



Designation: D3376 – 18

Standard Test Methods of Sampling and Testing Pulps to be Used in the Manufacture of Electrical Insulation¹

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1. Scope*

1.1 These test methods cover the sampling and testing of cellulosic pulps for use in the manufacture of electrical insulating papers and boards or in the direct application of pulp fibers as insulation to electrical conductors.

NOTE 1—Consider the significance of any one pulp property test method, as set forth herein, with discretion depending on the product made from the pulp.

1.2 Sections on Reagents, Sampling, and Report are integral parts of each of the individual test methods that follow.

1.3 Each test method is described as being a measure of either a bulk property of the pulp or a property of a handsheet formed from the pulp.

1.3.1 Bulk characteristics determinable by these procedures appear in the following sections:

Procedure	Sections	ASTM Method Reference	TAPPI Method Reference
Aqueous Extract Conductivity	8 & 9	D202	...
Aqueous Extract pH	10 & 11	D202	...
Aqueous Extractable Acidity-Alkalinity	12 & 13	D202	...
Analysis of Ash for Cations by Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometry	70 – 78	D1193 & D2576	...
Ash Content	79 – 82	D202	T 413
Dirt in Pulp	40 & 41	...	T 213
Fiber Analysis	23 & 24	D202 & D1030	...
Fiber Length of Pulp	42 & 43	...	T 232, T 233
Freeness (Canadian Standard Freeness)	53 & 54	...	T 227
Kappa Number/Permanganate Number (Substances Oxidizable by Permanganate)	27 & 28	...	T 236, UM 251
Laboratory Processing of Pulp (Beater Method)	51 & 52	...	T 200
Moisture in Pulp	31 – 33	...	T 210
Neutral Aqueous Extractable Hardness in Pulp	16 – 22	D202, D1126, & D2576	...

¹ These test methods are under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D09 on Electrical and Electronic Insulating Materials and are the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D09.01 on Electrical Insulating Products.

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Procedure	Sections	ASTM Method Reference	TAPPI Method Reference
Pentosan Content of Pulp	29 & 30	...	T 223
Resistance of Pulp to Disintegration (Standard RPG)	44 – 50	...	T 239, UM 252
Shive Count	34 – 39
Solvent-Soluble Matter in Pulp	25 & 26	D202	...
Tensile Properties	65 – 69	D202	...
Water-Extractable Chlorides	14 & 15	D202	...

1.3.2 Handsheet characteristics determinable by these procedures appear in the following sections:

Procedure	Sections	ASTM Method Reference	TAPPI Method Reference
Air Resistance (Porosity)	57 & 58	D202	T 205
Apparent Density	63 & 64	D202	T 205
Bursting Strength	59 & 60	D202 & D774/ D774M	T 205
Folding Endurance (M.I.T.)	51 & 52	D202 & D2176	T 205
Forming Handsheets for Physical Tests of Pulp	55 & 56	...	T 205
Tensile Strength	65 & 66	D202 & D828	T 205

NOTE 2—Methods for Ash, Silica, selected cations from Ash, Heat Stability, α , β , and γ Cellulose, Viscosity, Total Chlorine, Tear, and Dissipation Factor and Relative Permittivity, will be considered for addition as methods are developed.

1.4 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard. The values given in parentheses are for information only.

1.5 *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.*

1.6 *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.*

*A Summary of Changes section appears at the end of this standard

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

D202 Test Methods for Sampling and Testing Untreated Paper Used for Electrical Insulation

D774/D774M Test Method for Bursting Strength of Paper (Withdrawn 2010)³

D828 Test Method for Tensile Properties of Paper and Paperboard Using Constant-Rate-of-Elongation Apparatus

D1030 Test Method for Fiber Analysis of Paper and Paperboard

D1126 Test Method for Hardness in Water

D1193 Specification for Reagent Water

D1711 Terminology Relating to Electrical Insulation

D2176 Test Method for Folding Endurance of Paper and Plastics Film by the M.I.T. Tester

D2576 Method of Test for Metals in Water and Waste Water by Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometry (Withdrawn 1979)³

