



Designation: D5184 – 12 (Reapproved 2017)

# Standard Test Methods for Determination of Aluminum and Silicon in Fuel Oils by Ashing, Fusion, Inductively Coupled Plasma Atomic Emission Spectrometry, and Atomic Absorption Spectrometry<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D5184; 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 ( $\epsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

## 1. Scope

1.1 These test methods cover the determination of aluminum and silicon in fuel oils at concentrations between 5 mg/kg and 150 mg/kg for aluminum and 10 mg/kg and 250 mg/kg for silicon.

1.2 *Test Method A*—Inductively coupled plasma atomic emission spectrometry is used in this test method to quantitatively determine aluminum and silicon.

1.3 *Test Method B*—Flame atomic absorption spectrometry is used in this test method to quantitatively determine aluminum and silicon.

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

1.5 *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.* Specific warning statements are given in Sections 7.6, 10.1, and 11.5.

1.6 *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*:<sup>2</sup>

[D1193 Specification for Reagent Water](#)

<sup>1</sup> These test methods are under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D02 on Petroleum Products, Liquid Fuels, and Lubricants and are the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D02.03 on Elemental Analysis.

Current edition approved May 1, 2017. Published June 2017. Originally approved in 1991. Last previous edition approved in 2012 as D5184 – 12. DOI: 10.1520/D5184-12R17.

<sup>2</sup> For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org), or contact ASTM Customer Service at [service@astm.org](mailto:service@astm.org). For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

- [D4057 Practice for Manual Sampling of Petroleum and Petroleum Products](#)
- [D4177 Practice for Automatic Sampling of Petroleum and Petroleum Products](#)
- [D6299 Practice for Applying Statistical Quality Assurance and Control Charting Techniques to Evaluate Analytical Measurement System Performance](#)
- [D6792 Practice for Quality Management Systems in Petroleum Products, Liquid Fuels, and Lubricants Testing Laboratories](#)
- [D7260 Practice for Optimization, Calibration, and Validation of Inductively Coupled Plasma-Atomic Emission Spectrometry \(ICP-AES\) for Elemental Analysis of Petroleum Products and Lubricants](#)
- [D7740 Practice for Optimization, Calibration, and Validation of Atomic Absorption Spectrometry for Metal Analysis of Petroleum Products and Lubricants](#)
- [E135 Terminology Relating to Analytical Chemistry for Metals, Ores, and Related Materials](#)

## 3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*:

3.1.1 *emission spectroscopy, n*—Refer to Terminology [E135](#).

3.2 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard*:

3.2.1 *calibration, n*—the process by which the relationship between signal intensity and elemental concentration is determined for a specific element analysis.

3.2.2 *check standard, n*—in calibration, an artifact measured periodically, the results of which typically are plotted on a control chart to evaluate the measurement process.

## 4. Summary of Test Methods

4.1 A weighed quantity of homogenized sample is heated in a clean platinum dish, the combustible material is removed by burning and the carbon finally removed by heating in a muffle furnace at a temperature of  $550\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 25\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ . The residue is fused with a lithium tetraborate/lithium fluoride flux. The fused

mixture is digested in a solution of tartaric acid and hydrochloric acid and diluted to volume with water. The resulting solution is aspirated into an inductively-coupled plasma and the emission intensities of aluminum and silicon lines are measured. Standard calibration solutions are also aspirated and aluminum and silicon intensities are measured for comparison. Alternatively, the resulting solution is aspirated into the flame of an atomic absorption spectrometer and the absorptions of the resonance radiation of aluminum and silicon are measured. Standard calibration solutions are also aspirated and aluminum and silicon absorption intensities are measured for comparison.

4.2 Information on proper protocols for conducting atomic absorption spectrometry can be found in Practice [D7740](#).

4.3 Information on Proper protocols for conducting inductively coupled plasma-atomic absorption spectrometry can be found in Practice [D7260](#).

