



Designation: D3162 – 21

Standard Test Method for Carbon Monoxide in the Atmosphere (Continuous Measurement by Nondispersive Infrared Spectrometry)¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D3162; 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.

This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the U.S. Department of Defense.

1. Scope

1.1 This test method is applicable to the determination of the carbon monoxide (CO) concentration of the atmosphere between 0.6 mg/m³ (0.5 ppm(v)) and 115 mg/m³ (100 ppm(v)). The measuring principle is based on the absorption of infrared radiation by CO in the 4.7 μ m region (**1**).²

1.2 The test method has a limit of detection of about 0.6 mg/m³ (0.5 ppm(v)) carbon monoxide in air.

1.3 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. The values and units in parentheses are provided for information only and are not considered 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, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use. See Section 9 for additional precautions.*

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:*³

D1356 Terminology Relating to Sampling and Analysis of Atmospheres

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D22 on Air Quality and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D22.03 on Ambient Atmospheres and Source Emissions.

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² The boldface numbers in parentheses refer to the list of references at the end of the standard.

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.

D1357 Practice for Planning the Sampling of the Ambient Atmosphere

D1914 Practice for Conversion Units and Factors Relating to Sampling and Analysis of Atmospheres

D3249 Practice for General Ambient Air Analyzer Procedures

D3631 Test Methods for Measuring Surface Atmospheric Pressure

E1 Specification for ASTM Liquid-in-Glass Thermometers

E180 Practice for Determining the Precision of ASTM Methods for Analysis and Testing of Industrial and Specialty Chemicals (Withdrawn 2009)⁴

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions:*

3.1.1 For definitions of terms used in this test method, refer to Terminology **D1356** and Practice **D3249**.

3.2 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.2.1 *fall time, n*—the time interval between initial response and 90 % of final response after a step decrease in input concentrations.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 An atmospheric sample is introduced into a sample conditioning system and then into a nondispersive infrared spectrometer (NDIR). The spectrometer measures the absorption by CO at 4.7 μ m using either a single path monitor capable of distinguishing between sample and reference gases, or two parallel infrared beams through a sample and a reference cell and a selective detector. The detector signal is conducted to an amplifier control section, and the analyzer output measured on a meter and recording system (**2**).

4.1.1 Some instruments use gas filter correlation to compare the IR absorption spectrum between the measured gas and other gases present in the gas being sampled, in a single sample cell. These instruments use a concentrated sample of CO as a filter for the IR transmitted through the sample cell to produce a beam that cannot be further attenuated by the CO in the

⁴ The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on www.astm.org.

sample, and thus produces the reference beam. The broadband radiation that passes through the sample cell and the CO filter is filtered again by a narrow-band-pass filter that allows only the CO-sensitive portion of the band to pass to the detector. The removal of wavelengths sensitive to other gases reduces interferences.

4.2 The concentration of CO in the sample is determined from a calibration curve prepared using standard calibration gases.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 Determination of carbon monoxide is essential to evaluation of many air pollution concerns and pollution control strategies. This test method derives significance from providing such determination.

5.2 Carbon monoxide is formed in the process of incomplete combustion of hydrocarbon fuels, and is a constituent of the exhaust of gasoline engines. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has set primary and secondary air quality standards for CO that are designed to protect the public health and welfare (3, 4).

5.3 This test method is suitable for measurements appropriate for the purposes noted in 5.1 and 5.2.

6. Interferences

6.1 Degree of interference varies among individual instruments. Consult manufacturer's specifications for the particular analyzer to determine whether interferences render the instrument unsuitable for the proposed use.

6.2 The primary interferents are water vapor and carbon dioxide. Without correction, the error may be as high as 11 mg CO/m³ (10 ppm(v)) (5).

6.2.1 Water vapor interference can be minimized by using one of the following steps:

6.2.1.1 Passing the air sample through silica gel or similar drying agent.

6.2.1.2 Maintaining constant humidity in the sample and calibration gases by refrigeration.

6.2.1.3 Saturating the air sample and calibration gases to maintain constant humidity.

6.2.1.4 Using narrow-band optical filters in combination with some of the above measures.

6.2.1.5 Where a sample is dried or humidified a volume correction may be necessary.

6.2.1.6 Gas correlation spectrometers minimize interferences and use a narrow-band-pass filter to ensure measuring only the CO-sensitive IR wavelengths.

6.3 Interference may be caused by carbon dioxide (CO₂). The effect of CO₂ interference at concentrations normally present in ambient air is minimal; that is, 1350 mg (750 ppm(v)) CO₂/m³ may give a response equivalent to 0.6 mg CO/m³ (0.5 ppm(v)) (5).

6.4 Hydrocarbons at concentrations normally found in the ambient air do not ordinarily interfere; that is, 325 mg methane/m³ (500 ppm(v)) may give a response equivalent to 0.6 mg CO/m³ (0.5 ppm(v)) (5).

7. Apparatus

7.1 *NDIR Carbon Monoxide in Air Analyzer*, complete with voltage transformer, analyzer section, amplifier/control section, meter, and recording system. Analyzer must meet or exceed performance specifications described in Annex A1.

7.2 *Sample Conditioning System*, consisting of pump, flow control valve, pressure relief valve, flowmeter, filter, and moisture control.

7.3 A typical sampling and analyzer system is described in Fig. 1.

7.4 *Thermometer*—Temperature measuring devices such as RTDs (Resistance Temperature Devices), thermistors and organic liquid-in-glass thermometers meeting the requirements of specific applications may be used. Thermometers meeting the requirements of Specification E1 are suitable for most applications of this test method.

7.5 *Barograph or Barometer*, capable of measuring atmospheric pressure to ± 0.6 kPa (5 torr). See Test Methods D3631.

8. Reagents and Materials

8.1 *Zero Gas*—A pressurized cylinder of pure nitrogen containing less than 0.1 mg/m³ CO (0.09 ppm(v)) and having a regulated flow supply.

8.2 *Up-Scale Span Gas*—A pressurized cylinder containing a span gas mixture consisting of CO in air or nitrogen corresponding to 80 % of full scale. A regulated flow system must be provided.

8.3 *Calibration Gases*—Pressured cylinders with regulated flow control are required. These should contain concentrations of CO in air or nitrogen corresponding to the instrument operating range. In order to establish a calibration curve, zero air from an air cleanup panel or generator, certified zero air cylinder, or nitrogen with CO in amounts of 0, 10 to 20, 40 to 60, and 80 to 100 % of full scale are needed.

8.4 *Calibration Certificate*—The span and calibration gases should be certified to be between ± 2 % of the stated value, and be supplied in high-pressure cylinders with inside surfaces of a chromium-molybdenum alloy of low iron content, or aluminum cylinders internally coated. Replacement cylinders should be verified by procedures in Annex A3.

9. Precautions

9.1 Operate analyzer system in nonexplosive areas unless equipment is explosion-proof.

9.2 The handling and storage of compressed gas cylinders, and the installation and use of the analyzer shall follow Practice D3249. Cylinders shall not be exposed to direct sunlight.

9.3 Maintain the same sample cell pressure during sampling and calibration. Use the same sample pump.

10. Sampling

10.1 *General*—For planning sampling programs, refer to Practices D1357 and D3249.