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Standard Guide for Analytical Testing of Substances of Very High Concern in Materials and Products¹

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^{ε1} NOTE—Keywords were added editorially in March 2017.

1. Scope

1.1 This guide contains a list of potential test methods for the analysis of Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC) as designated by ECHA, the European Chemicals Agency. Information on the test methods cited is publicly available and is drawn from a variety of sources. The guide is intended to assist in the selection of test methods that are applicable for the SVHCs identified.

1.2 The specific SVHCs covered within this guide are compiled from the ECHA Candidate List of Substances of Very High Concern. This list is also referred to as the REACH Candidate List.

1.3 This guide specifically addresses methods for the analysis of SVHCs in products. It is not intended to cover the many and varied analysis challenges associated in the manufacturing environment.

1.4 Limitations:

1.4.1 This guide is intended to provide a compilation of available test methods for the SVHCs listed on the ECHA Candidate list and is not intended to be exhaustive. The test methods within this guide are not the only ones available for any specific substances and this guide does not recommend any specific test method.

1.4.2 Test methods for specific substances at the detection limits required for REACH reporting are not always available. In some cases, it is necessary to deduce the quantity of substance present through the analysis and quantification of its elements. Although this approach is routinely used some degree of uncertainty exists in the final result due to the reduced specificity of the test method.

1.4.3 Although this guide is intended to be updated on a periodic basis to capture new developments in the field, there is no assurance that the information provided is the most current.

¹ This guide is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F40 on Declarable Substances in Materials and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F40.02 on Management Practices and Guides.

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

1.6 *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

D1257 Specification for High-Gravity Glycerin

D1385 Test Method for Hydrazine in Water

D1971 Practices for Digestion of Water Samples for Determination of Metals by Flame Atomic Absorption, Graphite Furnace Atomic Absorption, Plasma Emission Spectroscopy, or Plasma Mass Spectrometry

D3335 Test Method for Low Concentrations of Lead, Cadmium, and Cobalt in Paint by Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy

D3545 Test Method for Alcohol Content and Purity of Acetate Esters by Gas Chromatography

D4309 Practice for Sample Digestion Using Closed Vessel Microwave Heating Technique for the Determination of Total Metals in Water

D5831 Test Method for Screening Fuels in Soils

D7065 Test Method for Determination of Nonylphenol, Bisphenol A, *p-tert*-Octylphenol, Nonylphenol Monoethoxylate and Nonylphenol Diethoxylate in Environmental Waters by Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometry

D7485 Test Method for Determination of Nonylphenol, *p-tert*-Octylphenol, Nonylphenol Monoethoxylate and Nonylphenol Diethoxylate in Environmental Waters by Liquid Chromatography/Tandem Mass Spectrometry

D7823 Test Method for Determination of Low Level, Regulated Phthalates in Poly (Vinyl Chloride) Plastics by

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.

Thermal Desorption—Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry

D7968 Test Method for Determination of Perfluorinated Compounds in Soil by Liquid Chromatography Tandem Mass Spectrometry (LC/MS/MS)

E1621 Guide for Elemental Analysis by Wavelength Dispersive X-Ray Fluorescence Spectrometry

F2576 Terminology Relating to Declarable Substances in Materials

2.2 *European Commission*.³

Article 57 of the European Union Regulation #1907/2006

2.3 *International Electrotechnical Commission TC111*.⁴

IEC 62321 Electrotechnical Products – Determination of Levels of Six Regulated Substances (Lead, Mercury, Cadmium, Hexavalent Chromium, Polybrominated Biphenyls, Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers)

2.4 *Joint Industry Guide (JIG)*.⁵

JIG-101 Material Composition Declaration for Electrotechnical Products. Ed 4.0, 2011

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 Terms and definitions related to declarable substances in materials may be found in Terminology **F2576**.

3.1.2 Terms and definitions in the guide not found in Terminology **F2576** are found in a common dictionary or other reference documents such as the ASTM Dictionary of Engineering Science & Technology.⁶

3.2 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.2.1 *article*—“an object which during production is given a special shape, surface or design which determines its function to a greater degree than its chemical composition” as defined in Article 3(3) of the REACH Regulation.