## 5. Significance and Use

5.1 Catalyst fines in fuel oils can cause abnormal engine wear. These test methods provide a means of determining silicon and aluminum, the major constituents of the catalysts.

## 6. Apparatus

6.1 *Balance*, capable of weighing to 0.1 g, capacity of 150 g.

6.2 *Choice of Instrument*:

6.2.1 *Inductively-Coupled Plasma Atomic Emission Spectrometer*—Either a sequential or simultaneous spectrometer is suitable, if equipped with an ICP torch and RF generator to form and sustain the plasma.

6.2.2 *Atomic Absorption Spectrometer*—A suitable instrument will consist of modulated hollow cathode lamps or other sources of resonance radiation of aluminum and silicon, a nitrous oxide/acetylene burner, and a spectrometer with a suitable detection and read-out system.

6.3 *Homogenizer*, non-aerating, high-speed shear mixer to homogenize the sample.

NOTE 1—Ultrasonic bath and ultrasonic probe type homogenizers were not evaluated in the development of these test methods.

6.4 *Electric Muffle Furnace*, capable of being maintained at temperatures of  $550\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 25\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  and  $925\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 25\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ . The furnace preferably having suitable apertures at front and rear to allow a slow, natural draft of air to pass through.

6.5 *Electric Hot Plate*, with or without magnetic stirring capability.

6.6 *Electric Oven*, maintained at a temperature of  $50\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $60\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

6.7 *Graduated Cylinders*, 10 mL, 25 mL, 50 mL, and 100 mL.

6.8 *Pipettes*, 1 mL, 2 mL, 5 mL, 10 mL, 20 mL, and 25 mL.

6.9 *Platinum Dish*, 100 mL capacity, cleaned with fused potassium hydrogen sulfate.

6.10 *Volumetric Flasks*, 100 mL and 1000 mL.

6.11 All glassware must be carefully cleaned with 1 + 1 hydrochloric acid and rinsed thoroughly with water to minimize contamination. The use of chromic acid cleaning solution is not recommended.

6.12 Zirconium crucible with close fitting zirconium lid, 30 mL to 50 mL capacity.

## 7. Reagents

7.1 *Purity of Reagents*—Reagent grade chemicals shall be used in all tests. Unless otherwise indicated, it is intended that all reagents conform to the specifications of the Committee on Analytical Reagents of the American Chemical Society where such specifications are available.<sup>3</sup> Other grades may be used, provided it is first ascertained that the reagent is of sufficiently high purity to permit its use without lessening the accuracy of the determination.

7.2 *Purity of Water*—Unless otherwise indicated, reference to water shall be understood to mean reagent water conforming to Type II of Specification [D1193](#).

7.3 *Flux*—Mixture of 90 % lithium tetraborate and 10 % lithium fluoride.

NOTE 2—Lithium fluoride is necessary to prevent heavy metal corrosion of the platinum dish and to lower the fusion temperature.

7.4 *Hydrochloric acid (36 % (m/m))*—concentrated hydrochloric acid.

7.5 *Potassium Hydrogen Sulfate*, fused solid.

7.6 *2-Propanol (Isopropyl Alcohol)* (**Warning**—Flammable; can be explosive when evaporated to or near dryness.)

7.7 *Aqueous Standard Solutions*.

7.7.1 *Aluminum Standard Solutions*—Obtain a ready made, aqueous standard or prepare a standard from aluminum wire.

7.7.1.1 *Aluminum Solution (1000 mg/L)*—Aqueous, ready made commercial standard.

7.7.1.2 *Aluminum Solution (1000 mg/L)*—Cut an arbitrary length of 99.99 % minimum purity aluminum wire (2 mm diameter aluminum wire has been found satisfactory). Measure the length to the nearest 0.1 cm and weigh the aluminum wire to the nearest 0.001 g. Determine the mass/cm for the aluminum wire and cut a length of aluminum wire that is calculated to be slightly greater than 1.000 g. Trim off the excess wire until the mass is  $1.000\text{ g} \pm 0.005\text{ g}$ . Dissolve the aluminum wire in 50 mL of concentrated hydrochloric acid. Heat gently. Cool and transfer the solution to 1000 mL volumetric flask. Dilute to the mark with water.

