



Standard Test Method for Determination of 4-Carboxybenzaldehyde and *p*-Toluic Acid in Purified Terephthalic Acid by Weak Anion Exchange High Performance Liquid Chromatography¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D7883; 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 method² covers the determination of the 4-Carboxybenzaldehyde (4-CBA) and *p*-Toluic acid (*p*-TOL) in purified terephthalic acid (PTA) by weak anion exchange high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC). This method is applicable for 4-CBA from 2 to 500 mg/kg and for *p*-TOL from 10 to 500 mg/kg, respectively.

1.2 In determining the conformance of the test results using this method to applicable specification, results shall be rounded off in accordance with the rounding-off method of Practice E29.

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

1.4 *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*:³

D1193 [Specification for Reagent Water](#)

D4790 [Terminology of Aromatic Hydrocarbons and Related Chemicals](#)

D6809 [Guide for Quality Control and Quality Assurance Procedures for Aromatic Hydrocarbons and Related Materials](#)

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 Aug. 1, 2013. Published October 2013. DOI: 10.1520/D7883-13.

² This standard is based on SH/T 1612.7-1995 Purified terephthalic acid for industrial use—determination of *p*-Toluic Acid, 4-Carboxybenzaldehyde-HPLC, copyright SINOPEC, 22 Chaoyangmen North Street, Chaoyang District, Beijing, China 100728. A copy of SH/T 1612.7-1995 may be obtained from China Petrochemical Press, www.sinopec-press.com.

³ For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

E29 [Practice for Using Significant Digits in Test Data to Determine Conformance with Specifications](#)

E177 [Practice for Use of the Terms Precision and Bias in ASTM Test Methods](#)

E682 [Practice for Liquid Chromatography Terms and Relationships](#)

E691 [Practice for Conducting an Interlaboratory Study to Determine the Precision of a Test Method](#)

2.2 *ISO Document*:⁴

EN ISO 8213 [Chemical products for industrial use—Sampling techniques—Solid chemical products in the form of particles varying from powders to coarse lumps](#)

2.3 *Other Document*:⁵

OSHA [Regulations, 29 CFR paragraphs 1910.1000 and 1910.1200](#)

3. Summary of Test Method

3.1 *Weak Anion Exchange HPLC Method*—PTA sample is dissolved in ammonium hydroxide solution. After pH adjustment, a fixed volume of this solution is injected into a high performance liquid chromatograph equipped with a UV detector. An anion-exchange column is used to separate the impurities 4-CBA and *p*-TOL from PTA. The external standard calibration is used for quantification.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 The presence of 4-CBA and *p*-TOL in PTA used for the production of polyester is undesirable because they can slow down the polymerization process, and 4-CBA is also imparting coloration to the polymer due to thermal instability.

4.2 Determining the amount of 4-CBA and *p*-TOL remaining from the manufacture of PTA is often required. This test method is suitable for setting specifications and could be used as an internal quality control tool where these products are produced or are used.

⁴ Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036, <http://www.ansi.org>.

⁵ Available from U.S. Government Printing Office Superintendent of Documents, 732 N. Capitol St., NW, Mail Stop: SDE, Washington, DC 20401, <http://www.access.gpo.gov>.