



Designation: E2242 – 21

Standard Test Method for Column Percolation Extraction of Mine Rock by the Meteoric Water Mobility Procedure¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation E2242; 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 (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

1.1 This test method provides a procedure for the column percolation extraction of mine rock in order to determine the potential for dissolution and mobility of certain constituents by meteoric water.

1.2 This test method is intended to describe the procedure for performing column percolation extractions only. It does not describe all types of sampling and analytical requirements that may be associated with its application.

1.3 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard. The values given in parentheses are provided for information only and are not considered standard.

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, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.5 *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

D1193 Specification for Reagent Water

D1293 Test Methods for pH of Water

D6234 Test Method for Shake Extraction of Mining Waste by the Synthetic Precipitation Leaching Procedure

D7237 Test Method for Free Cyanide and Aquatic Free

Cyanide with Flow Injection Analysis (FIA) Utilizing Gas Diffusion Separation and Amperometric Detection

E29 Practice for Using Significant Digits in Test Data to Determine Conformance with Specifications

E50 Practices for Apparatus, Reagents, and Safety Considerations for Chemical Analysis of Metals, Ores, and Related Materials

E135 Terminology Relating to Analytical Chemistry for Metals, Ores, and Related Materials

E389 Test Method for Particle Size or Screen Analysis at 4.75 mm (No.4) Sieve and Coarser for Metal-Bearing Ores and Related Materials

E691 Practice for Conducting an Interlaboratory Study to Determine the Precision of a Test Method

E877 Practice for Sampling and Sample Preparation of Iron Ores and Related Materials for Determination of Chemical Composition and Physical Properties

E882 Guide for Accountability and Quality Control in the Chemical Analysis Laboratory

E1601 Practice for Conducting an Interlaboratory Study to Evaluate the Performance of an Analytical Method

2.2 Other References:

Meteoric Water Mobility Procedure, Bureau of Mining Regulation and Reclamation, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, 9/19/90

Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater, 18th edition, APHA/AWWA/WEF, 1992

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 For definitions of terms used in this test method, see Terminology E135.

3.1.2 *meteoric water, n*—rainfall that has the potential to contact materials and mobilize soluble constituents from mine rock at a mining or mineral processing site.

3.1.3 *mine rock, n*—ore, waste rock or overburden excavated in order to recover metals or minerals during mining operations or coarse processed ore such as heap leach spoils.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 The test material is placed in a plastic column and contacted with water to produce an effluent containing an equal

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E01 on Analytical Chemistry for Metals, Ores, and Related Materials and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E01.02 on Ores, Concentrates, and Related Metallurgical Materials.

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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.

weight of solution to dry solids during a leaching period of up to 48 h. The extract is collected and preserved for analysis of inorganic constituents.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 This test method is intended as a means for obtaining an extract from mine rock samples. The extract may be used to estimate the final pH and release of certain constituents of the test sample under the laboratory conditions described in this test method.

5.2 The pH of the extraction fluid used in this test method should reflect the pH of precipitation in the geographic region in which the mine rock is being evaluated.

5.3 This test method is designed to mobilize potential contaminants present in the solids, so that the resulting extract can be used to assess leachate that could potentially be produced from mine rock in the field.

5.4 This test method has not been demonstrated to simulate actual site leaching conditions.

5.5 This test method produces extracts that are amenable to the determination of both major and minor (trace) constituents. When minor constituents are being determined, it is especially important that precautions be taken in sample preservation, storage, and handling to avoid possible contamination of the extracts.

5.6 This test method is a comparative method intended for use as a routine method for monitoring mine rock. It is assumed that all who use this method will be trained analysts capable of performing skillfully and safely. It is expected that work will be performed in a properly equipped laboratory under appropriate quality control practices such as those described in Guide E882.

6. Interferences

6.1 This test method may not be suitable for obtaining extracts from finely divided solids (such as: finely crushed drill cuttings, clays, sludges, mill tailings, etc.), due to difficulty in obtaining a representative extract solution. If it takes more than 48 h for the column to produce an extract which has a mass equivalent to 70 % of the dry test sample weight, use of an alternate extraction procedure may be required, such as Test Method D6234.

NOTE 1—See Appendix X1 for the alternative bottle roll extraction option for fine-grained solids.

7. Apparatus

7.1 *Drying Pans or Dishes*, for moisture content determinations, 1 kg capacity.

7.2 *Extraction Column*, PVC column of 15 cm (6 in.) O.D. of sufficient height to contain a minimum of 5 kg of test sample with a feed particle size that just passes a 5 cm (2 in.) sieve and sufficient additional height to contain applied water volume should poor percolation occur. For a 5 kg test sample, a 15 cm O.D. × 45 cm high column is recommended. Additional column height will be required for test sample quantities greater than 5 kg. The bottom of the column must be sealed and

a solution discharge outlet situated above the sealed bottom of the column and below a perforated support plate. A drawing of a suitable extraction column is shown in Fig. 1.

7.3 *Filtration Device*, of a composition suitable to the nature of the analyses to be performed and equipped with a 0.45 µm pore size filter. An assembly for pre-filtration or a centrifuge may be required if 0.45 µm filtration is difficult.

7.4 *Filter Media*, glass wool (inert) or a plastic fiber pad is placed onto the support plate before loading the laboratory sample into the column, to minimize fines migration, and onto the top of the test sample after column loading, to aid in making an even water distribution.

7.5 *Laboratory Balance*, capable of weighing to 1.0 g.

7.6 *pH Meter*, with a readability of 0.01 units and an accuracy of at least ± 0.05 units at 25 °C.

7.7 *Tubing*, surgical or synthetic tubing sufficient in diameter and length for the extraction column assembly (pump, column outlet).

7.8 *Water and Extract Containers*, sufficient in size to contain the water added during extraction. Containers must be covered to avoid contamination.

7.9 *Water Metering Device*, a metering pump or constant head device to insure constant rate extraction fluid application during column percolation.

8. Reagents and Materials

8.1 *Purity of Reagents*—Reagent grade chemicals shall be used in all tests. Unless otherwise indicated, it is intended that all reagents shall conform to the specifications of the Committee on Analytical Reagents of the American Chemical Society, where such specifications are available.³ Other grades may be used, provided it is first ascertained that the reagent is of sufficiently high purity to permit its use without lessening the accuracy of the determination.

8.2 *Purity of Water*—Unless otherwise indicated, references to water shall be understood to mean Type II reagent water at 18 °C to 27 °C conforming to Specification D1193. Type III or IV may be used if they effect no measurable change in the blank or sample.

9. Hazards

9.1 For precautions to be observed in the use of analytical methods associated with this standard, refer to Practices E50.

10. Sampling and Sample Preparation

10.1 The amount of gross sample to be sent to the laboratory should be sufficient to perform the moisture content determination as specified in 10.3, and to provide at least 5 kg of test sample on a dry weight basis for extraction. Gross sample weights in the range of 7 kg to 25 kg are appropriate.

³ *Reagent Chemicals, American Chemical Society Specifications, American Chemical Society*, Washington, DC, www.chemistry.org. For suggestions on the testing of reagents not listed by the American Chemical Society, see the *United States Pharmacopeia and National Formulary*, U.S. Pharmacopeial Convention, Inc. (USPC), Rockville, MD, <http://www.usp>.