7.7.2 *Silicon Standard Solutions*—Obtain a ready made, aqueous standard or prepare a standard from silicon dioxide.

7.7.2.1 *Silicon Solution (1000 mg/L)*—Aqueous, ready made commercial standard.

<sup>3</sup> *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.

7.7.2.2 *Silicon Solution (1000 mg/L)*—Using a zirconium crucible with a close fitting lid, fuse 2.140 g  $\pm$  0.0107 g of silicon dioxide (99.99 % purity) with 8 g of sodium hydroxide until a clear melt is obtained. Cool and dissolve the melt in 100 mL of a solution of 1 part hydrochloric acid by volume and 2 parts water by volume. Transfer this solution to a 1000 mL volumetric flask and dilute to the mark with water. Immediately, transfer the contents of the flask to a plastic bottle.

7.8 *Tartaric Acid/Hydrochloric Acid Solution*—Dissolve 5 g of tartaric acid in about 500 mL of water acidified with 40 mL of concentrated hydrochloric acid and dilute to 1000 mL with water.

7.9 *Toluene/2-Propanol Solution (1 + 1)*—Mix one volume of toluene with one volume of 2-propanol.

7.10 *Quality Control (QC) Samples*, preferably are portions of one or more liquid petroleum materials that are stable and representative of the samples of interest. These QC samples can be used to check the validity of the testing process as described in Section 18.

## 8. Quality Control (QC) Sample Preparation

8.1 Preparation of QC Samples shall follow the same protocol as defined for the test specimen (Sections 9, 10, and 11).

## 9. Sampling

9.1 The objective of sampling is to obtain a sample for testing purposes that is representative of the entire quantity. Thus, take samples in accordance with the instructions in Practice D4057 or D4177. Typically, a gallon size container filled to approximately three-fourths of capacity is satisfactory.

## 10. Sample Handling

10.1 *Homogenization*—It is extremely important to homogenize the fuel oil in the sample container in order to obtain a representative specimen. (**Warning**—Failure to use this homogenization procedure can invalidate the results because non-representative aliquots could be obtained and this could lead to erroneous results.)

10.2 Place the sample container in an oven at a temperature of 50 °C to 60 °C. Keep the container in the oven until the sample comes to temperature. Insert the shaft of a high speed homogenizer into the sample container so that the head of the shaft is immersed to approximately 5 mm from the bottom of the sample vessel. Mix the sample for about 5 min.

## 11. Specimen Preparation

11.1 Weigh a clean platinum dish to the nearest 0.1 g. Immediately transfer up to 50 g (but not less than 20 g) of the well-mixed sample, preferably containing about 1.3 mg aluminum, to the platinum dish and re-weigh the dish and contents to the nearest 0.1 g to obtain the weight of the specimen.

NOTE 3—The specimen mass proposed, based on the aluminum content will suffice for silicon as both elements are usually found in fuel oils at similar concentrations.

11.2 Warm the dish and contents gently with a bunsen flame until the sample can be ignited. Maintain the contents of the basin at a temperature such that most of the combustible material is removed and only carbon and ash remain.

NOTE 4—If the specimen contains considerable amounts of moisture, foaming and frothing can cause loss of material. If this is the case, discard the specimen and to a fresh portion add 1 mL to 2 mL of 2-propanol before heating. If this is not satisfactory, add 10 mL of a mixture of equal parts of toluene and 2-propanol and mix thoroughly. Place several strips of ashless filter paper in the mixture and warm gently. When the paper begins to burn, the greater part of the water will have been removed.

