



Designation: F716 – 18

Standard Test Methods for Sorbent Performance of Absorbents for Use on Chemical and Light Hydrocarbon Spills¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F716; 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 These test methods cover the development of laboratory test data that describe the performance of absorbent materials (and their retention ability) for use on chemical and light hydrocarbon spills.

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.* (For a specific warning statement see 10.4.)

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

F726 Test Method for Sorbent Performance of Adsorbents for use on Crude Oil and Related Spills

2.2 *Federal Standard:*

Fed. Std. No. 141a Paint, Varnish, Lacquer and Related Materials. Methods of Inspection, Sampling and Testing³

¹ These test methods are under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F20 on Hazardous Substances and Oil Spill Response and are the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F20.22 on Mitigation Actions.

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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 Available from DLA Document Services, Building 4/D, 700 Robbins Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19111-5094, <http://quicksearch.dla.mil>.

2.3 *Military Specification:*

MIL-I-631D Insulation, Electric, Synthetic Resin Composition, Nonrigid³

3. Terminology

3.1 *General Terminology:*

3.1.1 *gellant*—a material such as a colloidal network or other aggregate network that pervades and holds a liquid in a highly viscous fragile structure. Many gels may rapidly liquefy with added heat or ionic/polar addition. These materials are soluble/flowable in excess liquid.

3.1.2 *sorbent*—an insoluble material or mixture of materials used to recover liquids through the mechanisms of absorption or adsorption, or both.

3.1.3 *thickener*—a material (usually of higher molecular weight) that is soluble in excess liquid. These materials go from dry to gummy (viscoelastic) to flowable and then soluble. The final viscosity depends only on the liquid to solid ratio.

3.1.4 *universal sorbent*—an insoluble material or mixture of materials that will sorb both hydrophobic and hydrophilic liquid spills.

3.2 *Definitions:*

3.2.1 *absorbent*—a material that picks up and retains a liquid distributed throughout its molecular structure causing the solid to swell (50 % or more). The absorbent is at least 70 % insoluble in excess liquid.

3.2.2 *adsorbent*—an insoluble material that is coated by a liquid on its surface including pores and capillaries without the solid swelling more than 50 % in excess liquid.

3.3 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.3.1 *oil*—a substantially water immiscible organic liquid that will float on water (density less than 1 g/cm³), typically with surface tension less than 40 x 10⁻³.

3.3.2 *Type I absorbent (roll, film, sheet, pad, blanket, web)*—a material with length and width much greater than thickness and which has both linear form and strength sufficient to be handled either saturated or unsaturated.

3.3.3 *Type II absorbent (loose)*—an unconsolidated, particulate material without sufficient form and strength to be handled except with scoops and similar equipment.

4. Summary of Method

4.1 The absorbent material is tested using established standard methods, where applicable, and specially developed tests for performance factors.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 These methods are to be used as a basis for comparison of absorbents in a consistent manner.

5.2 These tests are not appropriate for adsorbent materials which are covered in Test Method **F726**.

5.3 These methods are not useful for a comparison of absorbents with adsorbents, even though all absorbents exhibit adsorbent properties. Both types of materials have prime areas of utility.

5.4 These methods may not list all the safety and disposal options necessary for safe ultimate disposal of used sorbent material into the environment. Federal, state, and local regulatory rules must be followed.

6. Special Considerations

6.1 *Solubility*—Fluid should not dissolve the absorbent under normal recovery or handling conditions.

6.2 *Reuse*—Used absorbent materials may be recycled under certain conditions. Fluid absorbed cannot be released with squeezing. However, many of the polymeric materials will depolymerize at temperatures at or below those in a refinery pipe still. This means they are recoverable, although in a different form. Along with resource recovery, the harvestability of sorbents will become more important. Lower boiling materials may also be steam stripped from absorbents to recover both fluid and absorbent.

6.3 *Release of Volatiles*—Certain volatile materials picked up by sorbents may create a vapor hazard by increasing the exposed surface area and therefore vapor release. Depending on the material picked up, this may increase fire or health hazard (see **10.4**).

6.4 *Release to an Alternative Material Such as Sand*—The tendency to release sorbed liquid to beaches, ground, clothing of personnel, and so forth, both as liquid and vapor can be determined on a basis of priority (see **11.5**).

6.5 *Penetration*—Absorbents may be useful as sealing devices and the penetration test will allow a uniform means of determining the efficacy of a material for this use.

7. Apparatus

7.1 *Exterior Exposure Tester*, sufficient for use with Fed. Std. No. 141a, Method 6152 (*optional*).

7.1.1 Actual outdoor exposure in a direction averaging the maximum exposure in a sunny area, such as Southern Florida or Arizona, is desired. Exposure should be listed in months with total sun days.

7.1.2 Actual outdoor exposure for a period of three months at a testing site should be listed.

7.2 *Tension Tester*—Commercially available tester (*optional*).

7.2.1 Use of actual weights suspended from test pieces in turn suspended from a continuous reading hanging scale may be used. Shock loading may be simulated by fastening one end of a unit rigidly and attaching the maximum pickup weight to the bottom end hanging free. The weight can be raised 2.5 cm and released and also 10 cm and again released. This test should be recorded as pass or fail.

7.3 *Continuous Reading Hanging Scales*—A continuous reading hanging scale fitted with a hook or clamp should be used. For testing units, weighing sensitivity shall be $\pm 2\%$. For small samples, postal-type scales may be used (0 to 80 g).

7.4 *Top Loading Balance*, having 0.5-g resolution for samples weighing at minimum 50 g or more. An accuracy of 2% is desired.

7.5 *Measuring Tubes*—10 and 100-mL graduated measuring cylinders of regular laboratory quality.

7.6 *Paper Towels*, for removing excess liquid from the absorbent.

7.7 *Oven-Dried Mason Sand*, for use in checking rate of release. Screen analysis is desired. Optionally, known screen size silica sand can be used.

8. Test Fluids

8.1 Test fluids may be used for general testing, although the actual fluid should be used where possible.

8.2 *Low-Viscosity Materials*—For low-viscosity material (like gasoline), use xylene which has a higher flash point. (For safety, a solution containing 10% methylene chloride can be added to aid in raising flash point.)

8.3 *Polar Solvents*—For polar solvents, use methylisobutylketone (hexone), butylacetate, and so forth.

8.4 *Medium-Viscosity Fluids*—For medium-viscosity fluids, No. 2 fuel oil, diesel fuel, JP-5, Jet A-1 (turbine fuel), or light crude oil (for example, light Arabian or Iranian crude), is recommended.

8.5 *High-Viscosity Fluids*—Nondetergent or C-10 Transformer dielectric oil (specify manufacturer and viscosity) is recommended.

8.6 *Range Finding Fluids*—Ethanol (95%), acetone, ethylene glycol, cyclohexane, 2-nitropropane are suitable fluids.

9. Conditioning

9.1 Condition three absorbent test specimens at room temperature (21 to 26 °C) (70 to 80 °F) in a closed vessel with 2.5 cm of water in the bottom. Suspend specimens in vapor space without contacting water for not less than 24 h prior to testing. Condition specimens in the fully exposed state with no coverings or wrapping that would hinder the equilibration process.