



Standard Practice for Collection of Settled Dust Samples Using Wipe Sampling Methods for Subsequent Determination of Metals¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This practice covers the collection of settled dust on surfaces using the wipe sampling method. These samples are collected in a manner that will permit subsequent extraction and determination of target metals in the wipes using laboratory analysis techniques such as atomic spectrometry.

1.2 This practice does not address the sampling design criteria (that is, sampling plan which includes the number and location of samples) that are used for clearance, hazard evaluation, risk assessment, and other purposes. To provide for valid conclusions, sufficient numbers of samples should be obtained as directed by a sampling plan, for example, in accordance with Guide [D7659](#).

1.3 This practice contains notes that are explanatory and are not part of the mandatory requirements of this practice.

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

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.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

- [D1356 Terminology Relating to Sampling and Analysis of Atmospheres](#)
- [D4840 Guide for Sample Chain-of-Custody Procedures](#)
- [D7659 Guide for Strategies for Surface Sampling of Metals and Metalloids for Worker Protection](#)
- [D7707 Specification for Wipe Sampling Materials for Beryllium in Surface Dust](#)

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee [D22](#) on Air Quality and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee [D22.04](#) on Workplace Air Quality. Current edition approved April 1, 2013. Published April 2013. Originally approved in 2003. Last previous edition approved in 2008 as D6966 – 08. DOI: 10.1520/D6966-13.

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.

[lium in Surface Dust](#)

[E1792 Specification for Wipe Sampling Materials for Lead in Surface Dust](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 For definitions of terms not listed here, see Terminology [D1356](#).

3.2 *Definitions:*

3.2.1 *batch, n*—a group of field or quality control (QC) samples that are collected or processed together at the same time using the same reagents and equipment.

3.2.2 *sampling location, n*—a specific area within a sampling site that is subjected to sample collection.

3.2.2.1 *Discussion*—Multiple sampling locations are commonly designated for a single sampling site (see [3.2.3](#)).

3.2.3 *sampling site, n*—a local geographic area that contains the sampling locations (see [3.2.2](#)).

3.2.3.1 *Discussion*—A sampling site is generally limited to an area that is easily covered by walking.

3.2.4 *wipe, n*—a disposable towellette that is moistened with a wetting agent. **E1792**

3.2.4.1 *Discussion*—These towellettes are used to collect samples of settled dust on surfaces for subsequent determination of metals content in the collected dust.

3.3 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.3.1 *field blank, n*—a wipe (see [3.2.4](#)) that is exposed to the same handling as field samples except that no sample is collected (no surface is actually wiped).

3.3.1.1 *Discussion*—Analysis results from field blanks provide information on the analyte background level in the wipe, combined with the potential contamination experienced by samples collected within the batch (see [3.2.1](#)) resulting from handling.

4. Summary of Practice

4.1 Wipe samples of settled dust are collected on surfaces from areas of known dimensions with wipes satisfying certain requirements, using a specified pattern of wiping.

4.2 The collected wipes are then ready for subsequent sample preparation and analysis for the measurement of metals of interest.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 This practice is intended for the collection of settled dust samples for the subsequent measurement of target metals. The practice is meant for use in the collection of settled dust samples that are of interest in clearance, hazard evaluation, risk assessment, and other purposes.

5.2 This practice is recommended for the collection of settled dust samples from hard, relatively smooth nonporous surfaces. This practice is less effective for collecting settled dust samples from surfaces with substantial texture such as rough concrete, brickwork, textured ceilings, and soft fibrous surfaces such as upholstery and carpeting. Collection efficiency for metals such as lead from smooth, hard surfaces has been found to exceed 75 % (E1792).

6. Apparatus and Materials

6.1 *Sampling Templates*—One or more of the following: 10 cm by 10 cm (minimum dimensions) reusable or disposable aluminum or plastic template(s), or disposable cardboard templates, (full-square, rectangular, square “U-shaped,” rectangular “U-shaped,” or “L-shaped,” or both); or templates of alternative areas having accurately known dimensions (see **Note 1**). Templates shall be capable of lying flat on a surface.

NOTE 1—For most surfaces, it is recommended to collect settled dust from a minimum surface area of 100 cm² to provide sufficient material for subsequent laboratory analysis. However, larger areas (for example, 30 cm by 30 cm) may be appropriate for surfaces having little or no visible settled dust, while a smaller sampling area (for example, 10 cm by 10 cm) may be appropriate for surfaces with high levels of visible settled dust. It is recommended to have a suite of templates with various sampling dimensions.