11.3 Place the dish and contents in a muffle furnace maintained at a temperature of 550 °C  $\pm$  25 °C. Maintain the muffle furnace at this temperature until all the carbon is removed and only ash remains. This may require more than 10 h in the muffle furnace and may conveniently be done overnight.

11.4 Cool the dish to room temperature, add 0.4 g of flux and mix with the ash. Place the dish in a muffle furnace maintained at a temperature of 925 °C  $\pm$  25 °C for 5 min. Remove the dish and ensure contact of the flux with the ash. Replace the dish in the muffle furnace and maintain at a temperature of 925 °C  $\pm$  25 °C for 10 min.

11.5 Remove the dish, cool the fusion melt to room temperature and add 50 mL of the tartaric acid/hydrochloric acid solution. Place the dish and contents on the hot plate maintained at a temperature of approximately 80 °C. Heat until the melt is dissolved. (**Warning**—Vaporization of a significant amount of the liquid can lead to precipitation of an insoluble form of silica leading to erroneous results.)

NOTE 5—Prolonged heating can be necessary to dissolve the melt completely and obtain a solution. Agitation or the use of magnetic stirring can be employed to speed dissolution of the melt.

11.6 Allow the solution to cool and then transfer it to a 100 mL flask with water, washing the dish several times to ensure transfer is complete. Make up to the mark with water. Then, transfer the solution to a plastic bottle.

NOTE 6—Transferring the test solution to a plastic bottle is desirable because the dilute acid solution contains fluoboric acid from dissolution of the flux. Storage tests have shown that there is no significant attack of glassware in the short term (up to one week), and that the solution does not contain fluoride ion above the 5 mg/L concentration.

## 12. Preparation of Calibration Solutions

12.1 *Blank Solution*—Prepare a blank solution containing only 0.4 g flux and 50 mL of the tartaric acid/hydrochloric acid solution diluted to 100 mL. Transfer it to a plastic bottle.

12.2 *Aluminum*—Prepare a 250 mg/L aluminum working solution by diluting 25 mL of the 1000 mg/L standard solution to 100 mL with water. To each of four clean 100 mL volumetric flasks, add 0.4 g of flux and 50 mL of the tartaric acid/hydrochloric acid solution. To successive flasks add 2 mL, 4 mL, 10 mL, and 20 mL of the 250 mg/L aluminum working solution and dilute to 100 mL with water. The calibration solutions contain 5 mg/L, 10 mg/L, 25 mg/L, and 50 mg/L of aluminum, respectively.

12.3 *Silicon*—Prepare a 250 mg/L silicon working solution by diluting 25 mL of 1000 mg/L standard solution to 100 mL

with water. To each of four clean 100 mL volumetric flasks, add 0.4 g of flux and 50 mL of the tartaric acid/hydrochloric acid solution. To successive flasks, add 2 mL, 4 mL, 10 mL, and 20 mL of the 250 mg/L silicon working solution and dilute to 100 mL with water. These calibration solutions contain 5 mg/L, 10 mg/L, 25 mg/L, and 50 mg/L of silicon, respectively.

12.4 Transfer all calibration standards to plastic bottles.

NOTE 7—When both aluminum and silicon are being determined, the 5 mg/L to 50 mg/L calibration solutions can be combined providing there are no incompatibility problems caused by the reagents used in the preparation of the standard solutions described in 7.7.1 and 7.7.2.

**TEST METHOD A—INDUCTIVELY-COUPLED PLASMA ATOMIC EMISSION SPECTROMETRY**

**13. Preparation of ICP Instrument**

13.1 *Instrument*—Consult the manufacturer’s instructions for the operation of the instrument. Design differences between instruments, ICP excitation sources, and different selected analytical wavelengths for individual spectrometers make it impractical to specify the required manipulations in detail.

13.2 *Peristaltic Pump*—If using a peristaltic pump, inspect the pump tubing and replace it, if necessary, before starting each day. Verify the solution uptake rate and adjust it to the desired rate.