3.2.2 *brominated flame retardant*—a group of brominated organic compounds that are used to inhibit initiation of a fire.

3.2.3 *Joint Industry Guide*—An industry standard of the Electric Industries Alliance that “establishes the relevant substances as well as reporting thresholds that the industry agrees should govern material content disclosures.”⁵

3.2.4 *phthalates*—also known as *phthalate esters*, are esters of phthalic acid primarily used as a plasticizer for polyvinyl chloride or as solvents for many different types of consumer products.

3.2.5 *plasticizer*—any of a group of substances used in plastics and other materials to control viscosity, flexibility or softness of the finished product.

3.2.6 *Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC)*—substances that have hazards of serious consequences and meet

the criteria for carcinogenic, mutagenic and reproductive toxic substances of category 1 and 2.

3.2.6.1 *Discussion*—SVHC can be persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic (PBT) substances or very persistent and very bioaccumulative (VPvB) substances. Other substances giving rise to an equivalent level of concern as potential SVHC include endocrine disruptors.

3.3 Acronyms:

3.3.1 *AAS*—Atomic Absorption Spectrometry

3.3.2 *AED*—Atomic Emission Detection

3.3.3 *AES*—Atomic Emission Spectrometry

3.3.4 *AFS*—Atomic Fluorescence Spectrometry

3.3.5 *BFR*—Brominated Flame Retardant

3.3.6 *CAS*—Chemical Abstract Services

3.3.7 *CMR*—Carcinogenic, Mutagenic and Toxic to Reproduction

3.3.8 *CPSC*—United States Consumer Product Safety Commission

3.3.9 *DMF*—Dimethylformamide

3.3.10 *ECD*—Electron Capture Detection

3.3.11 *ECHA*—European Chemicals Agency

3.3.12 *ECNI*—Electron Capture Negative Ion

3.3.13 *EEE*—Electrical and Electronic Equipment

3.3.14 *EIA*—Electronic Industries Alliance

3.3.15 *EPA*—United States Environmental Protection Agency

3.3.16 *EU*—European Union

3.3.17 *FID*—Flame Ionization Detection

3.3.18 *FPD*—Flame Photometric Detection

3.3.19 *GC-MS*—Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry

3.3.20 *GFAA*—Graphite Furnace Atomic Absorption Spectrometry

3.3.21 *HAFID*—Hydrogen Atmosphere Flame Ionization Detection

3.3.22 *HFAA*—Heptafluorobutyric acid anhydride

3.3.23 *HIPS*—High Impact Polystyrene

3.3.24 *HPLC*—High Performance (or Pressure) Liquid Chromatography

3.3.25 *ICP-MS*—Inductively Coupled Plasma – Mass Spectrometry

3.3.26 *ICP-OES*—Inductively Coupled Plasma – Optical Emission Spectrometry

3.3.27 *IR*—Infrared Spectrometry

3.3.28 *LC-MS-MS*—Liquid Chromatography-Tandem

3.3.29 *MSP*—Microspectrophotometer

3.3.30 *NIOSH*—United States National Institute for Occupational Health and Safety

3.3.31 *PAH*—Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon

3.3.32 *PTFE*—Polytetrafluoroethylene (Teflon)

3.3.33 *PVC*—Polyvinyl Chloride

³ Europese Commissie, B-1049, Brussels, Belgium, http://ec.europa.eu/index_en.htm.

⁴ Available from International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), 3, rue de Varembe, P.O. Box 131, CH-1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland, <http://www.iec.ch>.

⁵ Available from the Consumer Electronics Association, 1919 S. Eads St. Arlington, VA 22202, <http://www.ce.org>

⁶ ASTM Dictionary of Engineering Science & Technology, 10th Edition. Available from www.astm.org.

3.3.34 *REACH*—Registration, Evaluation and Authorization of Chemicals

3.3.35 *RoHS*—Restriction of the Use of Certain Hazardous Substances in Electrical and Electronic Equipment

3.3.36 *UV-VIS*—UltraViolet-Visible Spectrometry

3.3.37 *XRF*—X-ray Fluorescence Spectrometry

4. Summary of Guide

4.1 This guide provides a list of test methods for the determination of the Substances of Very High Concern as identified in the REACH Candidate list. Screening methods are discussed in [Appendix X2](#).

