annex A1 of this test method compares results of the test method with other test methods for selected components, including olefins, and several group types for several interlaboratory cooperative study samples. Although benzene, toulene, and several oxygenates are determined, when doubtful as to the analytical results of these components, confirmatory analyses can be obtained by using the specific test methods listed in the reference section.

1.4.1 Total olefins in the samples may be obtained or confirmed, or both, if necessary, by Test Method D1319 (percent by volume) or other test methods, such as those based on multidimentional PONA-type of instruments.

1.5 If water is or is suspected of being present, its concentration may be determined, if desired, by the use of Test Method D1744 or equivalent. Other compounds containing oxygen, sulfur, nitrogen, and so forth, may also be present, and may co-elute with the hydrocarbons. If determination of these specific compounds is required, it is recommended that test methods for these specific materials be used, such as Test Methods D4815 and D5599 for oxygenates, and Test Method D5623 for sulfur compounds, or equivalent.

1.6 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. No other units of measurement are included in this standard.

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] This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D02 on Petroleum Products, Liquid Fuels, and Lubricantsand is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D02.04.0L on Gas Chromatography Methods.

Current edition approved April 1, 2016. Published May 2016. Originally approved in 2001. Last previous edition approved in 2011 as D6730 – 01 (2011). DOI: 10.1520/D6730-01R16.

Copyright © ASTM International, 100 Barr Harbor Drive, PO Box C700, West Conshohocken, PA 19428-2959. United States