



Standard Test Method for Pigment Content of Paints by Low-Temperature Ashing¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D4451; 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 the pigment content of paints and several traffic marking materials (thermoplastic and pre-formed tape) by low-temperature furnace ashing. Some organic pigments may be lost by this method and some water or moisture contained in pigments will be lost.

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

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards*:²

[D3723 Test Method for Pigment Content of Water-Emulsion Paints by Low-Temperature Ashing](#)

[E180 Practice for Determining the Precision of ASTM Methods for Analysis and Testing of Industrial and Specialty Chemicals](#) (Withdrawn 2009)³

3. Summary of Test Method

3.1 The specimen is transferred to a tared porcelain dish, dried (if necessary) at 105°C, and heated on a burner. The dish and specimen are transferred to a muffle furnace and heated at 450°C. The dish and specimen are reweighed and the pigment (ash) content calculated.

4. Apparatus

4.1 *Muffle Furnace*, maintained at 450°C \pm 25°C.

4.2 *Circulating Oven*, maintained at 105°C \pm 2°C.

4.3 *Porcelain Dishes*, 90-mm diameter.

4.4 *Plastic Disposable Syringe*, 10-mL capacity.

4.5 *Burner*, meker type.

5. Reagents

5.1 *Purity of Reagents*—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, where such specifications are available.⁴

5.2 *Toluene*.

6. Procedure

6.1 *Liquid-Paint*:

6.1.1 Mix the sample until homogeneous, preferably on a mechanical shaker. If air bubbles become entrapped in the paint, stir it by hand.

6.1.2 Draw slightly more than 10 g of the paint under test into a 10-mL syringe and weigh to 0.1 mg. Transfer about 5 mL toluene to a porcelain dish tared with a paper clip for use as a stirrer. Add 10 g of the material into the toluene. Reweigh the syringe to 0.1 mg and calculate the specimen weight. Mix well on a magnetic stirrer. Place the dish in the oven at 105°C for 30 min.

6.1.3 Remove and heat at the lowest temperature possible over a meker burner in a fume hood. Do not leave the dish on the burner after the flame has subsided. Transfer to the muffle furnace and proceed as in 6.4.

6.2 *Preformed Traffic Marking Tape*—Cut about a 10-g square of the product. Remove the adhesive by pulling it off or by using an appropriate solvent. Save the beads that are knocked off by this process and weigh with the tape. Dry the specimen for 30 min at 105°C to remove the solvent. Cool in a desiccator. Weigh the specimen along with the loose beads to 0.1 mg into a tared porcelain dish. Heat in a fume hood at the lowest temperature of a meker burner in a furnace hood until

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D01 on Paint and Related Coatings, Materials, and Applications and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D01.21 on Chemical Analysis of Paints and Paint Materials.

Current edition approved July 1, 2014. Published July 2014. Originally approved in 1985. Last previous edition approved in 2008 as D4451 – 02 (2008). DOI: 10.1520/D4451-02R14.

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

⁴ *Reagent Chemicals, American Chemical Society Specifications*, 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.

the material catches fire. Do not leave the dish on the burner after the flame has subsided. Transfer to the muffle furnace and proceed as in 6.4.

6.3 *Thermoplastic Traffic Marking Material*—This material may be delivered in block or powdered form. Transfer about 400 g of the sample to a quart container and heat in a forced draft oven at 400°F until completely melted (may take as long as 4 h). Stir vigorously until well mixed. Pour about 10 g of the sample into an aluminum dish and let it cool. Remove the 10 g wafer from the aluminum dish and weigh to 0.1 mg. Transfer to a tared porcelain dish. Heat the dish at the lowest temperature of a meker burner in a fume hood until the specimen catches fire. Do not leave the dish on the burner after the flame has subsided. Transfer to a muffle furnace and proceed as in 6.4.

6.4 Place the porcelain dish in a muffle furnace in a fume hood at 450°C (see Test Method D3723). Heat overnight or until no further carbonaceous material is noted. Cool in a desiccator and reweigh the dish plus the residue to 0.1 mg. Calculate the residue as percent pigment or, in the case of thermoplastic material and preformed tape, as pigment and beads.

7. Calculation

7.1 Calculate the percent pigment, P , as follows:

$$P = C - A/S \times 100 \quad (1)$$

where:

C = weight of dish and specimen after ignition in furnace, g,

A = weight of dish alone, g, and

S = specimen weight used, g.

8. Precision

8.1 The precision estimates are based on an interlaboratory study in which one operator in 7 different laboratories analyzed in duplicate on two days six samples of commercial whole paint or thermoplastic material containing 50 to 80 % pigment. The results were analyzed statistically in accordance with Practice E180 and the within-laboratory coefficient of variation was found to be 0.10 % relative at 36 df and the between-laboratories coefficient of variation 0.25 % relative at 30 df. Based on these coefficients the following criteria should be used for judging the acceptability of results at the 95 % confidence level:

8.1.1 *Repeatability*—Two results, each the mean of duplicate determinations, obtained by the same operator on different days should be considered suspect if they differ by more than 0.28 % relative.

8.1.2 *Reproducibility*—Two results, each the mean of duplicate determinations, obtained by operators in different laboratories should be considered suspect if they differ by more than 0.72 % relative.

9. Bias

9.1 Bias cannot be determined because there are no standards for pigment content of paints.

10. Keywords

10.1 ignition; low temperature ashing; pigment; pigment content of paints

ASTM International takes no position respecting the validity of any patent rights asserted in connection with any item mentioned in this standard. Users of this standard are expressly advised that determination of the validity of any such patent rights, and the risk of infringement of such rights, are entirely their own responsibility.

This standard is subject to revision at any time by the responsible technical committee and must be reviewed every five years and if not revised, either reapproved or withdrawn. Your comments are invited either for revision of this standard or for additional standards and should be addressed to ASTM International Headquarters. Your comments will receive careful consideration at a meeting of the responsible technical committee, which you may attend. If you feel that your comments have not received a fair hearing you should make your views known to the ASTM Committee on Standards, at the address shown below.

This standard is copyrighted by ASTM International, 100 Barr Harbor Drive, PO Box C700, West Conshohocken, PA 19428-2959, United States. Individual reprints (single or multiple copies) of this standard may be obtained by contacting ASTM at the above address or at 610-832-9585 (phone), 610-832-9555 (fax), or service@astm.org (e-mail); or through the ASTM website (www.astm.org). Permission rights to photocopy the standard may also be secured from the Copyright Clearance Center, 222 Rosewood Drive, Danvers, MA 01923, Tel: (978) 646-2600; http://www.copyright.com/