



Standard Test Method for Total, Organic, and Inorganic Carbon in High Purity Water by Ultraviolet (UV) or Persulfate Oxidation, or Both, and Infrared Detection¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D 4779; 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 total carbon (TC), organic carbon (OC), and inorganic carbon (IC), in makeup water and high purity process water such as demineralizer effluent, condensate, and electronic grade rinse water. The tested concentration range is from 50 to 1000 μg of carbon per litre.

1.2 It is the user's responsibility to ensure the validity of this test method for waters of untested matrices.

1.3 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety problems, 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.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

- D 1129 Terminology Relating to Water²
- D 1192 Specification for Equipment for Sampling Water and Steam in Closed Conduits²
- D 1193 Specification for Reagent Water²
- D 2777 Practice for Determination of Precision and Bias of Applicable Methods of Committee D-19 on Water²
- D 3370 Practices for Sampling Water from Closed Conduits²

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—For definitions of terms used in this test method, refer to Terminology D 1129.

3.2 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.2.1 *inorganic carbon (IC)*—carbon in the form of carbon dioxide, carbonate ion, or bicarbonate ion.

3.2.2 *organic carbon (OC; frequently also TOC)*—carbon in the form of organic compounds.

3.2.3 *total carbon (TC)*—the sum of inorganic and organic carbon.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 For total carbon measurement, sample is injected into a gas-sparged reactor containing acidified potassium persulfate ($\text{K}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_8$) or sodium persulfate ($\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_8$) solution; either elevated temperature or ultraviolet (UV) radiation is used to enhance the oxidation. Both inorganic and organic carbon compounds are converted into CO_2 , which is swept, either directly or by trapping and thermal desorption, to a CO_2 -specific linearized infrared detector. Output signal is measured as peak height or integrated area and results displayed as fractional milligrams of carbon per litre or equivalent. For direct organic carbon determination, the sample is acidified and sparged to remove inorganic carbon, prior to oxidation (purgeable organic compounds may be lost in this procedure). For inorganic carbon measurement, the CO_2 sparged off in the organic carbon step may be quantified, or the sample may be injected into the reactor with the UV source off so that organics are not oxidized.

4.2 Organic carbon may also be measured as the difference between “total carbon” and “inorganic carbon” results.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 Accurate measurement of organic carbon in water at low and very low levels is of particular interest to the electronic, pharmaceutical, and steam power generation industries.

5.2 Elevated levels of organics in raw water tend to degrade ion exchange capacity. Elevated levels of organics in high purity water tend to encourage biological growth and, in some cases, are directly detrimental to the processes that require high purity water.

5.3 In the case of steam power generation, naturally occurring organics can degrade to CO_2 and low molecular weight organic acids which, in turn, are corrosive to the process equipment.

5.4 Inorganic carbon can also cause problems in a steam power system. CO_2 entering steam condensate that contains ammonia, reacts to form ammonium carbonate, which is not removed by the condenser air ejection system. If condensate polishers are operated beyond the ammonia break, continued operation on an ammonium cycle can result in selective exhaustion of the anion resin to the carbonate form, eluting silica, chloride, and sulfate into the condensate. The effect is immediately felt with powdered resin systems that have a very

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D-19 on Water and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D19.11 on Standards for Water for Power Generation and Processes.

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² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 11.01.

small inventory of anion resin.

6. Interferences and Limitations

6.1 If IC level is much higher than OC, the latter should be determined directly by acidifying the sample and sparging off IC before injection. Determination of OC by difference may introduce large error in such circumstances.

6.2 The process of removing IC by sparging may also remove some organic compounds, termed purgeable organic carbon (POC). The measurement done on the sparged sample will therefore be nonpurgeable organic carbon, and will not necessarily be equal to the OC figure arrived at by subtracting the IC measurement from the TC measurement. Users of this test method are responsible for determining whether the POC fraction is significant in their samples.

6.3 High-purity water is a very active scavenger of CO₂ and other impurities from air, syringes, bottles, pipes, etc. Stringent precautions must be taken to prevent sample contamination during collection, transportation, storage, and analysis.