D3376 Test Methods of Sampling and Testing Pulps to be Used in the Manufacture of Electrical Insulation

E29 Practice for Using Significant Digits in Test Data to Determine Conformance with Specifications

2.2 TAPPI Standards:⁴

T 200 Laboratory Processing of Pulp (Beater Method)

T 205 Forming Handsheets for Physical Tests of Pulp

T 210 Weighing, Sampling, and Testing Pulp for Moisture

T 213 Dirt in Pulp

T 221 Drainage Time of Pulp

T 223 Pentosans in Wood and Pulp

T 227 Freeness of Pulp

T 232 Fiber Length of Pulp by Projection

T 233 Fiber Length of Pulp by Classification

T 236 Kappa Number of Pulp

T 413 Ash in Paper and Paperboard

T 445 Identification of Specks and Spots in Paper

T 1002 Drainage Time for Insulating Board

UM 203 Freeness of Pulp (William Tester)

UM 251 Permanganate Number of Pulp

UM 252 Resistance of Pulp and Paper Stock to Disintegration

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions—For definitions of terms used in these test methods and associated with electrical and electronic insulating materials use Terminology **D1711**.

3.2 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.2.1 aqueous extractable hardness, *n*—the amount of calcium and magnesium present in pulp and which is extracted by hot neutral water under prescribed conditions.

3.2.2 hardness, *n*—a characteristic of water that represents the total concentration of calcium and magnesium in the water, expressed as parts per million (ppm) CaCO₃.

3.2.3 pulp, *n*—a fibrous material that is made by chemical or mechanical treatment, or both, of wood, cotton, hemp, or other cellulosic fiber to achieve substantially separate fibers that are suitable for a sheet-forming process.

NOTE 3—Electrical insulation made from pulp are papers or boards used for capacitors, transformer coils, creped papers, and so forth. Pulp is also applied directly onto electrical conductors.

3.2.4 resistance to disintegration, *n*—the amount of work (expressed as revolutions per gram of pulp) required under standard conditions to bring a sample of pulp to a state of complete dispersion of single fibers.

3.2.5 shive, *n*—a particle in pulp or paper that is a bundle of cellulosic fibers bonded together in a parallel arrangement.

NOTE 4—Dark single fibers are not to be counted as shives. Count only bundles of fibers regardless of color.

3.2.6 shive count, *n*—the quantitative expression of the concentration of shives in a quantity of pulp or paper.

3.2.6.1 Discussion—For this method the shive count is restricted to the number of shives that exceed 1.5 mm in length that are present after a specified processing of the pulp to form handsheets for evaluation.

4. Summary of Test Methods

4.1 These test methods describe the specific procedures for testing the properties of pulp, both in its original bulk form and after it has been formed into a handsheet in the testing laboratory.

5. Reagents

5.1 Purity of Reagents—Use reagent grade chemicals in all tests. Unless otherwise indicated, it is intended that all reagents shall conform to the specifications of the Committee on Analytical Reagents of the American Chemical Society, where such specifications are available.⁵ It is acceptable to use other grades, provided it is first ascertained that the reagent is of sufficiently high purity to permit its use without lessening the accuracy of the determination.

5.2 Purity of Water—Unless otherwise indicated, references to water shall be understood to mean water conforming to Specification **D1193**, Type III.

6. Sampling

6.1 Terminology regarding sampling and evaluation terminology shall conform to those in the sampling sections of Test Methods **D202**.

6.2 Obtain the sample of pulp from the lot to be evaluated in a manner that will maximize the probability that a representative sample is collected. Where practicable, use one of the

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 The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on www.astm.org.

⁴ Available from Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry (TAPPI), 15 Technology Parkway South, Norcross, GA 30092, <http://www.tappi.org>.

⁵ *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.

sampling plans shown in Test Methods **D202**. Protect the material sample from contamination during handling and transporting to a laboratory for testing. The instructions for preparation of specimens are given in the sections pertaining to the individual property tests. Take the sample for moisture content in accordance with TAPPI T 210.

