



Standard Test Method for Detailed Analysis of Petroleum Naphthas through n-Nonane by Capillary Gas Chromatography¹

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INTRODUCTION

Despite the many advances in capillary gas chromatography instrumentation and the remarkable resolution achievable, it has proven difficult to standardize a test method for the analysis of a mixture as complex as petroleum naphtha. Because of the proliferation of numerous, similar columns and the endless choices of phase thickness, column internal diameter, length, etc., as well as instrument operating parameters, many laboratories use similar *but not identical* methods for the capillary GC analysis of petroleum naphthas. Even minute differences in column polarity or column oven temperature, for example, can change resolution or elution order of components and make their identification an individual interpretive process rather than the desirable, objective application of standard retention data. To avoid this, stringent column specifications and temperature and flow conditions have been adopted in this test method to ensure consistent elution order and resolution and reproducible retention times. Strict adherence to the specified conditions is essential to the successful application of this test method.

1. Scope*

1.1 This detailed hydrocarbon analysis (DHA) test method covers the determination of hydrocarbon components paraffins, naphthenes, and monoaromatics (PNA) of petroleum naphthas as enumerated in [Table 1](#). Components eluting after n-nonane (bp 150.8 °C) are determined as a single group.

1.2 This test method is applicable to olefin-free (<2 % olefins by liquid volume) liquid hydrocarbon mixtures including virgin naphthas, reformates, and alkylates. Olefin content can be determined by Test Method [D1319](#) or [D6839](#). The hydrocarbon mixture must have a 98 % point of 250 °C or less as determined by Test Method [D3710](#) or [D7096](#) or equivalent.

1.3 Components that are present at the 0.05 mass % level or greater can be determined.

1.4 This test method may not be completely accurate for PNA above carbon number C7; Test Method [D5443](#) or [D6839](#) may be used to verify or complement the results of this test method for carbon numbers >C7.

1.5 Detailed hydrocarbon components in olefin containing samples may be determined by DHA Test Methods [D6729](#), [D6730](#), or [D6733](#).

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

1.7 *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 warning statements are given in Section [7](#).

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

[D1319 Test Method for Hydrocarbon Types in Liquid Petroleum Products by Fluorescent Indicator Adsorption](#)

[D3700 Practice for Obtaining LPG Samples Using a Floating Piston Cylinder](#)

[D3710 Test Method for Boiling Range Distribution of Gasoline and Gasoline Fractions by Gas Chromatography](#)

[D4057 Practice for Manual Sampling of Petroleum and Petroleum Products](#)

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D02 on Petroleum Products, Liquid Fuels, and Lubricants and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D02.04.0L on Gas Chromatography Methods.

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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.

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

TABLE 1 Typical Retention Characteristics of Naphtha Components

 NOTE 1—The abbreviations *N* and *P* refer to unidentified naphthenes and paraffins respectively.

