



Designation: D7599 – 16 (Reapproved 2017)

Standard Test Method for Determination of Diethanolamine, Triethanolamine, *N*-Methyldiethanolamine and *N*-Ethyldiethanolamine in Water by Single Reaction Monitoring Liquid Chromatography/Tandem Mass Spectrometry (LC/MS/MS)¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D7599; 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 procedure covers the determination of diethanolamine, triethanolamine, *N*-methyldiethanolamine and *N*-ethyldiethanolamine (referred to collectively as ethanolamines in this test method) in surface water by direct injection using liquid chromatography (LC) and detected with tandem mass spectrometry (MS/MS). These analytes are qualitatively and quantitatively determined by this test method. This test method adheres to single reaction monitoring (SRM) mass spectrometry.

1.2 This test method has been developed by U.S. EPA Region 5 Chicago Regional Laboratory (CRL).

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 The Detection Verification Level (DVL) and Reporting Range for the ethanolamines are listed in [Table 1](#).

1.4.1 The DVL is required to be at a concentration at least 3 times below the Reporting Limit (RL) and have a signal/noise ratio greater than 3:1. [Fig. 1](#) displays the signal/noise ratios at the DVLs and at higher concentrations for *N*-methyldiethanolamine.

1.4.2 The reporting limit is the concentration of the Level 1 calibration standard as shown in [Table 2](#) for diethanolamine, triethanolamine, and *N*-ethyldiethanolamine and Level 2 for *N*-methyldiethanolamine. The reporting limit for *N*-methyldiethanolamine is set at 50 $\mu\text{g/L}$ due to poor sensitivity at a 5 $\mu\text{g/L}$ concentration which did not meet the DVL criteria. The DVL for *N*-methyldiethanolamine is at 10 $\mu\text{g/L}$, which forces a raised reporting limit (chromatograms are

shown in [Fig. 1](#)). However, the multi-laboratory validation required a spike of all target analytes at 25 $\mu\text{g/L}$. The mean recovery for *N*-methyldiethanolamine at this level was 88 % as shown in [Table 3](#). If your instrument's sensitivity can meet the requirements in this test method, *N*-methyldiethanolamine may have a 25 $\mu\text{g/L}$ reporting limit.

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 and health 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.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

- [D1129 Terminology Relating to Water](#)
- [D1193 Specification for Reagent Water](#)
- [D2777 Practice for Determination of Precision and Bias of Applicable Test Methods of Committee D19 on Water](#)
- [D3856 Guide for Management Systems in Laboratories Engaged in Analysis of Water](#)
- [D3694 Practices for Preparation of Sample Containers and for Preservation of Organic Constituents](#)
- [D5847 Practice for Writing Quality Control Specifications for Standard Test Methods for Water Analysis](#)
- [E2554 Practice for Estimating and Monitoring the Uncertainty of Test Results of a Test Method Using Control Chart Techniques](#)

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D19 on Water and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D19.06 on Methods for Analysis for Organic Substances in Water.

Current edition approved June 15, 2017. Published July 2017. Originally approved in 2009. Last previous edition approved in 2016 as D7599 – 16. DOI: 10.1520/D7599-16R17.

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.

TABLE 1 Detection Verification Level and Reporting Range

Analyte	DVL (µg/L)	Reporting Range (µg/L)
Diethanolamine	5	25–500
Triethanolamine	5	25–500
<i>N</i> -Ethyldiethanolamine	5	25–500
<i>N</i> -Methyldiethanolamine	10	50–500

2.2 Other Documents:

EPA publication **SW-846 Test Methods for Evaluating Solid Waste, Physical/Chemical Methods**³

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 For definitions of terms used in this standard, refer to Terminology **D1129**.

3.2 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.2.1 *detection verification level, DVL, n*—a concentration that has a signal/noise ratio greater than 3:1 and is at least 3 times below the reporting limit (RL).

3.2.2 *ethanolamines, n*—in this test method, diethanolamine, triethanolamine, *N*-methyldiethanolamine and *N*-ethyldiethanolamine collectively.

3.2.3 *independent reference material, IRM, n*—a material of known purity and concentration obtained either from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) or other reputable supplier. The IRM shall be obtained from a different lot of material than is used for calibration.

