



Standard Practice for Performing Detection and Quantitation Estimation and Data Assessment Utilizing DQCALC Software, based on ASTM Practices D6091 and D6512 of Committee D19 on Water^{1,2}

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ε¹ NOTE—Reapproved with editorial change to 4.2.3 in December 2016.

1. Scope

1.1 This software was developed to automate calculations within three ASTM standards: Practices **D2777** (outlier removal section), **D6091**, and **D6512**.

1.2 The program calculates detection estimates (DE) and quantitation estimates (QE) for the constant, straight-line, exponential, and hybrid (Rocke-Lorenzato) models of the variation of [inter or intra] laboratory standard deviation (ILSD) with concentration. Calculations are shown in the DE_QE worksheet and results are shown in the DLs & QLs worksheet. Several plots are generated showing how well each model fits the data. The least complex model to fit the data with adequate confidence must be used by the ASTM standards.

NOTE 1—Modeling techniques automated in this practice and with this software have been shown to work well with most data sets. Users of this software are cautioned that with some, rare data sets, anomalous results may be obtained, and manual forcing of a different model may be required. It has been noted that for some data sets when an exponential model is selected, there may be a lack of convergence on a result or there may be a convergence on two separate results.

1.3 Users of DQCALC should refer to Practices **D2777**, **D6091**, and **D6512** for the specifics of the scope and application of the Practices.

1.4 The IDE Practice (**D6091**) and the IQE Practice (**D6512**) are concerned with estimates of limits of detection and limits of quantitation based on inter-laboratory data. DQCALC may also be employed to calculate detection and quantitation estimates based on single laboratory data.

1.5 The DQCALC Software consists of a Microsoft Excel³ workbook spreadsheet and associated macros and a user manual in Microsoft Word.³

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee **D19** on Water and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee **D19.02** on Quality Systems, Specification, and Statistics.

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² DQCALC is available from ASTM International Headquarters. Order Adjunct No. **ADJDQCALC**. Original adjunct produced in 2007.

³ Trademark of Microsoft, Redmond, WA, 98052.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:⁴

D2777 Practice for Determination of Precision and Bias of Applicable Test Methods of Committee D19 on Water

D6091 Practice for 99 %/95 % Interlaboratory Detection Estimate (IDE) for Analytical Methods with Negligible Calibration Error

D6512 Practice for Interlaboratory Quantitation Estimate

2.2 ASTM Adjuncts:

DQCALC Microsoft Excel-based software for the Interlaboratory Quantitation Estimate (IQE)²

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.1.1 *batch*—the samples associated with a given sample preparation. If all laboratories analyze samples prepared at three different times then results from each sample preparation would be considered a distinct batch.

3.1.2 *p-value*—probability value associated with curvature, the smaller the value the higher the likelihood of curvature (<0.05 is acceptable).

3.1.3 *Q-value*—Q must be positive and the associated probability of Q (*p_Q*-value) which is related to curvature must be <0.05.

3.2 Acronyms:

3.2.1 *DE*—detection estimate

3.2.2 *IDE*—interlaboratory detection estimate

3.2.3 *ILSD*—[inter or intra/within] laboratory standard deviation

3.2.4 *IQE*—interlaboratory quantitation estimate

3.2.5 *QE*—quantitation estimate

3.2.6 *SSR*—sum-of-squared residuals

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.