Designation: D7959 – 24

Standard Test Method for Chloride Content Determination of Aviation Turbine Fuels using Chloride Test Strip[1]

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D7959; 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 covers a rapid means of determining chloride content of aviation turbine fuel. This methodology is applicable for chloride concentrations between 0 mg/L to 0.5 mg/L. This methodology will not detect chlorine originating from chlorinated organic compounds (that is, covalent bond).

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

1.3 *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.*

1.4 *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]

D4175 Terminology Relating to Petroleum Products, Liquid Fuels, and Lubricants

D6300 Practice for Determination of Precision and Bias Data for Use in Test Methods for Petroleum Products, Liquid Fuels, and Lubricants

2.2 *ASTM Adjuncts:*

Distillate Fuel Bar Chart[3]

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions:*

3.1.1 For definitions of terms used in this test method, refer to Terminology D4175.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 A 3 L sample of aviation turbine fuel is extracted with pH 7 buffer solution by a magnetic stir plate and stir bar. The chloride in the aviation turbine fuel sample transfers to the buffer solution. A portion of the aqueous extract solution is then removed and analyzed with a chloride test strip. Silver ions within the test strip combine with chloride ions in the extract as it is drawn up by capillary action to form a white column of silver chloride. The chloride concentration of the extract, determined by the height of the column, is then related back to the chloride content of the aviation turbine fuel sample.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 Chloride present in aviation turbine fuel can originate from refinery salt drier carryover or possibly from seawater contamination (for example, product transferred by barge). Elevated chloride levels have caused corrosive and abrasive wear of aircraft fuel control systems leading to engine failure.[4]

6. Interferences

6.1 Some pH 7 buffer solution can contain trace levels of chloride compounds and therefore produce a false positive reading on the chloride test strip. Prior to using a new batch of pH 7 buffer solution, a sample should be confirmed to produce no reading on the chloride test strip.

[1] This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D02 on Petroleum Products, Liquid Fuels, and Lubricants and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D02.J0.05 on Fuel Cleanliness.

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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] Available from ASTM International Headquarters. Order Adjunct No. ADJD417601. Original adjunct produced in 1991.

[4] *Guidelines for Sodium Chloride Contamination Troubleshooting and Decontamination of Airframe and Engine Fuel Systems*, International Air Transport Association, 2nd Ed., February 1998, pg. 1.

*A Summary of Changes section appears at the end of this standard

6.2 The test strip[5] will react with halides other than chloride (for example, bromide, iodide). The concentration of chloride in salt used in refinery salt driers (predominantly NaCl and $CaCl_2$) and in seawater, however, is in great excess compared to that of other halides.

7. Apparatus

7.1 *Magnetic Stir Plate and Stir Bar*—The magnetic stir plate shall be capable of producing the stirring energy described in Section 12.11. A magnetic stir bar in the form of a cross or "starburst" approximately 32 mm by 32 mm has proven to be more stable than the traditional bar shape. The stir bar shall have a chemically inert coating such as polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE).

7.2 *Distillate Fuel Bar Chart.*[3]

8. Reagents and Materials

8.1 Iso*octane* (2,2,4–trimethylpentane, CAS #540-84-1)—Minimum ACS reagent grade purity.

8.2 *pH 7 Buffer Solution*—Some pH 7 buffer solution can contain trace levels of chloride compounds and therefore produce a false positive reading on the chloride test strip. Prior to using a new batch of pH 7 buffer solution, a sample should be confirmed to produce no reading on the chloride test strip.

NOTE 1—Prior batches of Fisher Scientific pH 7 buffer solution, catalog number SB108, have produced no reading on the chloride test strips.

8.3 *Chloride Test Strips*[5]—The conversion of the dimensionless test strip value to chloride concentration in mg/L found on the test strip container varies slightly from one lot of chloride test strips to the next.

9. Hazards

9.1 If a combination heater and stir plate is to be used, ensure the heater is off.

10. Sampling, Test Specimens, and Test Units

10.1 The sample should be obtained for testing in either a 1 gal or 5 L container.

10.2 Collect a sample of at least 3 L.

11. Preparation of Apparatus

11.1 Unless otherwise stated, all glassware should be cleaned prior to use. No special cleaning or rinsing procedure is required.

12. Procedure

12.1 Vigorously shake the sample container by hand for approximately 15 s before analysis.

12.2 Add 3 L of the aviation turbine fuel test sample to a 4 L beaker by filling and emptying a 1 L graduated cylinder three times.

12.3 Remove the remaining fuel from the sample container.

12.4 Completely drain the sample container (discarding any residual fuel) by means of one of the following methods.

12.4.1 If the sample container has a spout and can be effectively drained (see Fig. 1), drain upside down for 2 min, tilting and shaking occasionally to remove any residual fuel.

12.4.2 If the sample container does not have a spout and cannot be effectively drained, tilt the sample container to the side or to a corner so that any residual fuel collects beneath the sample container opening (see Fig. 2). Wait approximately 2 min. Remove any residual fuel with a clean pipette. Wait an additional approximate 2 min and repeat (the same pipette may be used).

12.5 Add 5 mL pH 7 buffer solution by pipette to the now empty sample container.

12.6 Cap the sample container tightly and hand shake vigorously for approximately 1 min. Try to have the pH 7 buffer solution contact all inside surfaces of the container. The use of a shaker table is not recommended since the buffer solution will not contact all inside surfaces of the container.

12.7 Transfer the contents to the 4 L beaker via one of the following methods.

12.7.1 If the sample container has a spout and can be effectively drained, drain upside down for approximately 30 s, tilting and shaking occasionally to transfer any residual buffer solution.

12.7.2 If the sample container does not have a spout and cannot be effectively drained, tilt the sample container to the side or to a corner so that the buffer solution collects beneath the sample container opening. Tap the side or corner a few times lightly on a benchtop to encourage the buffer solution to

FIG. 1 Draining of Sample Container with a Spout

[5] The sole source of supply of the apparatus (Chloride QuanTab (trademarked) Test Strips, 30 – 600 mg/L) known to the committee at this time is Hach Company, P.O. Box 389, Loveland, Colorado 80539-0389, http://www.hach.com. If you are aware of alternative suppliers, please provide this information to ASTM International Headquarters. Your comments will receive careful consideration at a meeting of the responsible technical committee,[1] which you may attend.