



Standard Test Method for Solubility of Asphalt Materials in N-Propyl Bromide¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D7553; 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 reappraisal. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reappraisal.

1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers the determination of the degree of solubility in n-propyl bromide of asphalt materials. It is intended to be a replacement for Test Method [D2042](#) specifying a solvent that, like trichloroethylene, is safe in that it has no flash point, and has similar solubilizing characteristics to trichloroethylene, but it is not considered to be an ozone depleter banned by the Kyoto Protocol.

NOTE 1—This method is not applicable to tars and their distillation residues or highly cracked petroleum products. For methods covering tars, pitches, and other highly cracked petroleum products, and the use of other solvents, see Test Methods [D4](#), [D2318](#), and [D2764](#).

1.2 The text of this standard references notes and footnotes which provide explanatory material. These notes and footnotes (excluding those in tables and figures) shall not be considered as requirements of the standard.

1.3 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. No other units of measurement are included in this standard.

1.4 *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.* Specific precaution statements are given in Section [7](#).

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

[D4](#) Test Method for Bitumen Content

[D2042](#) Test Method for Solubility of Asphalt Materials in Trichloroethylene

[D2318](#) Test Method for Quinoline-Insoluble (QI) Content of Tar and Pitch

[D2764](#) Test Method for Dimethylformamide-Insoluble

(DMF-I) Content of Tar and Pitch

[D3666](#) Specification for Minimum Requirements for Agencies Testing and Inspecting Road and Paving Materials

[D6368](#) Specification for Vapor-Degreasing Solvents Based on *normal*-Propyl Bromide and Technical Grade *normal*-Propyl Bromide

[E177](#) Practice for Use of the Terms Precision and Bias in ASTM Test Methods

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

3. Summary of Test Method

3.1 The sample is dissolved in n-propyl bromide and filtered through a glass fiber pad. The insoluble material is washed, dried, and weighed.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This test method is a measure of the solubility of asphalt in n-propyl bromide. The portion that is soluble in n-propyl bromide represents the active cementing constituents.

NOTE 2—The quality of the results produced by this standard are 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 Specification [D3666](#) are generally considered capable of competent and objective testing/sampling/inspection/etc. Users of this standard are cautioned that compliance with Specification [D3666](#) alone does not completely assure reliable results. Reliable results depend on many factors; following the suggestions of Specification [D3666](#) or some similar acceptable guideline provides a means of evaluating and controlling some of these factors.

5. Apparatus and Materials

5.1 The assembly of a typical filtering apparatus is illustrated in [Fig. 1](#). Details of the component parts are as follows:

5.1.1 *Bitumen Crucible or Gooch Crucible*, glazed inside and outside with the exception of outside bottom surface. The approximate dimensions shall be a diameter of 44 mm at the top tapering to 36 mm at the bottom and a depth of 20 to 30 mm.

5.1.2 *Glass Microfiber Filter Pad*, 32–34 mm diameter, fine porosity, fast flow rate, 1.5 μm particle retention.

5.1.3 *Filter Flask*, heavy-wall, with side tube, 250, 500, or 1000 mL capacity.

5.1.4 *Filter Tube*, 40 to 42 mm inside diameter.

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee [D04](#) on Road and Paving Materials and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee [D04.47](#) on Miscellaneous Asphalt Tests.

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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.