



# Standard Test Method for Determination of Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) Content of Electrical Insulating Varnishes<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D6053; 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 This test method covers the determination of the amount of volatile organic compounds emitted during cure of electrical insulating varnishes.

1.2 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are mathematical conversions to inch-pound units that are provided for information only and are not considered 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.* See Section 7 for specific precautions.

## 2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*<sup>2</sup>

[D115 Test Methods for Testing Solvent Containing Varnishes Used for Electrical Insulation](#)

[D1711 Terminology Relating to Electrical Insulation](#)

[D3960 Practice for Determining Volatile Organic Compound \(VOC\) Content of Paints and Related Coatings](#)

[D4733 Test Methods for Solventless Electrical Insulating Varnishes](#)

[D5423 Specification for Forced-Convection Laboratory Ovens for Evaluation of Electrical Insulation](#)

[E691 Practice for Conducting an Interlaboratory Study to Determine the Precision of a Test Method](#)

## 3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

<sup>1</sup> This standard is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D09 on Electrical and Electronic Insulating Materials and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D09.01 on Electrical Insulating Varnishes, Powders and Encapsulating Compounds.

Current edition approved May 15, 2014. Published May 2014. Originally approved in 1996. Last previous edition approved in 2008 as D6053 - 08. DOI: 10.1520/D6053-14.

<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.

3.1.1 *varnish, electrical insulating, n*— a liquid resin system that is applied to and cured on electrical components providing electrical, mechanical, and environmental protection.

3.1.1.1 *Discussion*—There are two types of electrical insulating varnish: solvent-containing and solventless. The solvent-containing varnish is a solution, dispersion, or emulsion of a polymer or mixture of polymers in a volatile, nonreactable liquid. The solventless type is a liquid resin system free of volatile, nonreactable solvents.

3.1.2 For definitions of other terms pertaining to this test method, refer to Terminology [D1711](#).

## 4. Significance and Use

4.1 This test method determines the volatile organic content of an electrical insulating varnish. It utilizes a procedure where dishes containing a known amount of varnish are baked and the amount of volatile organic compound is measured. Calculations are performed to express this in g/L or lb/gal. This test method is applicable to all types of varnishes. However, waterborne varnishes while baked under the same conditions need to have water content determined and calculations performed in accordance with Practice [D3960](#).

4.1.1 During the cure of electrical insulating varnishes some organic material is volatilized. A determination of the amount that is volatilized is useful for estimating the amount of cured varnish on electrical units and volatile organic emissions from a manufacturing facility.

## 5. Interferences

5.1 The amount of volatile organic content determined by this test method is known to be affected by the rate of air exchange in the baking oven.

## 6. Apparatus

6.1 *Weighing Dishes*, aluminum, approximately 60 mm (2 $\frac{3}{8}$  in.) in diameter and 15 mm ( $\frac{5}{8}$  in.) high on the sides.

6.2 *Forced-Convection Oven*, see Specification [D5423-Type II](#).

6.3 *Desiccator*.

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

## 7. Hazards

7.1 **Warning**—Do not use varnish at temperatures above the flash point when inadequate ventilation, and the possibility of flames or sparks exist. Store varnish in sealed containers.

## 8. Procedure

8.1 Weigh three aluminum dishes to the nearest 0.01 g.

8.2 Add approximately 2 to 10 g of the varnish to be tested to each dish. Each dish needs to contain approximately the same amount of varnish.

8.3 Weigh each dish and varnish to the nearest 0.01 g.

8.4 Roll the resin around in the dishes to ensure an even coating.

8.5 Place the dishes in a forced-convection oven at  $150 \pm 2$  °C. Other temperatures are permitted to be used when agreed to by interested parties.

8.6 After  $61 \pm 1$  min remove the dishes from the oven. Other times are permitted to be used when agreed to by interested parties.

8.7 Cool in desiccator.

8.8 Weigh each dish to the nearest 0.01 g.

8.9 Calculate the volatile organic compound (VOC) content for each dish as follows except for waterborne varnishes. For waterborne varnishes determine the water content and perform the VOC calculations in accordance with Practice **D3960**.

Weight of Liquid Varnish, (1)

$$A = \text{Weight of dish and varnish (before baking)} - \text{Weight of dish}$$

Weight of Baked Varnish,

$$B = \text{Weight of dish and varnish (after baking)} - \text{Weight of dish}$$

Weight of VOC,  $C = A - B$

Volume of Liquid Varnish,  $V = \frac{A}{D}$

where:

$D$  = the density of the varnish in g/L as determined by Test Methods **D115** or **D4733**.

$$\text{VOC} = \frac{C}{V} \text{ expressed in g/L} \quad (2)$$

8.10 To convert VOC in g/L to lb/gal multiply the VOC in g/L by 0.00833.

8.11 Calculate the average VOC of the three dishes.

## 9. Report

9.1 Report the following information:

9.1.1 Identity of the varnish used,

9.1.2 Average VOC in g/L or lb/gal,

9.1.3 Temperature that dishes were baked, and

9.1.4 Approximate mass of resin tested.

## 10. Precision and Bias

10.1 *Precision*—**Table 1** lists the results based on a round robin test conducted in accordance with Practice **E691** involving five laboratories and three materials at three different weights. Each test result was the average of three specimens. Each laboratory obtained three test results for each material at each weight.

10.2 *Bias*—This test method has no bias because the value for VOC is determined solely in terms of this test method.

## 11. Keywords

11.1 electrical insulating varnish; VOC; volatile organic compound

**TABLE 1 Results in Grams/Litre (g/l)**

Materials	Sample Size	Average	Standard Deviation	Repeatability Standard Deviation	Reproducibility Standard Deviation	Repeatability Limit	Reproducibility Limit
<b>Unsaturated Polyester in styrene</b>	2 grams	226.8	30.44	5.08	28.18	14.22	78.90
	6 grams	169.8	14.22	2.66	13.21	7.45	36.99
	10 grams	151.3	13.51	3.83	12.82	10.72	35.90
<b>Unsaturated Polyester in vinyl toluene</b>	2 grams	282.1	29.02	3.68	26.71	10.30	74.79
	6 grams	211.0	5.32	6.89	7.95	19.29	22.26
	10 grams	192.5	7.26	4.93	8.01	13.80	22.43
<b>Unsaturated Polyester in DAP</b>	2 grams	349.3	38.92	8.02	36.01	22.46	100.8
	6 grams	288.7	12.48	6.50	12.84	18.20	35.95
	10 grams	268.2	10.59	9.00	12.69	25.20	35.53

### SUMMARY OF CHANGES

Committee D09 has identified the location of selected changes to this test method since the last issue, D6053 – 08, that may impact the use of this test method. (Approved May 1, 2014)

(1) Revised 8.2 and 8.5.

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