Designation: D6966 – 13

Standard Practice for Collection of Settled Dust Samples Using Wipe Sampling Methods for Subsequent Determination of Metals[1]

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D6966; 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 practice covers the collection of settled dust on surfaces using the wipe sampling method. These samples are collected in a manner that will permit subsequent extraction and determination of target metals in the wipes using laboratory analysis techniques such as atomic spectrometry.

1.2 This practice does not address the sampling design criteria (that is, sampling plan which includes the number and location of samples) that are used for clearance, hazard evaluation, risk assessment, and other purposes. To provide for valid conclusions, sufficient numbers of samples should be obtained as directed by a sampling plan, for example, in accordance with Guide D7659.

1.3 This practice contains notes that are explanatory and are not part of the mandatory requirements of this practice.

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.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*[2]

D1356 Terminology Relating to Sampling and Analysis of Atmospheres

D4840 Guide for Sample Chain-of-Custody Procedures

D7659 Guide for Strategies for Surface Sampling of Metals and Metalloids for Worker Protection

D7707 Specification for Wipe Sampling Materials for Beryllium in Surface Dust

E1792 Specification for Wipe Sampling Materials for Lead in Surface Dust

3. Terminology

3.1 For definitions of terms not listed here, see Terminology D1356.

3.2 *Definitions:*

3.2.1 *batch, n*—a group of field or quality control (QC) samples that are collected or processed together at the same time using the same reagents and equipment.

3.2.2 *sampling location, n*—a specific area within a sampling site that is subjected to sample collection.

3.2.2.1 *Discussion*—Multiple sampling locations are commonly designated for a single sampling site (see 3.2.3).

3.2.3 *sampling site, n*—a local geographic area that contains the sampling locations (see 3.2.2).

3.2.3.1 *Discussion*—A sampling site is generally limited to an area that is easily covered by walking.

3.2.4 *wipe, n*—a disposable towellette that is moistened with a wetting agent. **E1792**

3.2.4.1 *Discussion*—These towellettes are used to collect samples of settled dust on surfaces for subsequent determination of metals content in the collected dust.

3.3 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.3.1 *field blank, n*—a wipe (see 3.2.4) that is exposed to the same handling as field samples except that no sample is collected (no surface is actually wiped).

3.3.1.1 *Discussion*—Analysis results from field blanks provide information on the analyte background level in the wipe, combined with the potential contamination experienced by samples collected within the batch (see 3.2.1) resulting from handling.

4. Summary of Practice

4.1 Wipe samples of settled dust are collected on surfaces from areas of known dimensions with wipes satisfying certain requirements, using a specified pattern of wiping.

4.2 The collected wipes are then ready for subsequent sample preparation and analysis for the measurement of metals of interest.

[1] This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D22 on Air Quality and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D22.04 on Workplace Air Quality.

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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.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 This practice is intended for the collection of settled dust samples for the subsequent measurement of target metals. The practice is meant for use in the collection of settled dust samples that are of interest in clearance, hazard evaluation, risk assessment, and other purposes.

5.2 This practice is recommended for the collection of settled dust samples from hard, relatively smooth nonporous surfaces. This practice is less effective for collecting settled dust samples from surfaces with substantial texture such as rough concrete, brickwork, textured ceilings, and soft fibrous surfaces such as upholstery and carpeting. Collection efficiency for metals such as lead from smooth, hard surfaces has been found to exceed 75 % (E1792).

6. Apparatus and Materials

6.1 *Sampling Templates*—One or more of the following: 10 cm by 10 cm (minimum dimensions) reusable or disposable aluminum or plastic template(s), or disposable cardboard templates, (full-square, rectangular, square "U-shaped," rectangular "U-shaped," or "L-shaped," or both); or templates of alternative areas having accurately known dimensions (see Note 1). Templates shall be capable of lying flat on a surface.

NOTE 1—For most surfaces, it is recommended to collect settled dust from a minimum surface area of 100 cm^2 to provide sufficient material for subsequent laboratory analysis. However, larger areas (for example, 30 cm by 30 cm) may be appropriate for surfaces having little or no visible settled dust, while a smaller sampling area (for example, 10 cm by 10 cm) may be appropriate for surfaces with high levels of visible settled dust. It is recommended to have a suite of templates with various sampling dimensions.

6.2 *Wipes,* for collection of settled dust samples from surfaces. Wipes shall be individually wrapped and fully wetted. The background metal(s) content of the wipes should be as low as possible. At a maximum, the background level of target metal(s) shall be no more than one-tenth the target concentration the metal(s) to be measured.

NOTE 2—Wipes meeting the requirements of Specifications E1792 or D7707, or both, may be suitable.

NOTE 3—Wipes made of cellulosic materials may produce fewer analysis problems than wipes made of synthetic polymeric materials.

6.3 *Sample Containers,* sealable, rigid-walled, 30-mL minimum volume.

NOTE 4—Screw-top plastic centrifuge tubes are an example of a suitable rigid-walled sample container.