6.4 Method Accuracy:

6.4.1 To produce accurate OC data, both method blank and recovery must be known.

6.4.1.1 *Method Blank*—The blank response of a method must be determined and subtracted from the sample response. This is especially true when making very low level measurements as in the case of high purity water applications. Some examples of contributors to method blank are: (1) the sample injection device used; (2) inlet septa; (3) chemical conversion method used; and (4) carrier gases, etc.

6.4.1.2 *Method Recovery*—To produce valid OC data, it must be assumed that all compounds are converted to a detectable species (that is, CO₂) with the same efficiency, independent of compound type or sample matrix. Since the conversion efficiency can be affected by many factors, it should be checked from time to time with selected compound types.

6.4.2 As an aid to checking recovery, the following compounds are listed in decreasing order of oxidation rate by UV-promoted persulfate oxidation:

- 6.4.2.1 Potassium acid phthalate (KHP),
- 6.4.2.2 Urea,
- 6.4.2.3 Nicotinic acid,
- 6.4.2.4 Pyridine,
- 6.4.2.5 n-Butanol,
- 6.4.2.6 Acetic acid,
- 6.4.2.7 Leucine, and
- 6.4.2.8 Acetonitrile.

6.4.3 As an expedient for most applications, method validation can be checked using KHP, acetic acid, and acetonitrile in deionized water. Ideally, all solutions should give equivalent conversion efficiencies (for example, percent recovery).

6.5 As with other methods for TC, IC, OC, and other water quality parameters such as COD, this test method inherently

entails limitations. For example, the relatively low temperature oxidation will not oxidize graphite or fines from an activated carbon bed. Certain dissolved organics in water may not fully oxidize in this test method, yielding an error. One such component known to produce low recovery is carbon tetrachloride. The users of this test method are encouraged to verify performance of the method on the compounds or sample types of interest in their application.

7. Apparatus

7.1 *Carbon Analyzer*³—A reagent and sample introduction mechanism, a gas-sparged reaction vessel, a gas demister or dryer, or both, a CO₂ trap (optional), a CO₂-specific infrared detector, a control system, and a display.

7.2 *Sparging Apparatus*—A glass vessel and supply of CO₂-free gas to be bubbled through a water sample to remove inorganic carbon as CO₂.

7.3 *Sample Injector*—An all-fluorocarbon sampling valve, such as used for sample introduction in liquid chromatography, may be used to introduce the sample.

7.4 Fig. 1 shows a diagrammatic presentation of an analyzer that has been found satisfactory for this purpose.

8. Reagents and Materials

8.1 *Purity of Reagents*—Reagent grade chemicals shall be used 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,⁴ where such specifications are available. Other grades may be used, provided it is first ascertained that the reagent is of sufficient purity to permit its use without decreasing the accuracy of the determination.

8.2 *Purity of Water*—Unless otherwise stated, references to water shall be understood to mean reagent water conforming to Specification D 1193, Type II. The OC of this water should be measured regularly and this value should be taken into consideration when preparing standards. It will typically be in the range of 0.2 mg/L or less. Organic-free water is desired for establishing the method blank when measuring OC below 1 mg of carbon per litre. Absolutely carbon free water may not be realistically obtainable and measurement of its carbon level, if any, may be beyond the scope of this test method. However, a working approximation of this goal is the solution contained in

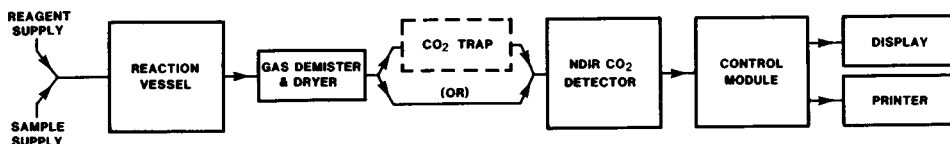


FIG. 1 Diagrammatic Presentation of an Analyzer

³ Model DC-80 TOC analyzer marketed by Dohrmann and model 700 TOC analyzer marketed by OI Corp were used in the collaborative study.

⁴ *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.