13.3 *ICP Excitation Source*—Ignite the ICP excitation source at least 30 min before performing an analysis. During this warm-up period, nebulize water.

NOTE 8—Some manufacturers recommend even longer warmup periods to minimize the variability of the measurements.

13.4 *Wavelength Profiling*—Perform any wavelength profiling that may be called for in the normal operation of the instrument.

13.5 *Operation Parameters*—Assign the appropriate operating parameters to the instrument task file so that the desired elements can be determined. Parameters to be included are element, wavelength, background correction points (optional), interelement correction factors (optional), integration time and three consecutive integrations.

**14. ICP Calibration**

14.1 Perform a five point calibration consisting of the blank and calibration standards at the beginning of analysis of each batch of specimens. Use the check standard to determine if each element is in calibration. If the result obtained on the check standard is outside 5 % of the expected value for any element, make any adjustments to the instrument that may be necessary and repeat the calibration.

14.2 Alternatively, perform a two point calibration with the blank solution and most concentrated calibration standard. Use the check standard as described in 14.1.

**15. Procedure**

15.1 *ICP Analysis:*

15.1.1 *Specimen Analysis*—Analyze the specimen solutions (see Section 11) in the same manner as the calibration

standards (that is, same integration time, background correction points, plasma conditions, etc.). Rinse the plasma torch between specimens by nebulizing water for 10 s. If the concentrations of aluminum or silicon in the specimen solution exceeds the calibration range, dilute the specimen solution with the blank solution to bring it within the range of the calibration standards.

15.2 *Check Standard Analysis*—Analyze the check standard after every fifth specimen. If the concentration of any element is outside 5 % of the nominal value, re-calibrate the instrument and re-analyze the sample solutions back to the previous acceptable check standard analysis.

15.3 *Calculation and Report*—See Section 18.

**TEST METHOD B—FLAME ATOMIC ABSORPTION SPECTROMETRY**

**16. Preparation of AAS Instrument**

16.1 *Instrument*—Consult the manufacturer’s instructions for the operation of the atomic absorption instrument. Design differences between instruments make it impractical to specify the required manipulations here.

16.1.1 Proper operating procedures are required for safety as well as for reliability of results. An explosion can result from flame flash-back unless the correct burner head, gas flow rates and flame ignition/shutdown sequence are used.

16.2 *Settings for Aluminum Analysis:*

16.2.1 Fit the aluminum hollow cathode lamp, set the spectrometer to the specified wavelength (see Table 1) and adjust the wavelength control to get maximum output.

16.2.2 Using the correct burner for nitrous oxide/acetylene, and following the procedure specified in the manufacturer’s operating instructions, ignite the nitrous oxide/acetylene flame. Aspirate an aluminum standard (for example, 25 mg/L) into the flame. Make adjustments to burner height, burner alignment, acetylene flow rate, and impact bead to give maximum absorbance (or minimum transmittance). Adjust the gain control to set the maximum within the recommended working region of the spectrometer.

16.3 *Settings for Silicon Analysis:*

16.3.1 Fit the silicon hollow cathode lamp, set the spectrometer to the specified wavelength (see Table 2) and adjust the wavelength control to get maximum output.

16.3.2 Follow a similar procedure to 16.2.2, aspirating a silicon standard (for example, 25 mg/L) into the flame.

**17. Procedure**

17.1 *AA Calibration and Test Specimen Analysis:*

17.1.1 The mode of calibration depends on the type of readout facility on the atomic absorption spectrometer.

**TABLE 1 Instrument Settings for Aluminum**

Wavelength, nm	309.3
Fuel	Acetylene
Oxidant	Nitrous oxide
Lamp current	As recommended by the manufacturer

**TABLE 2 Instrument Settings for Silicon**

Wavelength, nm	251.6
Fuel	Acetylene
Oxidant	Nitrous oxide
Lamp current	As recommended by the manufacturer

17.2 Calibration must be carried out prior to analysis of each group of samples and after any change in instrumental conditions because variations occur in the instrument behavior. Readings may also vary over short times from such causes as build-up of deposits on the burner slot or in the nebulizer. Thus, a single standard must be aspirated from time to time during a series of samples to check whether the calibration has changed. The visual appearance of the flame is a useful check to detect changes of condition.

