



Designation: D2364 – 15 (Reapproved 2021)

Standard Test Methods for Hydroxyethylcellulose¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D2364; 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 These test methods cover the testing of hydroxyethylcellulose.

1.2 The test procedures appear in the following order:

	Sections
Moisture	4 – 9
Ash	10 – 17
Viscosity	18 – 23
Density	24 – 30

1.3 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard. The values given in parentheses are for information only.

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, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.5 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

D1193 Specification for Reagent Water

D4794 Test Method for Determination of Ethoxyl or Hydroxyethoxyl Substitution in Cellulose Ether Products by Gas Chromatography

3. Purity of Reagents

3.1 Reagent grade chemicals shall be used in all tests. Unless otherwise indicated, it is intended that all reagents shall

conform to the specifications of the Committee on Analytical Reagents of the American Chemical Society,³ where such specifications are available. Other grades may be used, provided it is first ascertained that the reagent is of sufficiently high purity to permit its use without lessening the accuracy of the determination.

3.2 Unless otherwise indicated, reference to water shall be understood to mean reagent water, conforming to Specification D1193.

MOISTURE

4. Scope

4.1 This test method covers the determination of the volatile content of hydroxyethylcellulose.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 The results of this test are used for calculating the total solids in the sample; and, by common usage, all materials volatile at this test temperature are designated as moisture.

5.2 Moisture analysis (along with sulfated ash) is a measure of the amount of active polymer in the material and must be considered when determining the amount of hydroxyethyl cellulose to use in various formulations.

6. Apparatus

6.1 *Oven*, gravity-convection, capable of maintaining a temperature of $105 \pm 3^\circ\text{C}$.

6.2 *Weighing Bottles*, low-form, 50 mm in inside diameter by 30 mm in height, or equivalent.

6.3 *Analytical Balance*.

7. Procedure

7.1 Weigh 5 g of sample to the nearest 0.001 g in a tared and covered weighing bottle.

¹ These test methods are under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D01 on Paint and Related Coatings, Materials, and Applications and are the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D01.36 on Cellulose and Cellulose Derivatives.

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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 *ACS Reagent Chemicals, Specifications and Procedures for Reagents and Standard-Grade Reference Materials*, American Chemical Society, Washington, DC. For suggestions on the testing of reagents not listed by the American Chemical Society, see *Analar Standards for Laboratory Chemicals*, BDH Ltd., Poole, Dorset, U.K., and the *United States Pharmacopeia and National Formulary*, U.S. Pharmacopeial Convention, Inc. (USPC), Rockville, MD.

7.2 Place it in an oven at 105°C for 2 h with the cover removed. Replace the cover, cool in a desiccator, and weigh.

8. Calculation

8.1 Calculate the percent moisture, M , as follows:

$$M = (A/B) \times 100 \quad (1)$$

where:

A = mass loss on heating, g, and

B = sample used, g.

9. Precision and Bias

9.1 Statistical analysis of intralaboratory (repeatability) test results on samples containing from about 3.5 % moisture indicate a precision of ± 0.5 % absolute at the 95 % confidence level.

9.2 No statement on bias can be made as no suitable reference material is available as a standard.

ASH—AS SULFATE

10. Scope

10.1 This test method covers the determination of the residue on ignition of hydroxyethylcellulose after a specimen has been treated with sulfuric acid.

11. Summary of Test Method

11.1 A specimen is moistened with sulfuric acid, the excess acid evaporated, the carbonaceous matter burned off, and the residue ignited in a muffle furnace, cooled, and weighed.

12. Significance and Use

12.1 Excessive ash can affect solution clarity and film properties. The ash (along with moisture) is a measure of the amount of active polymer in the material and must be considered when determining the amount of hydroxyethyl cellulose to use in various formulations.

13. Apparatus

13.1 *Dishes*, platinum, 50 to 75-mL capacity.

13.2 *Muffle Furnace*, maintained at $825 \pm 25^\circ\text{C}$.

14. Reagents

14.1 *Sulfuric Acid (sp gr 1.84)*—Concentrated sulfuric acid (H_2SO_4).

15. Procedure

15.1 Weigh, to the nearest 0.0001 g, about 2 g of the dried sample into a tared platinum dish. Moisten the entire specimen with about 2 mL of H_2SO_4 . Then cautiously heat over a small flame until sulfur trioxide (SO_3) fumes cease to be evolved.

15.2 Increase the heat, ignite the specimen, and heat as necessary to burn off the volatile matter. Avoid spattering.

15.3 Place the dish in a 825°C muffle furnace for 1 h, or longer if required, to burn all of the carbon.

15.4 Remove the dish, allow to cool somewhat, place in a desiccator, and cool to room temperature. Weigh the dish and residue to the nearest 0.0001 g.

16. Calculation

16.1 Calculate the percent of ash (as sulfate), C , as follows:

$$C = (A/B) \times 100 \quad (2)$$

where:

A = ash, g, and

B = sample used, g.

17. Precision and Bias

17.1 Statistical analysis of interlaboratory (reproducibility) test results on samples containing 2 to 5 % ash (as sulfate) indicates a precision of ± 0.3 % absolute at the 95 % level.

17.2 No statement on bias can be made as no suitable reference material is available as a standard.

VISCOSITY

18. Scope

18.1 This test method is an arbitrary method of determining the viscosity of aqueous solutions of hydroxyethylcellulose in the viscosity range from 10 to 10 000 mPa·s (cP) at 25°C .

18.2 The concentration to be used for the test shall be agreed upon between the purchaser and the seller. It shall be such that the viscosity of the solution will fall within the range of this test.

18.3 The results for the viscosity of hydroxyethylcellulose by this test method will not necessarily agree with results from other types of instruments used for viscosity measurements.

18.4 The determinations are run on a calculated dry basis; that is, the amount of hydroxyethylcellulose required for the desired concentration on a dry basis is calculated from the known moisture content.

19. Significance and Use

19.1 This test method is intended for referee purposes.

19.2 This test method determines the relative ability of the polymer to thicken aqueous solutions and is therefore related to the concentration required in various formulations to achieve the desired finished product viscosity.

20. Apparatus

20.1 *Viscometer, Coaxial Rotational*—The essential instrumentation required providing the minimum rotational viscometer analytical capabilities for this method include:

NOTE 1—Manufacturers of cellulose derivatives usually specify the viscometer make, model, spindle, and speed to be used with their products. It is highly recommended that these specifications be followed. Use of a viscometer made by another company or even a different model by the same company may result in slightly different results.

20.1.1 A *drive motor* to apply a unidirectional rotational displacement to the specimen at a rate from 0.5 to 60 r/min constant to within ± 1 %.