Compound	Retention Time, min	Adjusted Retention Time, min	Kovats Retention Index @ 35 °C	Linear Retention Index
Methane	3.57	0.00	100.0	...
Ethane	3.65	0.08	200.0	...
Propane	3.84	0.27	300.0	...
Isobutane	4.14	0.57	367.3	...
<i>n</i> -Butane	4.39	0.82	400.0	...
2,2-Dimethylpropane	4.53	0.96	415.5	...
Isopentane	5.33	1.76	475.0	...
<i>n</i> -Pentane	5.84	2.27	500.0	...
2,2-Dimethylbutane	6.81	3.24	536.2	...
Cyclopentane	7.83	4.26	564.1	...
2,3-Dimethylbutane	7.89	4.32	565.5	...
2-Methylpentane	8.06	4.49	569.5	...
3-Methylpentane	8.72	5.15	583.4	...
<i>n</i> -Hexane	9.63	6.06	600.0	...
2,2-Dimethylpentane	11.22	7.65	624.2	...
Methylcyclopentane	11.39	7.82	626.5	...
2,4-Dimethylpentane	11.68	8.11	630.3	...
2,2,3-Trimethylbutane	12.09	8.52	635.4	...
Benzene	13.29	9.72	649.1	...
3,3-dimethylpentane	13.84	10.27	654.8	...
Cyclohexane	14.19	10.62	658.3	...
2-Methylhexane	15.20	11.63	667.8	...
2,3-Dimethylpentane	15.35	11.78	669.1	...
1,1-Dimethylcyclopentane	15.61	12.04	671.4	...
3-Methylhexane	16.18	12.61	676.2	...
<i>cis</i> -1,3-Dimethylcyclopentane	16.88	13.31	681.8	...
<i>trans</i> -1,3-Dimethylcyclopentane	17.22	13.65	684.4	...
3-Ethylpentane	17.44	13.87	686.1	...
<i>trans</i> -1,2-Dimethylcyclopentane	17.57	14.00	687.0	...
2,2,4-Trimethylpentane	17.80	14.23	688.7	...
<i>n</i> -Heptane	19.43	15.86	700.0	...
Methylcyclohexane + <i>cis</i> -1,2-Dimethylcyclopentane	22.53	18.96	718.6 ^A	...
1,1,3-Trimethylcyclopentane + 2,2-Dimethylhexane	23.05	19.48	721.4 ^A	...
Ethylcyclopentane	24.59	21.02	729.3 ^A	...
2,5-Dimethylhexane + 2,2,3-Trimethylpentane	25.12	21.55	731.9 ^A	...
2,4-Dimethylhexane	25.47	21.90	733.5 ^A	...
1, <i>trans</i> -2, <i>cis</i> -4-Trimethylcyclopentane	26.43	22.86	738.0 ^A	...
3,3-Dimethylhexane	26.79	23.22	739.6 ^A	...
1, <i>trans</i> -2, <i>cis</i> -3-Trimethylcyclopentane	28.01	24.44	744.9 ^A	...
2,3,4-Trimethylpentane	28.70	25.13	747.8 ^A	...
Toluene + 2,3,3-Trimethylpentane	29.49	25.92	751.1 ^A	730.2 ^B
1,1,2-Trimethylcyclopentane	31.21	27.64	...	741.7 ^B
2,3-Dimethylhexane	31.49	27.92	...	743.6 ^B
2-Methyl-3-ethylpentane	31.69	28.12	...	744.9 ^A
2-Methylheptane	33.06	29.49	...	754.1 ^B
4-Methylheptane + 3-Methyl-3-ethylpentane	33.34	29.77	...	756.0 ^B
3,4-Dimethylhexane	33.49	29.92	...	757.0 ^B
1, <i>cis</i> -2, <i>trans</i> -4-Trimethylcyclopentane + 1, <i>cis</i> -2, <i>cis</i> -4-Trimethylcyclopentane	33.73	30.16	...	758.6 ^B
<i>cis</i> -1,3-Dimethylcyclohexane	34.45	30.88	...	763.4 ^B
3-Methylheptane + 1, <i>cis</i> -2, <i>trans</i> -3-Trimethylcyclopentane	34.64	31.07	...	764.7 ^B
3-Ethylhexane + <i>trans</i> -1,4-Dimethylcyclohexane	34.83	31.26	...	766.0 ^B
1,1-Dimethylcyclohexane	35.81	32.24	...	772.5 ^B
2,2,5-Trimethylhexane + <i>trans</i> -1,3-Ethylmethylcyclopentane	36.75	33.18	...	778.8 ^B
<i>cis</i> -1,3-Ethylmethylcyclopentane	37.14	33.57	...	781.4 ^B
<i>trans</i> -1,2-Ethylmethylcyclopentane	37.39	33.82	...	783.1 ^B
2,2,4-Trimethylhexane + 1,1-Ethylmethylcyclopentane	37.68	34.11	...	785.1 ^B
<i>trans</i> -1,2-Dimethylcyclohexane	38.14	34.57	...	788.1 ^B
1, <i>cis</i> -2, <i>cis</i> -3-Trimethylcyclopentane	39.21	35.64	...	795.3 ^B
<i>trans</i> -1,3-Dimethylcyclohexane + <i>cis</i> -1,4-Dimethylcyclohexane	39.54	35.97	...	797.5
<i>n</i> -Octane	39.91	36.34	...	800.0
Isopropylcyclopentane + 2,4,4-Trimethylhexane	40.76	37.19	...	805.7
Unidentified C9-Naphthene	40.88	37.31	...	806.5
Unidentified C8-Naphthene	41.52	37.95	...	810.8
Unidentified C9-Naphthene	41.88	38.31	...	813.2
<i>cis</i> -1,2-Ethylmethylcyclopentane + 2,3,5-Trimethylhexane	42.55	38.98	...	817.7
2,2-Dimethylheptane	43.20	39.63	...	822.0
<i>cis</i> -1,2-Dimethylcyclohexane	43.43	39.86	...	823.6
2,2,3-Trimethylhexane + 9N	43.76	40.19	...	825.8
2,4-Dimethylheptane	43.88	40.31	...	826.6
4,4-Dimethylheptane + 9N	44.09	40.52	...	828.0
Ethylcyclohexane + <i>n</i> -Propylcyclopentane	44.36	40.79	...	829.8
2-Methyl-4-Ethylhexane	44.74	41.17	...	832.4

