



Designation: D5836 – 20

Standard Test Method for Determination of 2,4-Toluene Diisocyanate (2,4-TDI) and 2,6-Toluene Diisocyanate (2,6-TDI) in Workplace Atmospheres (1-2 PP Method)¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D5836; 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 method describes the determination of 2,4-toluene diisocyanate (2,4-TDI) and 2,6-toluene diisocyanate (2,6-TDI) in air samples collected from workplace atmospheres in a cassette containing a glass-fiber filter impregnated with 1-(2-pyridyl)piperazine (1-2 PP). This procedure is effective for determining the vapor content of atmospheres. It is advisable to perform a field extraction for atmospheres containing aerosols to avoid the possibility of an underestimation.

1.2 This test method uses a high-performance liquid chromatograph (HPLC) equipped with a fluorescence or an ultraviolet (UV) detector (**1-4**).^{2,3} An ultra high performance liquid chromatograph (UPLC) can also be used, provided that its performance is equivalent to what is stated in this standard.

1.3 The validated range of the test method, as written, is from 1.4 to 5.6 µg of 2,4-TDI and 2,6-TDI which is equivalent to approximately 9.8 to 39 ppb for 2,4-TDI and 2,6-TDI based on a 20-L air sample. The HPLC method using an UV detector is capable of detecting 0.078 µg of 2,4-TDI and 0.068 µg of 2,6-TDI in a 4.0-mL solvent volume, which is equivalent to 0.55 ppb for 2,4-TDI and 0.48 ppb for 2,6-TDI based on a 20-L air sample.

1.4 The isomers of 2,4-TDI and 2,6-TDI can be separated utilizing a reversed phase column for the HPLC method. Because industrial applications employ an isomeric mixture of 2,4- and 2,6-TDI, the ability to achieve this separation is important.

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

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D22 on Air Quality and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D22.04 on Workplace Air Quality.

Current edition approved March 1, 2020. Published May 2020. Originally approved in 1995. Last previous edition approved in 2013 as D5836 – 08 (2013). DOI: 10.1520/D5836-20.

² Validation data and a preliminary draft of this test method were provided by the Salt Lake Technical Center of the U.S. Dept. of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Salt Lake City, UT.

³ The boldface numbers in parentheses refer to a list of references at the end of this standard.

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, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use. See Section 9 for specific precautions.*

1.7 *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:⁴

- D1193 Specification for Reagent Water
- D1356 Terminology Relating to Sampling and Analysis of Atmospheres
- D1357 Practice for Planning the Sampling of the Ambient Atmosphere
- D3686 Practice for Sampling Atmospheres to Collect Organic Compound Vapors (Activated Charcoal Tube Adsorption Method)
- D4840 Guide for Sample Chain-of-Custody Procedures
- D5337 Practice for Flow Rate Adjustment of Personal Sampling Pumps
- E691 Practice for Conducting an Interlaboratory Study to Determine the Precision of a Test Method

2.2 Other Documents:

- ISO/IEC 17025 General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories⁵

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

⁴ 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.

⁵ Available from International Organization for Standardization (ISO), ISO Central Secretariat, BIBC II, Chemin de Blandonnet 8, CP 401, 1214 Vernier, Geneva, Switzerland, <http://www.iso.org>.

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

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 A known volume of air is drawn through a cassette containing a glass-fiber filter impregnated with 1-(2-pyridyl)piperazine. The diisocyanate reacts with the secondary amine to form a urea derivative.

4.2 The coated glass-fiber filter is extracted with acetonitrile (ACN) containing 10 % dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) and the extract is analyzed by HPLC. The eluent is monitored with a fluorescence detector (240-nm excitation, 370-nm emission cutoff filter) or a UV detector (254 nm). The identity of a chromatographic peak with a second UV wavelength is recommended if no fluorescence detector is utilized.

4.3 The amount of the urea derivative collected is determined by comparison of sample response (peak area integrations or peak heights) to a standard calibration curve for the urea derivative.

4.4 The amount of diisocyanate is calculated from the amount of urea determined in the analysis.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 Diisocyanates are used in the production of polyurethane foams, plastics, elastomers, surface coatings, and adhesives (5, 6). It has been estimated that the production of TDI will steadily increase during the future years.