3.3 Acronyms:

- 3.3.1 *CCC, n*—Continuing Calibration Check
- 3.3.2 *IC, n*—Initial Calibration
- 3.3.3 *LC, n*—Liquid Chromatography
- 3.3.4 *LCS/LCSD, n*—Laboratory Control Sample/Laboratory Control Sample Duplicate
- 3.3.5 *MDL, n*—Method Detection Limit
- 3.3.6 *MeOH, n*—Methanol
- 3.3.7 *mM, n*—millimolar, 1×10^{-3} moles/L
- 3.3.8 *MRM, n*—Multiple Reaction Monitoring
- 3.3.9 *MS/MSD, n*—Matrix Spike/Matrix Spike Duplicate
- 3.3.10 *NA, adj*—Not Available
- 3.3.11 *ND, n*—non-detect
- 3.3.12 *P&A, n*—Precision and Accuracy
- 3.3.13 *PPB, n*—parts per billion
- 3.3.14 *PPT, n*—parts per trillion
- 3.3.15 *QA, adj*—Quality Assurance
- 3.3.16 *QC, adj*—Quality Control
- 3.3.17 *RL, n*—Reporting Limit
- 3.3.18 *RSD, n*—Relative Standard Deviation
- 3.3.19 *RT, n*—Retention Time

³ Available from National Technical Information Service (NTIS), U.S. Department of Commerce, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA, 22161 or at <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/hazard/testmethods/index.htm>.

3.3.20 *SDS, n*—Safety Data Sheets

3.3.21 *SRM, n*—Single Reaction Monitoring

3.3.22 *SS, n*—Surrogate Standard

3.3.23 *TC, n*—Target Compound

3.3.24 *µM, n*—micromolar, 1×10^{-6} moles/L

3.3.25 *VOA, n*—Volatile Organic Analysis

4. Summary of Test Methods

4.1 This is a performance-based method and modifications are allowed to improve performance.

4.2 For ethanolamines analysis, samples are shipped to the lab between 0°C and 6°C and analyzed within 7 days of collection. In the lab, the samples are spiked with surrogate, filtered using a syringe-driven filter unit and analyzed directly by LC/MS/MS.

4.3 Diethanolamine, triethanolamine, *N*-methyldiethanolamine and *N*-ethyldiethanolamine and diethanolamine-*D*₈ (surrogate) are identified by retention time and one SRM transition. The target analytes and surrogate are quantitated using the SRM transitions utilizing an external calibration. The final report issued for each sample lists the concentration of diethanolamine, triethanolamine, *N*-methyldiethanolamine and *N*-ethyldiethanolamine and the diethanolamine-*D*₈ surrogate recovery.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 *N*-Ethyldiethanolamine, *N*-methyldiethanolamine and triethanolamine are Schedule 3 compounds under the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). Schedule 3 chemicals include those that have been produced, stockpiled or used as a chemical weapon, poses otherwise a risk to the object and purpose of the CWC because they possess such lethal or incapacitating toxicity as well as other properties that might enable it to be used as a chemical weapon, poses otherwise a risk to the object and purpose of the CWC by virtue of its importance in the production of one or more chemicals listed in Schedules 1 or 2, or it may be produced in large commercial quantities for purposes not prohibited under the CWC.⁴ Ethanolamines have a broad spectrum of applications. They are used to produce adhesives, agricultural products, cement grinding aids, concrete additives, detergents, specialty cleaners, personal care products, gas treatments, metalwork, oil well chemicals, packaging and printing inks, photographic chemicals, rubber, textile finishing, urethane coatings, textile lubricants, polishes, pesticides, and pharmaceuticals. Ethanolamines are readily dissolved in water, biodegradable and the bio-concentration potential is low.⁵

5.2 This test method has been investigated for use with reagent and surface water.

⁴ Additional information about CWC and ethanolamines are available from the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, <https://www.opcw.org>.

⁵ Additional information can be found on the Dow Chemical Company website at <http://www.dow.com/amines/prod/index.htm>.