NOTE 9—A check after every fifth specimen is recommended.

**17.3 Spectrometers with Meter Readout:**

17.3.1 Aspirate the calibration standards and blank solution sequentially into the flame and record the meter readings. Aspirate the blank between each specimen.

17.3.2 If the spectrometer output is linear in absorbance, plot a calibration curve of net absorbance (absorbance of a calibration standard minus the absorbance of the blank) against concentration. From this calibration curve, the concentration of aluminum or silicon in each specimen solution can be determined after similarly computing the net absorbance.

17.3.3 If the spectrometer output is proportional to transmission, the net absorbance is given by:

$$\log(d_0)/(d_1) \tag{1}$$

where:

- $d_0$  = the meter reading due to the blank, and
- $d_1$  = is the meter reading given by the standard or specimen solution.

**17.4 Spectrometers With Digital Readout and Built-in (Non-Microprocessor Controlled) Curvature Correction and Scale Expansion Facilities:**

17.4.1 Follow the manufacturer’s operating instructions. Aspirate the appropriate calibration standards and blank solution and set the digital readout to read directly in the required concentrations units carrying out a curvature correction program if necessary.

17.4.2 Read the concentration of each specimen solution and blank directly from the concentration readout given by the digital display from the spectrometer.

**17.5 Spectrometers With Digital Readout and Microprocessor Controlled Calibration Facilities:**

**TABLE 3 Repeatability**

Element	Range, mg/kg	Repeatability, mg/kg <sup>A</sup>	
		ICP	AAS
Al	7–139	0.0660 * X	0.2968 * X <sup>** 2/3</sup>
Si	10–236	0.0643 * X	0.3539 * X <sup>** 2/3</sup>

<sup>A</sup> Where: X = mean concentration, mg/kg.

**TABLE 4 Calculated Repeatability (mg/kg) at Selected Concentrations**

Concentration, mg/kg	ICP		AAS	
	Al	Si	Al	Si
5	0.3	0.3	0.9	1.0
10	0.7	0.6	1.4	1.7
20	1.3	1.3	2.2	2.6
50	3.3	3.2	4.1	4.9
100	6.6	6.4	6.5	7.7
250	...	16	...	14

17.5.1 Follow the manufacturer’s operating instructions, aspirating the appropriate calibration standards and blank solutions and using the recommended calibration program, to obtain a direct readout in concentration units.

17.5.2 The concentration of aluminum and silicon in each specimen solution can thus be directly obtained after aspiration.

17.6 Analyze the specimen solutions in the same manner as the calibration standards. If the aluminum or silicon concentrations in the specimen solutions exceed the calibration range, dilute the specimen solution with the blank solution to bring it into range of the calibration standards.

**18. Calculation**

18.1 Calculate the concentration in the sample according to the following equations:

$$\text{aluminum, mg/kg} = (100 * C_1 * d) / M \tag{2}$$

$$\text{silicon, mg/kg} = (100 * C_2 * d) / M \tag{3}$$

where:

- $M$  = mass of sample taken in g,
- $d$  = dilution ratio, if required, and
- $C_1, C_2$  = concentrations of aluminum and silicon (respectively) in mg/L as determined from either the readout of the ICP instrument or the calibration curve or direct readout of the atomic absorption instrument.

**19. Quality Control**

19.1 Confirm the performance of the test procedure by analyzing a quality control (QC) sample (Section 15 for Test Method A or Section 16 for Test Method B).

19.1.1 When QC/Quality Assurance (QA) protocols are already established in the testing facility, these may be used to confirm the reliability of the test result.

