



# Standard Practice for Screening Trichloroethylene (TCE)-Contaminated Media Using a Heated Diode Sensor<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D7203; 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 ( $\epsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

## 1. Scope

1.1 This practice describes procedures for screening media known to contain the halogenated volatile organic compound (HVOC), trichloroethylene (TCE). Procedure A is to be used for screening soil known to contain TCE and Procedure B is to be used for screening water known to contain TCE.

1.1.1 Both Procedures A and B involve measuring the TCE concentration in the headspace above a sample using a heated diode sensor device. From this measurement, an estimated concentration of TCE in the sample can be determined. Any TCE remaining in the sample is not measured. Any other HVOC present in the sample will be reported as TCE.

1.2 Procedure A can also be used for screening the headspace above a soil suspected of containing HVOC contamination to indicate the presence or absence of HVOC contamination in the soil. Procedure B can also be used for screening the headspace above a water suspected of containing HVOC contamination to indicate the presence or absence of HVOC contamination in the water. For both procedures, any HVOC contamination remaining in the soil or water is not detected by this practice.

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

1.3.1 *Exception*—Certain inch-pound units are provided for information only.

1.4 *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 application of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

NOTE 1—The diode sensor is heated to temperatures ranging between approximately 600 and 1000 °C (see 6.1.5) and as a result could be a source of ignition.

<sup>1</sup> This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D34 on Waste Management and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D34.01.05 on Screening Methods.

Current edition approved July 1, 2011. Published August 2011. Originally approved in 2005. Last previous edition approved in 2006 as D7203-06<sup>ε1</sup>. DOI: 10.1520/D7203-11.

## 2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards*:<sup>2</sup>

D4547 Guide for Sampling Waste and Soils for Volatile Organic Compounds

D5681 Terminology for Waste and Waste Management

## 3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—For definitions of terms used in this screening practice, refer to Terminology D5681.

## 4. Summary of Practice

4.1 *Procedure A*—To estimate the concentration of TCE in a soil known to contain TCE contamination, a sample of the soil is added to a glass jar having an open-top cap with a PTFE-bonded silicone septum. At the time of screening, the temperature of the soil in the jar should be approximately 50 to 120 °F (10 to 49 °C). The soil in the jar is shaken and allowed to settle for 10 min, so the TCE can partition into the headspace above the soil. After 10 min, the TCE concentration in the headspace is measured using a heated diode sensor device, which gives a numerical voltage reading. The voltage reading from the device is converted to a mg/m<sup>3</sup> value of TCE in the headspace in the container. Using this value, an estimated concentration of TCE in the soil in mg/Kg can be calculated. Any TCE remaining in the soil sample is not measured by this practice. Any other HVOC present in the soil will be reported as TCE.

4.1.1 To use Procedure A to screen a soil suspected of containing HVOC contamination, a sample of the soil is added to a glass jar having an open-top cap with a PTFE-bonded silicone septum. At the time of screening, the temperature of the soil in the jar should be approximately 50 to 120 °F (10 to 49 °C). The soil in the jar is shaken and allowed to settle for 10 min, so the HVOC can partition into the headspace above the soil. After 10 min, the heated diode sensor device is used to screen the headspace in the container. The numerical voltage

<sup>2</sup> 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.

reading from the device indicates the presence or absence of HVOC contamination in the soil. Any HVOC contamination remaining in the soil is not detected by this procedure.

4.2 *Procedure B*—To estimate the concentration of TCE in water known to contain TCE contamination, a sample of the water is added to a glass jar having an open-top cap with a PTFE-bonded silicone septum. At the time of screening, the temperature of the water in the jar should be approximately 50 to 120 °F (10 to 49 °C). The water in the jar is shaken, allowed to settle for 1 min, shaken again, and allowed to settle for 1 min, so the TCE can partition into the headspace above the water. After the sample is allowed to settle for the second time, the TCE concentration in the headspace is measured using a heated diode sensor device, which gives a numerical voltage reading. The voltage reading from the device is converted to a mg/m<sup>3</sup> value of TCE in the headspace in the container. Using this value, an estimated concentration of TCE in the water in mg/L can be calculated. Any TCE remaining in the water sample is not measured by this procedure. Any other HVOC present in the water will be reported as TCE.

4.2.1 To use Procedure B to screen water suspected of containing HVOC contamination, a sample of the water is added to a glass jar having an open-top cap with a PTFE-bonded silicone septum. At the time of screening, the temperature of the water in the jar should be approximately 50 to 120 °F (10 to 49 °C). The water in the jar is shaken, allowed to settle for 1 min, shaken again, and allowed to settle for 1 min, so the TCE can partition into the headspace above the water. After the sample is allowed to settle for the second time, the heated diode sensor device is used to screen the headspace in the container. The numerical voltage reading from the device indicates the presence or absence of HVOC contamination in the water. Any HVOC contamination remaining in the water is not detected by this procedure.

