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# **Standard Method of Test for Organic Impurities in Fine Aggregates for Concrete**

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**AASHTO Designation: T 21M/T 21-20 (2024)<sup>1,2</sup>**

**Technically Revised: 2020**

**Reviewed but Not Updated: 2024**

**Editorially Revised: 2021**

**Technical Subcommittee: 1c, Aggregates**

**ASTM Designation: C40/C40M-20**



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1. SCOPE
- 1.1.

This test method covers two procedures for an approximate determination of the presence of injurious organic compounds in fine aggregates that are to be used in hydraulic cement mortar or concrete. One procedure uses a glass color standard and the other uses a standard color solution.
- 1.2.

The values stated in either SI units or inch-pound units are to be regarded separately as standard. The values stated in each system may not be exact equivalents; therefore, each system shall be used independently of the other. Combining values from the two systems may result in non-conformance with the standard.
- 1.3.

*This standard may involve hazardous materials, operations, and equipment. This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this procedure to consult and establish appropriate safety and health practices and to determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to its use.*
- 1.4.

*The quality of the results produced by this standard is dependent on the competence of the personnel performing the procedure and the capability, calibration, and maintenance of the equipment used. Agencies that meet the criteria of R 18 are generally considered capable of competent and objective testing/sampling/inspection/etc. Users of this standard are cautioned that compliance with R 18 alone does not completely assure reliable results. Reliable results depend on many factors; following the suggestions of R 18 or some similar acceptable guideline provides a means of evaluating and controlling some of those factors.*

2. REFERENCED DOCUMENTS
- 2.1.

AASHTO Standards:
  - M 6, Fine Aggregate for Hydraulic Cement Concrete
  - R 18, Establishing and Implementing a Quality Management System for Construction Materials Testing Laboratories
  - R 76, Reducing Samples of Aggregate to Testing Size
  - R 90, Sampling Aggregate Products
  - T 71, Effect of Organic Impurities in Fine Aggregate on Strength of Mortar