



Designation: D4573 – 22

Standard Test Method for Rubber Chemicals—Determination of Oil Content in Oil-Treated Sulfur¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D4573; 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 determination of the amount of hydrocarbon oils added to oil-treated sulfurs. The test method is employed when the amount of oil added is 1 % or more of the total sample.

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

1.4 *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:*²

D4483 Practice for Evaluating Precision for Test Method Standards in the Rubber and Carbon Black Manufacturing Industries

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.1.1 *lot sample*—a production sample representative of a standard production unit, normally referred to as “the sample.”

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D11 on Rubber and Rubber-like Materials and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D11.11 on Chemical Analysis.

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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.

3.1.2 *specimen*—also known as the “test portion;” it is the actual material used in the analysis; it must be representative of the lot sample.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This test method measures the hydrocarbon oils added to sulfur to help control dusting of the sulfur. It can be used for research, development, and quality control to measure the level of oil added to the sulfur to help maintain the oil content at required levels.

5. Apparatus

5.1 *Filtering Crucible*, 50 cm³, medium porosity sintered glass, high walled.

5.2 *Vacuum Filter Flask*, 500 cm³ and filter crucible holder.

5.3 *Circulating Air Oven*, capable of 70 ± 2°C explosion proof, vented.

5.4 *Desiccator*.

5.5 *Analytical Balance*, sensitive to 0.001 g.

5.6 *Conical (Erlenmeyer) Flask*, 250 cm³.

6. Reagents

6.1 *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.³ 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.

6.2 *Fine Particle Size Pure Sulfur* (45 μ m or smaller).

6.3 *Hexane Saturated With Sulfur:*

6.3.1 *Method of Preparation*—In a well-ventilated hood, in a suitable size container equipped with an air stirrer and

³ *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. Pharmaceutical Convention, Inc. (USPC), Rockville, MD.

external heater, mix hexane and sulfur for 2 h while heating to 40°C maximum. Continue to stir while the mixture cools to room temperature. Allow to settle for 12 h. Decant off the sulfur saturated hexane, and filter just prior to use in the test. Store in a capped bottle.

7. Procedure

7.1 Tare a 50 cm³ filter crucible (see 5.1) to the nearest 0.001 g.

7.2 Into a 250 cm³ conical flask (see 5.6) weigh, to the nearest 0.001 g, 5 ± 0.20 g (W_1) of the oil-treated sulfur specimen.

7.3 In a well-ventilated hood, add 30 cm³ of the freshly filtered sulfur-saturated hexane (see 6.3) to the flask and cap/cover the flask to avoid solvent evaporation. Gently swirl the flask to disperse the sulfur specimen, minimum 12 min.

NOTE 1—A shaker platform or a similar apparatus is recommended to achieve more uniform agitation of samples. Sonication units are not advised for this application due to the generation of heat and reversion impact on product sample.

7.4 Vacuum filter this mixture quantitatively through the previously tared filter crucible (see 5.1), contained in the filter crucible holder, into a 500 cm³ vacuum filter flask (see 5.2) adjusting the suction to pull the filtrate through the filter crucible at a rate forming drops and not a steady stream of filtrate.

7.5 Wash the residue in the flask with three successive 50 cm³ of sulfur-saturated hexane, quantitatively transferring each washing through the filter crucible.

7.6 If residue remains in the sample preparation flask, wash flask with additional 50 cm³ of sulfur-saturated hexane and transfer to filter crucible.

NOTE 2—Filtration should take 8 to 15 min to complete. Do not allow the filter cake to dry or crack during filtration.

7.7 When filtration is complete, increase the suction to pull the last traces of filtrate through the filter cake, leaving the vacuum on for 30 s after the last drop of filtrate falls.

7.8 Remove the filter crucible from the holder and place it in an oven (see 5.3) at $70 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ for 1 h. Then transfer the filter crucible to a desiccator for 0.5 to 1 h.

7.9 Remove the filter crucible from the desiccator and weigh it to the nearest 0.001 g (W_2).

7.10 Repeat steps 7.1 – 7.9 on a 5.0 ± 0.20 g sample of pure sulfur as a blank (B_1). The weight of the “blank” residue is (B_2).

8. Calculation

8.1 Calculate the percent oil extracted from the oil-treated sulfur sample as follows:

$$\% \text{ Oil} = [1 - (W_2/W_1 + C)] \times 100 \quad (1)$$

$$C_f = 1 - \frac{B_2}{B_1} \quad (2)$$

where:

W_1 = mass of oil treated sulfur sample (see 7.2) in g,

W_2 = mass of oil treated sulfur sample after filtration (see 7.9) in g,

B_1 = mass of pure sulfur “blank” in g,

B_2 = mass of pure sulfur “blank” after filtration in g, and

C_f = correction factor for “blank.”

NOTE 3— C_f may be positive or negative.

9. Report

9.1 Report the following information:

9.1.1 Proper identification of samples, and

9.1.2 Percent of extracted oil from two individual determinations and their average to the nearest 0.01 %.

10. Precision and Bias⁴

10.1 This precision and bias section has been prepared in accordance with Practice D4483. Refer to this practice for terminology and other statistical details.

10.2 The precision results in this precision and bias section give an estimate of the precision of this test method with the materials (rubbers) used in the particular interlaboratory programs as described below. The precision parameters should not be used for acceptance/rejection testing of any group of materials without documentation that they are applicable to those particular materials and the specific testing protocols that include this test method.

10.3 A Type 1 (interlaboratory) precision was evaluated in 1986. Both repeatability and reproducibility are short term; a period of a few days separates replicate test results. A test result is the mean value, as specified by this method, obtained on two determinations or measurements of the property or parameter in question.

10.4 Two different materials were used in the interlaboratory program. These were tested in six laboratories on two different days.

10.5 The results of the precision calculations for repeatability and reproducibility are given in Table 1, in ascending order of material average or level, for each of the materials evaluated.

10.6 The precision of this test method may be expressed in the format of the following statements which use an “appropriate value” of r , R , (r), or (R), that is, that value to be used in decisions about test results (obtained with the test method). The *appropriate value* is that value of r or R associated with a mean level in Table 1 closest to the mean level under consideration at any given time, for any given material in routine testing operations.

10.7 *Repeatability*—The repeatability, r , of this test method has been established as the *appropriate value* tabulated in the Precision Table. Two single test results, obtained under normal test method procedures, that differ by more than this tabulated r (for any given level) must be considered as derived from different or nonidentical sample populations.

⁴ Supporting data have been filed at ASTM International Headquarters and may be obtained by requesting Research Report RR:D1110-9.