## 5. Significance and Use

5.1 The heated diode sensor device used in this practice is selective for HVOCs. Other electronegative compounds, such as alcohols, ketones, nitrates, and sulfides, may cause a positive interference with the performance of the heated diode sensor to detect HVOCs, but to do so, they must be present at much higher concentrations than the HVOCs.

NOTE 2—For volatile organic compound (VOC) screening purposes, a flame ionization detector (FID) selectively responds to flammable VOCs; a photoionization detector (PID) selectively responds to VOCs having a double bond; and a heated diode sensor selectively responds to halogenated VOCs.

5.2 This practice can be used for screening media known to contain TCE to estimate the concentration of TCE in the media. Procedure A is to be used for screening soil known to contain TCE and Procedure B is to be used for screening water known to contain TCE. Both Procedures A and B involve measuring the TCE concentration in the headspace above a sample. From this measurement, an estimated concentration of TCE in the sample can be determined. Any TCE remaining in the sample is not measured by this practice. Any other HVOC present in the sample will be reported as TCE.

5.3 This practice can also be used for screening the headspace above a soil or water suspected of containing HVOC

contamination to indicate the presence or absence of HVOC contamination in the soil (Procedure A) or water (Procedure B). Any HVOC contamination remaining in the sample is not detected by this practice.

5.4 *Detection Limit*—The detection limit of the heated diode sensor for TCE is 0.1 mg/m<sup>3</sup> in air, based on a signal-to-noise ratio of 2. For a 25-g TCE-contaminated soil sample in a 250-mL container, the detection limit of Procedure A for TCE is 0.001 mg/Kg, assuming complete partitioning of TCE into the headspace. For a 25-g TCE-contaminated water sample in a 250-mL container, the detection limit of Procedure B for TCE is 0.001 mg/L, assuming complete partitioning of TCE into the headspace.

5.5 This practice can be used to screen moist soil samples and water samples. Water vapor does not interfere with the performance of the heated diode sensor.

5.6 Hydrocarbon fuels, including fuels containing aromatic compounds, such as gasoline, are not detected by the practice.

## 6. Apparatus

### 6.1 *Procedure A and B:*

6.1.1 *Glass Jars*, 250-mL (8-oz), approximately 14 cm (5½ in.) tall, with open-top caps having PTFE-bonded silicone septa.

6.1.2 *Scale*, capable of weighing to 0.1 g.

6.1.3 *Thermometer*, with temperature given in divisions of 0.1 °C

6.1.4 *Barometer*, such that pressure in atmospheres can be determined to 0.001 atm.

6.1.5 *Heated Diode Sensor Device*, a device having a diode sensor that is heated between temperatures ranging from approximately 600 to 1000 °C generating an alkali metal vapor stream that selectively reacts with halogens present in HVOC molecules, creating ionized product species that cause a current to flow between a cathode and an anode. The numerical output from the sensor in volts is proportional to a microamp current from the diode and ranges from 0.001 to 20 V with a resolution of 0.001 V. The HVOC molecules in the headspace above the sample are drawn through a probe to the heated diode sensor by a pump in the device. The heated diode sensor device should have a needle attached to the probe of the device so the septum in the cap of the sample jar can be pierced and the needle can be inserted into the headspace above the sample. This needle must be designed to allow make-up air to enter the sample jar from the top so that back pressure will not build up within the jar. Back pressure in the jar will change the air flow rate of the device and in turn affect the voltage reading.

6.1.6 *Tedlar Bags*, 1 L in volume and having a stainless steel valve with a nipple fitting that can be opened and closed.

6.1.7 *Gas Regulators*, for use with the TCE standard gas cylinders (see 7.1). Each regulator should have a short length, about 1¼ in., of ¼-in. inner diameter fluoroelastomer tubing attached to the nipple fitting.

### 6.2 *Procedure A:*

6.2.1 *Metal or Rigid Plastic Coring Tools*, designed for collecting and transferring a 25-g soil VOC sample (see Guide D4547 and 8.1.1).

## 7. Reagents and Materials

**7.1 TCE Standard Gas Cylinders**—These are transportable cylinders containing certified concentrations of TCE in air pressurized to about 320 psi. If the practice is being used to screen a TCE-contaminated media to estimate the concentration of TCE in the media, two concentrations of TCE are required. One concentration is  $220 \pm 10$  vapor part per million (ppmv) TCE in air. This is the high concentration TCE standard gas. The other concentration is  $22 \pm 1$  ppmv TCE in air, which is the mid concentration TCE standard gas. These concentrations correlate with the upper and mid range of sensor response for the device. A 220 ppmv TCE standard gas at 25 °C corresponds to about 890 mg/m<sup>3</sup> TCE in air at 0.75 atm of pressure and to about 1200 mg/m<sup>3</sup> TCE in air at 1 atm of pressure. A 22 ppmv TCE standard gas at 25 °C corresponds to about 90 mg/m<sup>3</sup> TCE in air at 0.75 atm of pressure and to about 120 mg/m<sup>3</sup> TCE in air at 1 atm of pressure. See [Note 3](#) and [Note 4](#). If the practice is being used to screen a media suspected of containing HVOC contamination to indicate the presence or absence of HVOC contamination, only the high concentration TCE standard gas,  $220 \pm 10$  ppmv TCE in air, is required.

