



Designation: D7390 – 26

Standard Guide for Evaluating Asbestos in Dust on Surfaces by Comparison Between Two Environments¹

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1. Scope

1.1 There are multiple purposes for determining the loading of asbestos in dust on surfaces. Each particular purpose may require unique sampling strategies, analytical methods, and procedures for data interpretation. Procedures are provided to facilitate application of available methods for determining asbestos surface loadings and/or asbestos loadings in surface dust for comparison between two environments. At present, this guide addresses one application of the ASTM surface dust methods. It is anticipated that additional areas will be added in the future. It is not intended that the discussion of one application should limit use of the methods in other areas.

1.2 *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, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.* For specific warning statements, see 5.7.

1.3 *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

D5755 Test Method for Microvacuum Sampling and Indirect Analysis of Dust by Transmission Electron Microscopy for Asbestos Structure Number Surface Loading (Withdrawn 2023)³

¹ This guide is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D22 on Air Quality and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D22.07 on Sampling, Analysis, Management of Asbestos, and Other Microscopic Particles.

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² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at www.astm.org/contact. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

³ The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on www.astm.org.

D6480 Test Method for Wipe Sampling of Surfaces, Indirect Preparation, and Analysis for Asbestos Structure Number Surface Loading by Transmission Electron Microscopy
E456 Terminology Relating to Quality and Statistics
E2356 Practice for Comprehensive Building Asbestos Surveys

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—Unless otherwise noted all statistical terms are as defined in Terminology **E456**.

3.1.1 *activity generated aerosol, n*—a dispersion of particles in air that have become airborne due to physical disturbances such as human activity, sweeping, airflow, etc.

3.1.2 *background samples, n*—samples taken from surfaces that are considered to have concentrations of asbestos in surface dust that are representative of conditions that exist in an environment that is affected by only prevailing conditions and has not experienced events, disturbances or activities unusual for the environment.

3.1.3 *control, n*—an area that is used as the basis for a comparison.

3.1.3.1 *Discussion*—This could be an area where the dust has been previously characterized, an area thought to be suitable for occupancy, an area that has not experienced a disturbance of asbestos-containing materials, or that is for some other reason deemed to be suitable as the basis for a comparison.

3.1.4 *control samples, n*—samples collected for comparison to the study samples.

3.1.4.1 *Discussion*—These differ from background samples in that they are collected: either: in an area where the dust has been previously characterized, or in an area that has not experienced a disturbance of asbestos-containing materials, or in an area that is for some other reason deemed to be suitable as the basis for comparison.

3.1.5 *dust, n*—any material composed of particles in a size range of <1 mm.

3.1.6 *environment, n*—well defined three-dimensional area and everything that is in it.

3.1.7 *homogeneous samples, n*—group of samples that are collected from surfaces that are visually similar in texture, dust loading and environment.

3.1.8 *loading, n*—quantity of asbestos in the dust found on a surface as measured by the ASTM standard methods for evaluating asbestos in dust on surfaces.

3.1.9 *power, n*—power of the test is the probability, expressed as a decimal fraction, that a specified difference between asbestos surface loadings in two environments will be detected by the test.

3.1.10 *replicates, n*—samples collected from an area that is visually identified as homogeneous.

3.1.11 *sampling set, n*—samples collected on the same day on surfaces in an area for the purpose of characterizing the asbestos loading in the dust of the samples surfaces in that area.

3.1.12 *study samples, n*—samples collected in an area believed to have experienced events, disturbances or activities affecting asbestos-containing materials.

3.1.12.1 *Discussion*—The area in which these samples are taken is called the study area. Study samples are compared to background samples or control samples.

4. Summary of Guide

4.1 The guidance contained in this document was developed for applications of Test Methods **D5755** and **D6480**. The application addressed in this document is sampling to test for differences in surface loading in two or more environments including comparison to environments that may be considered to be “background.”

4.2 Factors affecting the selection of sampling sites and types of samples to be collected are described in **Appendix X1**. These factors include:

- 4.2.1 Uniformity and distribution of dust within a building,
- 4.2.2 The nature of dust found within buildings,
- 4.2.3 The nature of the surface from which samples are to be collected,
- 4.2.4 Past disturbances of asbestos-containing materials,
- 4.2.5 Environmental conditions,
- 4.2.6 Ventilation,
- 4.2.7 Building history,
- 4.2.8 Occupation and activity of occupants, and
- 4.2.9 Outdoor sampling.

4.3 This guide describes statistical procedures to be used for:

- 4.3.1 Defining sampling needs including the size, number and location of samples required to address a particular application; and
- 4.3.2 Interpreting analytical results—estimating loadings or loadings from single or multiple-sample results, establishing confidence intervals for such estimates, and comparing between such estimates.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 This guide describes factors to be considered by an investigator designing a sampling program to compare the asbestos dust loadings in two environments and presents statistical methods for making the comparison. Each user is

responsible for the design of an investigation and the interpretation of data collected when using dust data.

5.2 This guide does not deal with situations where dusts of different compositions or from different surfaces are to be evaluated.

5.3 This guide describes methods for interpreting the results of sampling and analysis performed in accordance with Test Methods **D5755** and **D6480**. It may be appropriate to use the procedures in this guide with other dust collection and analysis methods, but it is the responsibility of the user to make this determination.

5.4 The methods described in this guide are not intended to be used alone. They are intended to be used along with various evaluation methods that may include consideration of building use, activities within the building, air sampling, asbestos surveys (refer to Practice **E2356**), evaluation of building history and study of building ventilation systems.

5.5 This guide describes methods for comparing environments and does not draw any conclusions relating asbestos surface loadings to the potential safety or habitability of buildings.

5.6 This guide does not address risk assessments or the use of dust sampling in risk assessment. Health based risk assessments are beyond the scope of this guide.

5.7 **Warning**—Asbestos fibers are acknowledged carcinogens. Breathing asbestos fibers can result in disease of the lungs including asbestosis, lung cancer, and mesothelioma. Precautions should be taken to avoid creating and breathing airborne asbestos particles when sampling and analyzing materials suspected of containing asbestos. Regulatory requirements addressing asbestos are defined by USEPA^{4,5} and OSHA.⁶

6. Comparison Between Environments

6.1 One use of dust sampling is to compare the asbestos dust loadings on surfaces in two environments. This guide describes several ways in which such a comparison might be made. The user should consider these and other site-specific factors in **Appendix X1**, Factors Affecting Sample Collection, that may affect the interpretation of results and the need to proceed beyond the Baseline Calculations in Section 7.

6.1.1 *Comparison to Background Samples*—If one environment is considered to represent conditions that are typical of a building this could be used as the source of background samples against which study samples from areas in questions could be compared. Areas may be in question due to disturbance of an asbestos-containing material, damage to the building materials, change in occupancy or any other occurrence that could change the asbestos loading in dust.

6.2 Sample Collection Requirements:

6.2.1 *Homogeneous Dust*—A visual determination should be made about the homogeneity of the dust and site to be

⁴ USEPA, 40 CFR Part 61, Subpart M.

⁵ USEPA, 40 CFR Part 763, Subpart E.

⁶ OSHA, 29 CFR Parts 1910, 1915, and 1926.