19.1.2 When there is no QC/QA protocol established in the testing facility, Appendix X1 can be used as the QC/QA system.

19.1.3 Further guidance on QA/QC can be found in Practice D6792.

**20. Report**

20.1 Report the results to the nearest 1 mg/kg as aluminum and silicon content by Test Method A or B.

## 21. Precision and Bias<sup>4</sup>

21.1 *Precision*—The precision of these test methods was determined by statistical analysis of interlaboratory testing results. In this study, eight laboratories analyzed nine different samples in duplicate.

21.1.1 *Repeatability*—The difference between two test results, obtained by the same operator with the same apparatus under constant operating conditions on identical test material would, in the long run, in the normal and correct operation of the test method, exceed the values in [Table 3](#) and [Table 4](#) only in one case in twenty.

21.1.2 *Reproducibility*—The difference between two single and independent results, obtained by different operators working in different laboratories on identical test materials, would in the long run, in the normal and correct operation of the test method, exceed the values in [Table 5](#) and [Table 6](#) only in one case in twenty.

21.2 *Bias*—The lack of suitable standard reference materials precludes the determination of bias.

## 22. Keywords

22.1 AAS; aluminum; atomic-absorption-spectrometry; emission-spectrometry; ICP; inductively-coupled-plasmaatomic-emission-spectrometry; fuel oils; silicon

<sup>4</sup> Supporting data have been filed at ASTM International Headquarters and may be obtained by requesting Research Report RR:D02-1281.

**TABLE 6 Calculated Reproducibility (mg/kg) at Selected Concentrations**

Concentration, mg/kg	ICP		AAS	
	Al	Si	Al	Si
5	1.7	1.7	2.3	4.1
10	3.4	3.3	3.7	6.5
20	6.7	6.6	5.9	10
50	17	17	11	19
100	34	33	17	30
250	...	83	...	56

**TABLE 5 Reproducibility**

Element	Range, mg/kg	Reproducibility, mg/kg <sup>4</sup>	
		ICP	AAS
Al	7–139	0.337 * X	0.7890 * X <sup>** 2/3</sup>
Si	10–236	0.332 * X	1.338 * X <sup>** 2/3</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Where: X = mean concentration, mg/kg.

## APPENDIX

### (Nonmandatory Information)

#### X1. QUALITY CONTROL

X1.1 Confirm the performance of the instrument or the test procedure by analyzing a quality control (QC) sample.

X1.2 Prior to monitoring the measurement process, the user of the method needs to determine the average value and control limits of the QC sample (see Practice **D6299** and *ASTM MNL 7*).<sup>5</sup>

X1.3 Record the QC results and analyze by control charts or other statistically equivalent techniques to ascertain the statistical control status of the total testing process (see Practice **D6299** and *ASTM MNL 7*). Any out-of-control data should trigger investigation for root cause(s). The results of this investigation may, but not necessarily, result in instrument re-calibration.

X1.4 In the absence of explicit requirements given in the test method, the frequency of QC testing is dependent on the

criticality of the quality being measured, the demonstrated stability of the testing process, and customer requirements. Generally, a QC sample is analyzed each testing day with routine samples. The QC frequency should be increased if a large number of samples are routinely analyzed. However, when it is demonstrated that the testing is under statistical control, the QC testing frequency may be reduced. The QC sample precision should be checked against the ASTM method precision to ensure data quality.

X1.5 It is recommended then, if possible, the type of QC sample that is regularly tested be representative of the material routinely analyzed. An ample supply of QC sample material should be available for the intended period of use, and must be homogenous and stable under the anticipated storage conditions.

X1.6 See Practice **D6299** or *ASTM MNL 7*, or a combination thereof, for further guidance on QC and Control Charting techniques.

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<sup>5</sup> *ASTM MNL 7*, Manual on Presentation of Data Control Chart Analysis, 6th ed., available from ASTM Headquarters.

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