**NOTE 3**—For HVOC concentrations in air that are greater than 10 mg/m<sup>3</sup>, the current that is generated by the reaction between the halogen and the alkali metal vapor when the sensor is exposed to the HVOC is a function of the log of the concentration of the halogen in air. The log of 890 is 2.9, and the log of 1200 is 3.1, showing that the log values of these concentrations vary only slightly. Similarly, the log of 90 is 1.9, and the log of 120 is 2.1. These values show that the log of the TCE concentration in air varies only slightly at different elevations (atmosphere of pressure).

**NOTE 4**—The mg/m<sup>3</sup> concentrations of the TCE in the standard gas cylinders can be calculated using the ppmv concentrations of TCE in the cylinders, the atmospheric pressure, the temperature, and Eq 5 and Eq 6, which are given in [13.6](#) or Eq 20 and Eq 21, which are given in [18.6](#).

7.1.1 Transportation of the TCE gas cylinders must comply with current Department of Transportation (DOT) regulations.

## 8. Sample Collection and Preparation

### 8.1 Procedure A:

8.1.1 Collect a soil sample of approximately 25 g using a metal or rigid plastic coring tool. See Guide [D4547](#) for recommended devices. If the sample will be stored in the coring tool prior to screening, it should be collected using a coring tool designed for sample storage as described in Guide [D4547](#) and should be stored as specified in Guide [D4547](#).

8.1.2 Preweigh a 250-mL glass jar with an open-top cap having a PTFE-bonded silicone septum. Record the mass of the jar with the cap to  $\pm 0.1$  g.

8.1.3 Extrude the soil sample from the coring tool into the pre-weighed 250-mL glass jar and immediately seal the jar making sure that there are no soil particles on the sealing surfaces.

8.1.4 Weigh the jar-plus-soil sample and record the mass of the jar-plus-soil sample to  $\pm 0.1$  g.

8.1.5 Determine the mass of soil added to the jar, and record the mass of the soil sample to  $\pm 0.1$  g.

8.1.6 The temperature of the soil in the sample jar should be approximately 50 to 120 °F (10 to 49 °C) prior to screening the sample using the heated diode sensor, so that HVOC partition-

ing into the headspace above the sample will occur (see [Note 5](#)). The sample jar should not be opened to determine the soil temperature. The ambient temperature where the screening is to be performed should be in the range of 50 to 120 °F (10 to 49 °C) (see [Note 6](#)), and the soil sample should be allowed to come to approximately that temperature prior to screening (Section [12](#)).

**NOTE 5**—The temperature at which the screening is performed may affect the HVOC concentration in the headspace. For example, the vapor pressure of TCE at 120 °F (49 °C) is about seven times greater than the vapor pressure of TCE at 50 °F (10 °C). Therefore, more TCE would be expected in the headspace at higher temperatures.

**NOTE 6**—The ambient temperature where the screening is to be performed will be recorded as specified in [11.3](#).

### 8.2 Procedure B:

8.2.1 Mark a 250-mL glass jar having an open-top cap containing a PTFE-bonded silicone septum to show the filling level to give approximately 25-g of water in the jar. Preweigh the marked 250-mL jar with its cap. Record the mass of the jar with the cap to  $\pm 0.1$  g.

8.2.2 Collect a water sample of approximately 25 g directly into the pre-weighed glass jar and immediately seal the jar making sure that the sealing surfaces are clean.

8.2.3 Weigh the jar-plus-water sample and record the mass of the jar-plus-water sample to  $\pm 0.1$  g.

8.2.4 Determine the mass of water added to the jar, and record the mass of the water sample to  $\pm 0.1$  g.

8.2.5 The temperature of the water in the sample jar should be approximately 50 to 120 °F (10 to 49 °C) prior to screening the sample using the heated diode sensor, so that HVOC partitioning into the headspace above the sample will occur (see [Note 5](#)). The sample jar should not be opened to determine the water temperature. The ambient temperature where the screening is to be performed should be in the range of 50 to 120 °F (10 to 49 °C) (see [Note 6](#)), and the water sample should be allowed to come to approximately that temperature prior to screening (Section [17](#)).

## 9. Operation of the Heated Diode Sensor Device

9.1 The heated diode sensor device used to perform this practice should be calibrated and operated according to the manufacturer's instructions.

9.2 After a sample or standard gas has been screened using the heated diode sensor device, the voltage reading of the device must be allowed to return to zero, indicating that the sensor has been flushed with intake air so that any contamination from the previous sample or standard gas has been removed from the system.

## 10. Preparation of Tedlar Bags Containing the TCE Standard Gases

10.1 If the practice is being used to screen a TCE-contaminated soil or water to estimate the concentration of TCE in the soil or water, a 1-L Tedlar bag containing each of the TCE standard gases ([7.1](#)) should be prepared. If the practice is being used to screen a soil or water suspected of containing HVOC contamination to indicate the presence or absence of HVOC contamination, a 1-L Tedlar bag containing the high