TABLE 1 *Continued*

Compound	Retention Time, min	Adjusted Retention Time, min	Kovats Retention Index @ 35 °C	Linear Retention Index
2,6-Dimethylheptane + 9 <i>N</i>	44.95	41.38	...	833.8
1,1,3-Trimethylcyclohexane	45.21	41.64	...	835.5
Unidentified C ₉ -Naphthene	45.56	41.99	...	837.8
2,5-Dimethylheptane + 9 <i>P</i>	45.92	42.35	...	840.3
3,5-Dimethylheptane + 3,3-Dimethylheptane + <i>N</i>	46.09	42.52	...	841.4
Unidentified C ₉ -Naphthene	46.31	42.74	...	842.9
Unidentified C ₉ -Naphthene	46.55	42.98	...	844.5
Ethyl Benzene	47.15	43.58	...	848.5
Unidentified C ₉ -Naphthene	47.37	43.80	...	850.0
Unidentified Naphthene + 2,3,4-Trimethylhexane	47.53	43.96	...	851.0
Unidentified Naphthenes	47.78	44.21	...	852.7
Unidentified Naphthene + Paraffin	48.13	44.56	...	855.1
<i>m</i> -Xylene	48.49	44.92	...	857.5
<i>p</i> -Xylene	48.63	45.06	...	858.4
2,3-Dimethylheptane	48.93	45.36	...	860.4
3,4-Dimethylheptane ^C + <i>N</i>	49.10	45.53	...	861.6
3,4-Dimethylheptane ^C	49.29	45.72	...	862.8
Unidentified Naphthene	49.41	45.84	...	863.6
4-Ethylheptane + <i>N</i>	49.65	46.08	...	865.2
4-Methyloctane	50.10	46.53	...	868.3
2-Methyloctane	50.26	46.69	...	869.3
Unidentified Naphthene	50.41	46.84	...	870.3
Unidentified Naphthene	50.73	47.16	...	872.5
3-Ethylheptane + <i>N</i>	50.96	47.39	...	874.0
3-Methyloctane	51.15	47.58	...	875.3
Unidentified Naphthene	51.35	47.78	...	876.6
<i>o</i> -Xylene + 1,1,2-Trimethylcyclohexane	51.54	47.97	...	877.9
Unidentified Naphthene + 2,4,6-Trimethylheptane	51.74	48.17	...	879.2
Unidentified Naphthene	52.12	48.55	...	881.8
Unidentified Paraffin	52.24	48.67	...	882.6
Unidentified Naphthenes	52.56	48.99	...	884.7
Unidentified Naphthene	52.85	49.28	...	886.7
Unidentified Naphthene + Paraffin	53.06	49.49	...	888.1
Unidentified Naphthene	53.26	49.69	...	889.4
Unidentified Naphthene	53.46	49.89	...	890.8
Unidentified Naphthene	54.02	50.45	...	894.5
Unidentified Naphthene	54.40	50.83	...	897.1
<i>n</i> -Nonane	54.84	51.27	...	900.0
Unidentified Naphthene	54.98	51.41	...	900.9

^AExtrapolated from *n*-C₆ and *n*-C₇. See A1.1.3.

^BExtrapolated from *n*-C₈ and *n*-C₉. See A1.2.3.

^CStereoisomers.

D5443 Test Method for Paraffin, Naphthene, and Aromatic Hydrocarbon Type Analysis in Petroleum Distillates Through 200°C by Multi-Dimensional Gas Chromatography

D6839 Test Method for Hydrocarbon Types, Oxygenated Compounds, and Benzene in Spark Ignition Engine Fuels by Gas Chromatography

D6729 Test Method for Determination of Individual Components in Spark Ignition Engine Fuels by 100 Metre Capillary High Resolution Gas Chromatography

D6730 Test Method for Determination of Individual Components in Spark Ignition Engine Fuels by 100–Metre Capillary (with Precolumn) High-Resolution Gas Chromatography

D6733 Test Method for Determination of Individual Components in Spark Ignition Engine Fuels by 50-Metre Capillary High Resolution Gas Chromatography

D7096 Test Method for Determination of the Boiling Range Distribution of Gasoline by Wide-Bore Capillary Gas Chromatography

3. Summary of Test Method

3.1 A representative sample of the naphtha is introduced into a gas chromatograph equipped with a methyl silicone bonded phase fused silica capillary column. Helium carrier gas transports the vaporized sample through the column in which the components are separated. Components are sensed by a flame ionization detector as they elute from the column. The detector signal is processed by an electronic data acquisition system or integrating computer. Each eluting peak is identified by comparing its retention index to a table of retention indices and by visual matching with a standard chromatogram. The table of retention indices has been established by running reference compounds under identical conditions or by gas chromatographic—mass spectrometric (GC/MS) analysis of reference samples under the same conditions, or both.

3.2 The mass concentration of each component is determined by area normalization with response factors. Peaks eluting after *n*-nonane are summed and reported as C₁₀₊.