4.2 This guide provides identifiers for each substance such as chemical name, synonyms, chemical formulas, CAS and EU numbers.

4.3 Common uses for each of the substances are identified.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 The REACH Candidate list classifies substances as SVHCs thus making them subject to possible authorization. Compliance to the REACH regulation requires that any identified SVHC be present at a concentration of less than 0.1 % (w/w) of the total article weight to avoid triggering a reporting obligation. This guide is intended to assist in the identification of available test methods for quantitative analysis of the substance(s) of interest.

5.2 When possible, industry accepted standard test methods are cited. However, industry vetted test methods are not available for all of the substances contained in the REACH Candidate List. Thus, some caution and due diligence must be exercised when applying some of the methods listed in this guide.

5.3 In some cases, test methods for the identification and quantification of a specific substance are not available. An example would include CoCl₂. Methods currently in practice involve the individual determination of Co and Cl concentrations and use other sources of information or chemical judgment to assign the expected CoCl₂ concentration. This approach obviously has its limitations and pitfalls and must be used judiciously.

5.4 Under the REACH regulation, EU manufacturers, importers or distributors of articles containing more than 0.1 % (w/w) of a substance that the Agency has listed as being an SVHC shall provide their customers with the name of the substance and information allowing the safe use of the article. Producers and distributors of articles containing SVHC shall also supply the same information to consumers, upon request. In situations where this information is not readily available from the supply chain it is incumbent upon the supplier to collect this information through actual chemical analysis or other means. This guide is intended to assist in the selection of appropriate test methods in the event that chemical analysis is required.

6. Substance List and Uses

6.1 The substances listed in [Table 1](#) were derived from the ECHA SVHC Candidate List published in October 2008. Any

substances that have been subsequently added after October 2008 are not included.

6.2 The CAS or EU numbers are unique identifiers for the substance. It is possible for a particular substance to have one or more commonly used names.

6.3 Common uses of the substance help to identify in which products or materials these substance is likely to be found. Note that the list of common uses is not exhaustive.

7. SVHC Test Methods

7.1 This guide is not intended to be exhaustive in the identification of available test methods. The intent is to provide guidance and some examples of available test methods relevant to the required analysis. Some of the SVHCs do not have industry standard test methods associated with them. Literature citations of these non-standard methods are meant to be for information only.

7.2 Standard test methods do not exist for all of the SVHCs listed. Therefore, the test methods cited for those substances must be validated for analytical accuracy before use in regulatory compliance demonstration. Moreover, when a method is applied outside of its intended scope, validation of the altered method is required. Considerations such as sample matrix, analytical requirements, etc. for the intended analysis will determine its applicability. All deviations from the published method must be clearly noted.

NOTE 1—If a standardized method is used beyond the stated scope, that addition must be validated. All deviations from published methods must be documented.

7.3 In many cases, test methods that are specific for a particular substance have not been developed. Therefore, the approach to quantitative analysis is not straightforward. A combination of test methods and the use of logical assumptions are required. These assumptions shall be clearly articulated because they will determine the limitations of the approach.

7.4 Screening methods can be utilized to determine whether a detectable amount of a substance is present. In many situations the application of a screening process can obviate the need to perform full quantitative analysis. See [Appendix X2](#) for more information on screening methodologies.

7.5 In some cases, sample preparation methods are dependent upon the physical state of the sample to be analyzed. For many of the test methods, several sample preparation references are cited when applicable.

7.6 In some cases, limitations in the sample preparation method cited in [Appendix X1.2](#) can produce a sample for analysis that is non-optimal. Incomplete extraction, incomplete digestion, loss of analyte, etc. often require adjustments to the sample preparation methods to obtain the desired analytical result. At a minimum the limitations in the sample preparation method shall be accounted for, when possible, in the calculation of the analytical result. Additionally, if these adjustments to the method do not produce a satisfactory sample for analysis, it may be necessary to develop an alternative method. Validation of the sample preparation method will thus be required.