NOTE 5—Use of a sealable plastic bag for holding and transporting the settled dust wipe sample is not recommended due to the potential loss of collected dust within the plastic bag during transportation and laboratory handling. Quantitative removal and processing of the settled dust wipe sample by the laboratory is significantly improved through the use of sealable rigid-walled containers.

6.4 *Measuring Tool,* tape or ruler, capable of measuring to the nearest ±0.1 cm.

6.5 *Plastic Gloves,* powderless.

6.6 *Cleaning Cloths,* for cleaning of templates and other equipment.

NOTE 6—Wipes used for dust sampling (6.2) can be used for cleaning templates and other sampling equipment, but other cleaning cloths or wipes not meeting the requirements described in (6.2) may be suitable for this purpose.

6.7 *Adhesive Tape,* suitable for securing the template(s) to the surface(s) to be sampled, and for demarcating sampling areas if templates are not used.

NOTE 7—Masking tape, for example, functions well for these purposes.

6.8 *Disposable Shoe Covers,* optional.

7. Procedure

7.1 Use one of the following two options when collecting settled dust samples from each sampling location. For wide, flat locations, it is recommended to use the template-assisted sampling procedure (see 7.1.1.2(a)). For small locations (for example, window sill, section of a piece of equipment, or portion of a vehicle interior), it will ordinarily be necessary to use the confined-area sampling procedure (see 7.1.1.2(b)).

NOTE 8—Metal contamination problems during field sampling can be severe and may affect subsequent wipe sample analysis results. Contamination can be minimized through frequent changing of gloves, use of shoe covers (see 6.8), and regular cleaning of sampling equipment with cleaning cloths (see 6.6). Use of disposable shoe covers between different locations, and removal of them prior to leaving the sampling site or entering vehicles, can be helpful in minimizing inadvertent transfer of contaminated dust from one location to another.

7.1.1 *Sampling Procedure:*

7.1.1.1 Don a pair of clean, powderless, plastic gloves (see 6.5 and Note 8).

7.1.1.2 Use either a template-assisted sampling procedure (*a*) or tape-defined sampling procedure (*b*):

(a) Carefully place a clean template on the surface to be sampled in a manner that minimizes disturbance of settled dust at the sampling location. Tape the outside edge of the template to prevent the template from moving during sample collection.

(b) Alternatively, mark the defined area to be sampled with adhesive tape (6.7) being careful not to disturb the settled dust, and measure the area to be sampled using the measuring tool (6.4).

7.1.1.3 Obtain a wipe (6.2) and, if there is a possibility for the package containing the wipe to be contaminated with dust, clean the outside of the package with a cleaning cloth (6.6).

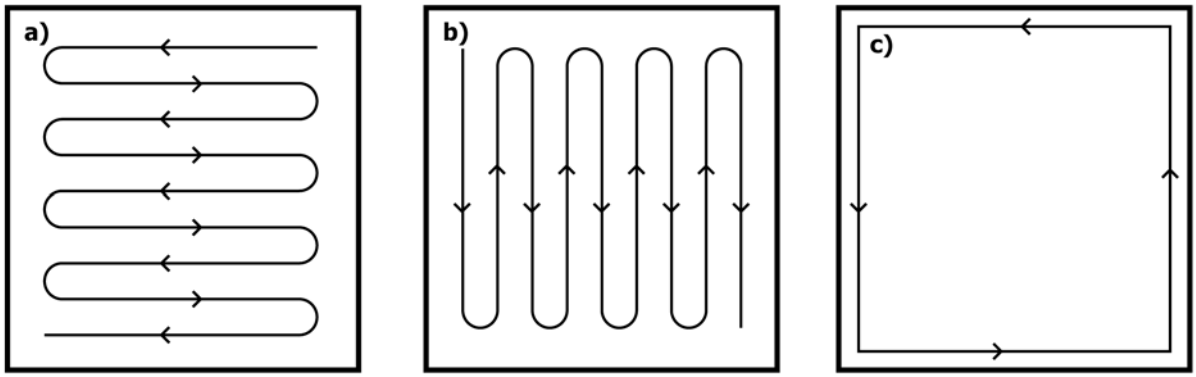
7.1.1.4 Remove the wipe from its package, and inspect the wipe to ensure that it is fully wetted and not contaminated with dust or other material. Discard the wipe if it is found to be too dry or contaminated, or both.

7.1.1.5 Using an open flat hand with the fingers together, place the wipe on the surface to be sampled. Wipe the selected surface area, side to side, in an overlapping "S" or "Z" pattern while applying pressure to the fingertips (refer to Figs. 1 and 2). Wipe the surface so that the entire selected surface area is covered. Perform the wiping procedure using the fingers and not the palm of the hand.

7.1.1.6 Repeat 7.1.1.5 using a different brand of wipe (after selecting a different sampling location) if the wipe originally used significantly changes shape (for example, rolls up by curling) or tears during the wiping process.