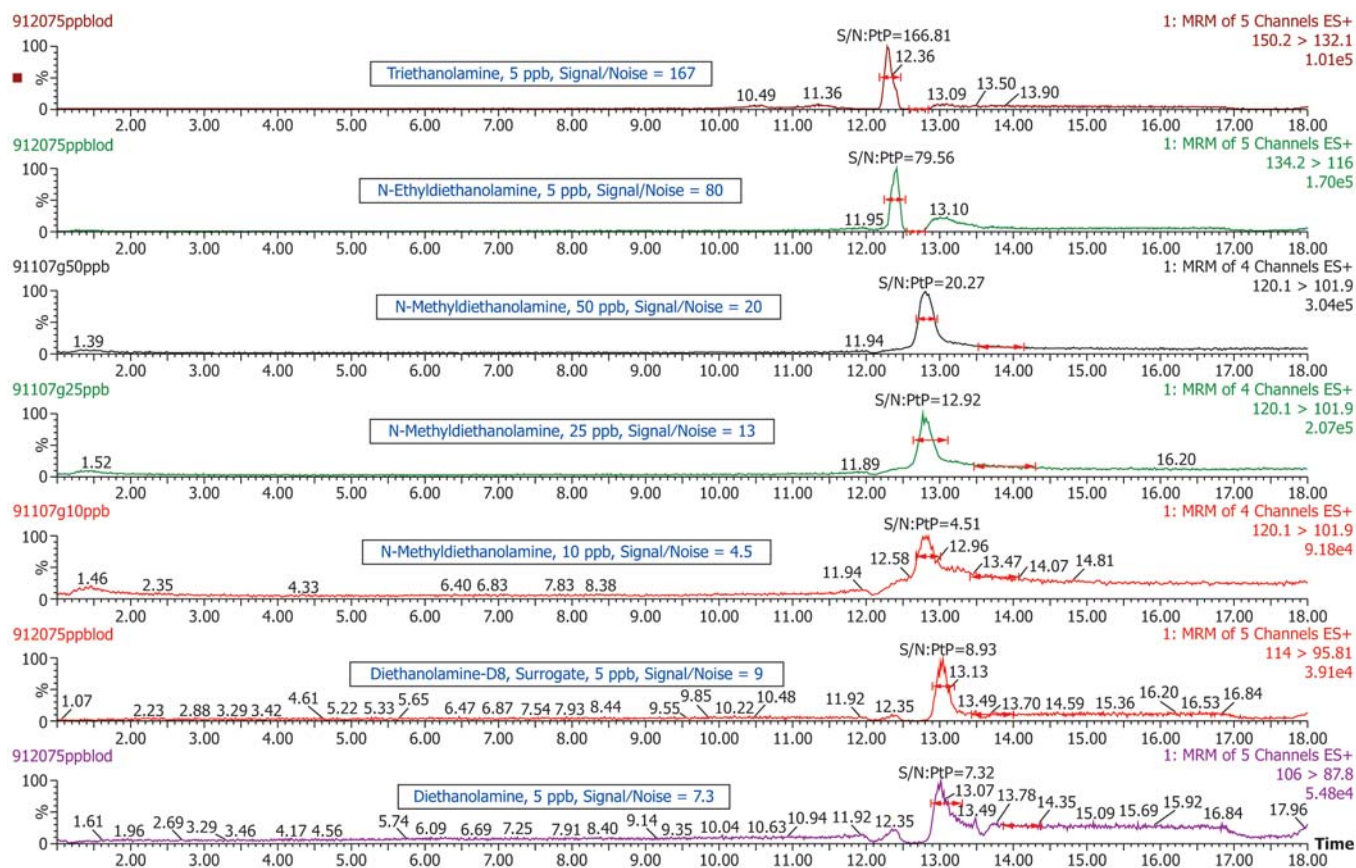


FIG. 1 Example SRM Chromatograms Signal/Noise Ratios

TABLE 2 Concentrations of Calibration Standards (PPB)

Analyte/Surrogate	LV 1	LV 2	LV 3	LV 4	LV 5	LV 6	LV 7
Diethanolamine	25	50	75	150	250	350	500
Triethanolamine	25	50	75	150	250	350	500
N-Ethyldiethanolamine	25	50	75	150	250	350	500
N-Methyldiethanolamine	25	50	75	150	250	350	500
Diethanolamine-D ₈ (Surrogate)	25	50	75	150	250	350	500

6. Interferences

6.1 Method interferences may be caused by contaminants in solvents, reagents, glassware and other apparatus producing discrete artifacts or elevated baselines. All of these materials are demonstrated to be free from interferences by analyzing laboratory reagent blanks under the same conditions as samples.

6.2 All glassware is washed in hot water with a detergent, rinsed in hot water followed by distilled water. Detergents containing ethanolamines must not be used to clean glassware. The glassware is then dried and heated in an oven at 250°C for 15 to 30 minutes. All glassware is subsequently cleaned with acetone, then methanol.

6.3 All reagents and solvents should be pesticide residue purity or higher to minimize interference problems.

6.4 Matrix interferences may be caused by contaminants that are co-extracted from the sample. The extent of matrix interferences can vary considerably from sample source depending on variations of the sample matrix.

7. Apparatus

7.1 LC/MS/MS System:

7.1.1 *Liquid Chromatography (LC) System*—A complete LC system is needed in order to analyze samples.⁶ This should include a sample injection system, a solvent pumping system capable of mixing solvents, a sample compartment capable of maintaining required temperature and a temperature controlled column compartment. A system that is capable of performing at the flows, pressures, controlled temperatures, sample volumes and requirements of the standard may be used.

7.1.2 *Analytical Column-Waters*⁷—A HILIC column was used to develop this test method. Any column that achieves

⁶ A Waters Alliance High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) System (a trademark of the Waters Corporation, Milford, MA), or equivalent, was found suitable for use. The multi-laboratory study included Agilent and Waters LC systems.

⁷ A Waters Atlantis (a trademark of the Waters Corporation, Milford, MA) HILIC Silica, 100 mm × 2.1 mm, 3 μm particle size, or equivalent, has been found suitable for use.