6.2 *Wipes*, for collection of settled dust samples from surfaces. Wipes shall be individually wrapped and fully wetted. The background metal(s) content of the wipes should be as low as possible. At a maximum, the background level of target metal(s) shall be no more than one-tenth the target concentration the metal(s) to be measured.

NOTE 2—Wipes meeting the requirements of Specifications E1792 or D7707, or both, may be suitable.

NOTE 3—Wipes made of cellulosic materials may produce fewer analysis problems than wipes made of synthetic polymeric materials.

6.3 *Sample Containers*, sealable, rigid-walled, 30-mL minimum volume.

NOTE 4—Screw-top plastic centrifuge tubes are an example of a suitable rigid-walled sample container.

NOTE 5—Use of a sealable plastic bag for holding and transporting the settled dust wipe sample is not recommended due to the potential loss of collected dust within the plastic bag during transportation and laboratory handling. Quantitative removal and processing of the settled dust wipe sample by the laboratory is significantly improved through the use of sealable rigid-walled containers.

6.4 *Measuring Tool*, tape or ruler, capable of measuring to the nearest ± 0.1 cm.

6.5 *Plastic Gloves*, powderless.

6.6 *Cleaning Cloths*, for cleaning of templates and other equipment.

NOTE 6—Wipes used for dust sampling (6.2) can be used for cleaning templates and other sampling equipment, but other cleaning cloths or wipes not meeting the requirements described in (6.2) may be suitable for this purpose.

6.7 *Adhesive Tape*, suitable for securing the template(s) to the surface(s) to be sampled, and for demarcating sampling areas if templates are not used.

NOTE 7—Masking tape, for example, functions well for these purposes.

6.8 *Disposable Shoe Covers*, optional.

7. Procedure

7.1 Use one of the following two options when collecting settled dust samples from each sampling location. For wide, flat locations, it is recommended to use the template-assisted sampling procedure (see 7.1.1.2(a)). For small locations (for example, window sill, section of a piece of equipment, or portion of a vehicle interior), it will ordinarily be necessary to use the confined-area sampling procedure (see 7.1.1.2(b)).

NOTE 8—Metal contamination problems during field sampling can be severe and may affect subsequent wipe sample analysis results. Contamination can be minimized through frequent changing of gloves, use of shoe covers (see 6.8), and regular cleaning of sampling equipment with cleaning cloths (see 6.6). Use of disposable shoe covers between different locations, and removal of them prior to leaving the sampling site or entering vehicles, can be helpful in minimizing inadvertent transfer of contaminated dust from one location to another.

7.1.1 *Sampling Procedure:*

7.1.1.1 Don a pair of clean, powderless, plastic gloves (see 6.5 and **Note 8**).

7.1.1.2 Use either a template-assisted sampling procedure (a) or tape-defined sampling procedure (b):

(a) Carefully place a clean template on the surface to be sampled in a manner that minimizes disturbance of settled dust at the sampling location. Tape the outside edge of the template to prevent the template from moving during sample collection.

(b) Alternatively, mark the defined area to be sampled with adhesive tape (6.7) being careful not to disturb the settled dust, and measure the area to be sampled using the measuring tool (6.4).

7.1.1.3 Obtain a wipe (6.2) and, if there is a possibility for the package containing the wipe to be contaminated with dust, clean the outside of the package with a cleaning cloth (6.6).

7.1.1.4 Remove the wipe from its package, and inspect the wipe to ensure that it is fully wetted and not contaminated with dust or other material. Discard the wipe if it is found to be too dry or contaminated, or both.

7.1.1.5 Using an open flat hand with the fingers together, place the wipe on the surface to be sampled. Wipe the selected surface area, side to side, in an overlapping “S” or “Z” pattern while applying pressure to the fingertips (refer to **Figs. 1 and 2**). Wipe the surface so that the entire selected surface area is covered. Perform the wiping procedure using the fingers and not the palm of the hand.

7.1.1.6 Repeat 7.1.1.5 using a different brand of wipe (after selecting a different sampling location) if the wipe originally used significantly changes shape (for example, rolls up by curling) or tears during the wiping process.

NOTE 9—Some surfaces (for example, rough surfaces) may cause certain wipes to curl up or otherwise significantly change shape during the wiping process. A type of wipe that maintains its integrity should be selected for each surface sampled.

7.1.1.7 Fold the wipe in half with the collected dust side folded inward and repeat the preceding wiping procedure