



Standard Test Method for Measuring Humidity with a Psychrometer (the Measurement of Wet- and Dry-Bulb Temperatures)¹

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1. Scope

1.1 General:

1.1.1 This test method covers the determination of the humidity of atmospheric air by means of wet- and dry-bulb temperature readings.

1.1.2 This test method is applicable for meteorological measurements at the earth's surface, for the purpose of the testing of materials, and for the determination of the relative humidity of most standard atmospheres and test atmospheres.

1.1.3 This test method is also applicable when the temperature of the wet bulb only is required. In this case, the instrument comprises a wet-bulb thermometer only.

1.1.4 Relative humidity (RH) does not denote a unit. Uncertainties in the relative humidity are expressed in the form $RH \pm rh$ %, which means that the relative humidity is expected to lie in the range $(RH - rh)$ % to $(RH + rh)$ %, where RH is the observed relative humidity. All uncertainties are at the 95 % confidence level.

1.2 Method A—Psychrometer Ventilated by Aspiration:

1.2.1 This method incorporates the psychrometer ventilated by aspiration. The aspirated psychrometer is more accurate than the sling (whirling) psychrometer (see Method B), and it offers advantages in regard to the space which it requires, the possibility of using alternative types of thermometers (for example, electrical), easier shielding of thermometer bulbs from extraneous radiation, accidental breakage, and convenience.

1.2.2 This method is applicable within the ambient temperature range 5 to 80°C, wet-bulb temperatures not lower than 1°C, and restricted to ambient pressures not differing from standard atmospheric pressure by more than 30 %.

1.3 Method B—Psychrometer Ventilated by Whirling (Sling Psychrometer):

1.3.1 This method incorporates the psychrometer ventilated by whirling (sling psychrometer).

1.3.2 This method is applicable within the ambient temperature range 5 to 50°C, wet-bulb temperatures not lower than 1°C and restricted to ambient pressures not differing from standard atmospheric pressure by more than 30 %.

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

1.5 *Warning—Mercury has been designated by many regulatory agencies as a hazardous material that can cause serious medical issues. Mercury, or its vapor, has been demonstrated to be hazardous to health and corrosive to materials. Caution should be taken when handling mercury and mercury containing products. See the applicable product Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for additional information. Users should be aware that selling mercury and/or mercury containing products into your state or country may be prohibited by law.*

1.6 *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 more specific safety precautionary statements, see 8.1 and 15.1.)

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

D861 Practice for Use of the Tex System to Designate Linear Density of Fibers, Yarn Intermediates, and Yarns

D1193 Specification for Reagent Water

D1356 Terminology Relating to Sampling and Analysis of Atmospheres

D1357 Practice for Planning the Sampling of the Ambient Atmosphere

D3631 Test Methods for Measuring Surface Atmospheric Pressure

D4023 Terminology Relating to Humidity Measurements (Withdrawn 2002)³

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D22 on Air Quality and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D22.11 on Meteorology.

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² 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.

³ The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on www.astm.org.