



Standard Test Methods for Nonvolatile Content of Varnishes¹

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This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the Department of Defense.

1. Scope

1.1 These test methods determine the fraction of a varnish that is nonvolatile at the temperature of the test while volatile solvents are driven off. It is sometimes an approximate measure of the film-forming matter in a varnish.

1.2 *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.* For a specific statement, see Section 3.

2. Significance and Use

2.1 These test methods are applicable to varnish and are useful to producers and users in determining nonvolatile content and are sometimes an appropriate measure of the film-forming matter in varnish.

3. Hazards

3.1 Since the flash points of some of the solvents used in coatings and related products are below the temperature of the test, care should be exercised that the lower explosive limits of the solvents are not exceeded. The amount of solvent in the oven atmosphere at any one time will depend on the number of tests (pans) in the oven, the percent nonvolatile of the samples, the size of the oven, the type of oven (mechanical or gravity convection) and the air changes per hour.

TEST METHOD A—3 h AT 105°C

4. Procedure

4.1 Place a portion of the thoroughly mixed sample in a stoppered bottle, or alternatively, in a weighing pipet or a 10-mL syringe without a needle, and from this weigh by difference 1.2 ± 0.1 g into a tared flat-bottomed metal or glass dish (Note 1), 80 to 100 mm in diameter and 5 to 10 mm in depth, such as friction-top can covers, ointment boxes, or petri dishes.

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NOTE 1—The term “tared, flat-bottomed dish” implies that the empty dish has no measurable weight change when subjected to the same heat schedule as prescribed for the dish containing the specimen. If this is found to be not so, then more suitable vessels must be found, or corrections applied.

4.2 By gentle tilting, spread the specimen over the bottom of the dish and heat for 3 h in a ventilated oven maintained at $105 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$. If necessary, a piece of stout wire can be included in the tare of the dish and used at intervals to break up skins by stirring during the heating period. Cool in a desiccator and weigh the dish.

5. Calculation

5.1 Calculate the percent of nonvolatile matter *NV* as follows (Note 2):

$$NV = [(C - A)/S] \times 100 \quad (1)$$

where:

A = weight of dish, g,

S = weight of specimen used, g, and

C = weight of dish and contents after heating, g.

NOTE 2—Determinations of nonvolatile matter by this test method may give high results due either to incomplete elimination of volatile matter or to absorption of oxygen by oxidizing-type varnishes.

6. Report

6.1 Report the nonvolatile matter of the sample to the nearest 0.1 %.

TEST METHOD B—10 min at 150°C

7. Apparatus

7.1 *Sample Transfer Device*, a 2 or 5-mL Luer syringe.

7.2 *Solids Dish*, made from metal foil of such design as to ensure reasonably good contact of the bottom surface when placed on the hot plate. Condition the dish for at least 10 min at 150°C or higher; then store in a desiccator.

7.3 *Hot-Plate*, capable of maintaining a surface temperature of $150 \pm 3.5^\circ\text{C}$ ($302 \pm 6^\circ\text{F}$).

8. Procedure

8.1 Weigh by difference from the syringe into a tared solids dish, sufficient sample to form a 65 to 125-μm (2.5 to 5.0-mil) thick nonvolatile residue. Use a minimum of toluene to

distribute the specimen, by gentle swirling uniformly, over the bottom of the dish.

NOTE 3—Specimen size limits may be estimated from the following table, which was calculated for a material having nonvolatile matter with a specific gravity of 1.2:

Diameter of Dish	Weight of Nonvolatile Residue	
	45 mm	100 mm
For a 2.5-mil varnish film	0.12 g	0.60 g
For a 5-mil varnish film	0.25 g	1.20 g

8.2 Place the dish on the hot plate at $150 \pm 3.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ for 10 min. Cool to room temperature in a desiccator, then reweigh.

9. Calculation

9.1 Calculate the nonvolatile matter as described in Section 5.

10. Report

10.1 Report the nonvolatile matter of the sample to the nearest 0.1 %.

11. Keywords

11.1 nonvolatile matter content; varnishes

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