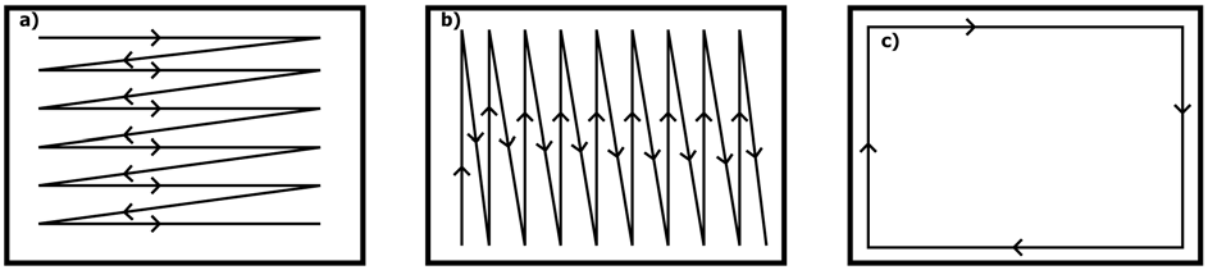
NOTE 9—Some surfaces (for example, rough surfaces) may cause certain wipes to curl up or otherwise significantly change shape during the wiping process. A type of wipe that maintains its integrity should be selected for each surface sampled.

7.1.1.7 Fold the wipe in half with the collected dust side folded inward and repeat the preceding wiping procedure



NOTE 1—Only the center of the wiping path is shown, not the entire wiping width. Fig. 1a) shows the first "S" wiping pattern over the surface area to be sampled; Fig 1b) demonstrates the second "S" wiping course over the surface; and Fig. 1c) shows the final wiping which is targeted toward edges and corners.

FIG. 1 Schematic of a Side-to-Side Overlapping "S" Wiping Pattern



NOTE 1—Only the center of the wiping path is shown, not the entire wiping width. Fig. 2a) shows the first "Z" wiping pattern over the surface area to be sampled; Fig 2b) demonstrates the second "Z" wiping course over the surface; and Fig. 2c) shows the final wiping which is targeted toward edges and corners.

FIG. 2 Schematic of a Side-to-Side Overlapping "Z" Wiping Pattern

(7.1.1.5) within the selected sampling area using an up and down overlapping "S" or "Z" pattern at right angles to the first wiping (see Figs. 1 and 2 and Note 10).

NOTE 10—Wipes are folded to envelop the collected dust within the wipe, to avoid loss of the collected dust, and to expose a clean wipe surface for further dust collection from the sampling location. For sample areas containing large amounts of settled dust, carefully wipe the area to ensure as much dust as possible within the wipe is captured.

7.1.1.8 Fold the wipe in half again with the collected dust side folded inward and repeat the wiping procedure one more time, concentrating on collecting settled dust from edges and corners within the selected surface area (see Figs. 1 and 2 and Note 10).

7.1.1.9 Fold the wipe again with the collected dust side folded inward and insert the wipe into a sample container (6.3).

7.1.1.10 Label the sample container with sufficient information to uniquely and indelibly identify the sample.

7.1.1.11 Record the dimensions (in square centimetres) of the selected sampling area (that is, the internal dimensions defined by the template or the taped area) or that the sample is a blank.

7.1.1.12 Discard the gloves.

7.2 Collect field blanks at a minimum frequency of 5 % (at least one field blank for every 20 wipe samples collected). The minimum number of field blanks to collect for each batch of wipe samples used should be three. Place field blanks in sample containers and label these samples in the same fashion as the collected surface dust samples (see 7.1.1.10).

7.3 Follow sampling chain of custody procedures to ensure sample traceability. Ensure that the documentation which accompanies the samples is suitable for a chain of custody to be established in accordance with Guide D4840.

8. Records

8.1 Field data related to sample collection shall be documented in a sample log form or field notebook (see Note 11). If field notebooks are used, then they shall be bound with pre-numbered pages. All entries on sample data forms and field notebooks shall be made using ink, with the signature and date of entry. Any entry errors shall be corrected by using only a single line through the incorrect entry (no scratch outs), accompanied by the initials of the person making the correction, and the date of the correction (see Note 12).

NOTE 11—Field notebooks are useful for recording field data even when preprinted sample data forms are used.

NOTE 12—These procedures are important to properly document and trace field data.

8.2 At a minimum, the following information shall be documented:

8.2.1 Project or client name, address, and city/state/country location.

8.2.2 General sampling site description.

8.2.3 Information as to the specific collection protocol used (for example, template-assisted; "Z"-wiping pattern, etc.).

8.2.4 Information as to the specific type or brand of wipes used, including manufacturer and lot number.

8.2.5 Information on quality control (QC) samples: which samples are associated with what group of field blanks.

8.2.6 For each sample collected (including field blanks): an individual and unique sample identifier and date of collection. This information shall be recorded on the sample container in addition to the field documentation.

8.2.7 For field samples (not including field blanks), record in field documentation (field notebook or sample log form) the dimensions of each area sampled (in square centimetres).

8.2.8 For each sample collected: name of person collecting the sample, and specific sampling location information from which the sample was removed.

9. Keywords

9.1 metals measurement; sample collection; settled dust; surfaces; wipe