5.2 Diisocyanates are irritants to eyes, skin, and mucous membrane and are respiratory sensitizers. Chronic exposure to low concentrations of diisocyanates produces an allergic sensitization which may progress into asthmatic bronchitis (7, 8).

5.3 The United States Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has a permissible exposure limit (PEL) for 2,4-TDI of 0.02 ppm or 0.14 mg/m³ as a ceiling limit. There is no OSHA PEL for 2,6-TDI (9). The American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH) has a time-weighted average (TWA) Threshold Limit Value (TLV) of 0.001 ppm or 0.007 mg/m³ and a short-term exposure limit (STEL) of 0.005 ppm or 0.036 mg/m³ for either 2,4-TDI, or 2,6-TDI, or for a mixture of 2,4- and 2,6-TDI (10).

6. Interferences

6.1 Any compound having the same retention time as the standards is a possible interference. Generally, chromatographic conditions can be altered to resolve an interference.

6.2 Compounds that can react with an isocyanate represent a potential interference. These would include molecules containing the functional groups: amines, alcohols, anhydrides, phenols, and carboxylic acids.

6.3 Strong oxidizing agents can potentially react with the 1-(2-pyridyl)piperazine.

6.4 Retention time data on a single column is not definitive proof of chemical identity. Analysis by an alternate column system, ratioing of wavelength response using two wavelengths or types of detector, should be performed to confirm chemical identity.

7. Apparatus

7.1 Sampling Equipment:

7.1.1 *Personal Sampling Pumps*, any pump capable of sampling at a rate of about 1.0 L/min for 8 h.

7.1.2 *Flowmeter*, portable, with an accuracy that is sufficient to enable the volumetric flow rate to be measured to within $\pm 5\%$. The flowmeter calibration by a provider accredited to ISO/IEC 17025 for such calibrations shall be traceable to national or international standards. Retain the calibration certificate, including the pressure and temperature at which the calibration was performed, and identifying and performance documentation for the flowmeter.

7.1.3 *Glass-Fiber Filters*, 37 mm, free of organic binder, impregnated with 1.0 mg of 1-(2-pyridyl)piperazine.

7.1.4 *Cassette*, plastic holders of the three-piece personal monitor type, that accept filters of 37-mm diameter. Number the cassette for identification.

7.1.5 *Cellulose Backup Pad*, sized to fit the cassette (7.1.4).

7.1.6 *(Optional) Glass Vial*, fitted with polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE)-lined caps, containing 4.0-mL of extraction solution (8.6). Number the vial for identification.

7.2 Analytical Equipment:

7.2.1 *Liquid Chromatograph*, a high-performance liquid chromatograph (HPLC) equipped with a fluorescence detector capable of monitoring 240-nm excitation and 370-nm cutoff or a UV detector capable of monitoring 254-nm wavelength and a manual or automatic sample injector. A second UV wavelength is recommended for identify confirmation if no fluorescence detector is utilized. An ultra high performance liquid chromatography (UPLC) providing at least the same or equivalent performance of HPLC can be also used.

7.2.2 *Liquid Chromatographic Column*, an HPLC stainless steel column capable of separating the urea derivatives. Analytical column recommended in this test method are the following: a 25-cm by 4.6-mm inside diameter stainless steel column packed with 10- μ m C8 or an equivalent column.

7.2.3 *Electronic Integrator*, an electronic integrator or some other suitable method of determining peak areas or heights.

7.2.4 *Pipets and Volumetrics*, various sizes of volumetric pipets and flasks to prepare standards.

7.2.5 *Syringe Operated Filter Unit*, syringes with 4 mm, polyvinylidene fluoride 0.2- μ m pore size filter unit, or any equivalent device.

7.2.6 *HPLC Autosampler Vials*, amber glass vials with PTFE-coated septums.

7.2.7 *Reciprocating Shaker*, a reciprocating shaker or any other equivalent device.

8. Reagents and Materials

8.1 *Purity of Reagents*—Reagent grade chemicals shall be used in all tests. It is intended that all reagents shall conform to the specifications of the Committees on Analytical Reagents of the American Chemical Society, where such specifications are