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Standard Practice for Performance-Based Qualification of Spectroscopic Analyzer Systems¹

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INTRODUCTION

Successful use of spectroscopic analyzers involves several activities, including sample introduction, analyzer calibration, and analyzer validation. Many of these activities are covered in separate existing documents, but not necessarily tied together therein. There are also activities not captured in existing documents that are essential for spectroscopic methods. This practice is intended to pull these together for users to employ and show the confidence in an analyzer system.

This practice is not limited to specific analyzers or applications. It does provide certain requirements that analyzers, associated systems, and software must meet.

1. Scope*

1.1 This practice covers requirements for establishing performance-based qualification of vibrational spectroscopic analyzer systems intended to be used to predict the test result of a material that would be produced by a Primary Test Method (PTM) if the same material is tested by the PTM.

1.1.1 This practice provides methodology to establish the lower/upper prediction limits associated with the Predicted Primary Test Method Result (PPTMR) in 1.1 with a specified degree of confidence that would contain the PTM result (if tested by the PTM).

1.1.2 The prediction limits in 1.1.1 can be used to estimate the confidence that product released using the analyzer system based on a PPTMR that meets PTM-based specification limits will meet PTM-based specification limits when tested by a PTM.

1.2 The practice covers the qualification of on-line, at-line, or laboratory infrared or Raman analyzers used to predict physical, chemical, or performance properties of liquid petroleum products and fuels. Infrared analyzers can operate in the near-infrared (NIR) region, mid-infrared (MIR) region, or both.

1.2.1 This practice applies to all analyzer systems that can meet the performance requirements defined within.

1.2.2 This practice is not limited to analyzers designed by any specific instrument manufacturer.

1.2.3 This practice allows for multiple calibration techniques to create a multivariate model which relates the spectra produced by the analyzer to the corresponding property determined by a PTM. Spectra can be used to predict multiple properties, but the analyzer system performance of each predicted property is qualified individually.

1.3 The practice describes procedures for establishing performance requirements for analyzer system applications. The user of this practice must establish written protocols to confirm the procedures are being followed.

1.4 This practice makes use of standard practices, guides, and methods already established in ASTM. Additional requirements are listed within this practice.

1.5 Any multivariate model that meets performance requirements and detects when the spectrum of a sample is an outlier (analysis that represents an extrapolation of the model) or a nearest neighbor distance inlier (a spectrum residing in a gap in the multivariate space) can be used.

1.6 This practice can be used with methods for determining properties of biofuel blends. Three alternative procedures can be used. In all three cases, the qualification of the predicted values for the blend are established and monitored as part of a continual program by application of Practice D6122 or by combined application of Practices D6122 and D3764 (see definition in section 3.2.3).

1.6.1 If the analyzer is used to directly predict a property of the biofuel blend, and both the Primary Test Method Result (PTMR) and Predicted Primary Test Method Result (PPTMR)

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D02 on Petroleum Products, Liquid Fuels, and Lubricants and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D02.25 on Performance Assessment and Validation of Process Stream Analyzer Systems.

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