6.3 Condition samples in a container suitable for preventing moisture variation over the period of testing. When test specimens are drawn, determine the moisture content of the material to allow correction of weights to moisture-free equivalent weight.

7. Report

7.1 At the completion of any or all of the following tests, report the test results (as defined in **6.1**) of the pulp properties with identifying units as follows:

7.1.1 Identification of the pulp sampled and tested by lot number, type, grade, and so forth,

7.1.2 Dates of testing,

7.1.3 Location of the testing laboratory and the person responsible for the testing,

7.1.4 Remarks indicating method or procedures used and the deviation, if any, from the standard test procedures,

7.1.5 Indication of the variance in test measurements (as defined in **6.1**) such as high, low, standard deviation, and so forth, and

7.1.6 Any information particular to the cited procedure.

7.2 Report the test results (as defined in **6.1**) as calculated or observed values rounded to the nearest unit in the last right-hand place of figures used in the material specification to express the limiting value. (See the rounding method of Practice **E29**.)

AQUEOUS EXTRACT CONDUCTIVITY

8. Significance and Use

8.1 The conductivity of the water extract of electrical grade pulp results from electrolytic impurities in the pulp potentially present as ionizable acids, bases, salts, or a combination of these. The presence of electrolytic impurities in electrical insulation is undesirable as they tend to lower insulation resistance and have corrosion-producing tendencies under conditions of applied potential. When comparing test data, note that the extract conductivity of pulps, especially those of high purity, changes with time after manufacturing in some instances. This test is useful for routine acceptance testing, the comparison of different pulps, and research work.⁶

9. Procedure

9.1 Follow Test Methods **D202** except use a specimen weight equivalent to 1 g of moisture-free pulp.

⁶ For more detailed information see *Paper and Paperboard—Characteristics, Nomenclature, and Significance of Tests*, ASTM STP 60 B, Am. Soc. Testing Mats., 1963, pp. 59–61.

AQUEOUS EXTRACT pH

10. Significance and Use

10.1 The extract pH determination measures the degree to which a pulp alters the hydrogen-hydroxyl equilibrium of pure water. The test gives a measure of the active acidity or alkalinity of the pulp extract. It is possible that the presence of active acidic or alkaline contaminants in a pulp will result in their being incorporated into the electrical insulation made from the pulp, and will lead to a deterioration of the insulation in service. This test is useful for routine acceptance testing, the comparison of different pulps, and research work.²

11. Procedure

11.1 Follow Test Methods **D202**, except use a specimen weight equivalent to 1 g of moisture-free pulp.

AQUEOUS EXTRACTABLE ACIDITY-ALKALINITY

12. Significance and Use

12.1 The extract acidity-alkalinity determination for a pulp measures the quantity of extracted ionizable material, which alters the hydrogen-hydroxyl equilibrium of pure water. It is possible that the presence of active acidic or alkaline contaminants in a pulp will result in their being incorporated into the electrical insulation made from the pulp, and this will lead to a deterioration of the insulation in service. This test is useful for routine acceptance testing, the comparison of different pulps, and research.⁴

13. Procedure

13.1 Follow Test Methods **D202**, except use a specimen weight equivalent to 1 g of moisture-free pulp.

WATER-EXTRACTABLE CHLORIDES

14. Significance and Use

14.1 It is possible that the occurrence of significant amounts of chloride ion in a pulp will lead to the incorporation of the ion in the electrical insulation made from the pulp. It is possible that the presence of chloride ions will adversely affect the electrical properties and service life of the insulation. This test is useful for routine acceptance testing, the comparison of different pulps, and research testing.

15. Procedure

15.1 Follow Test Methods **D202**, except use a specimen weight equivalent to 4 g of moisture-free pulp. For pulps with higher levels of chloride (greater than 30 ppm), 10 min of maseration as in the above method for aqueous extract conductivity is an acceptable way to hasten the extraction, followed by 1 h refluxing as in Test Methods **D202**. When the chloride content is less than 30 ppm, maseration is not permitted. The appropriate extraction time must be determined to give complete extraction of the chloride for each pulp type. Times greater than 1 h will be necessary in some instances.