



## Standard Terminology Relating to Water<sup>1,2</sup>

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*This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the Department of Defense.*

**accuracy**—a measure of the degree of conformity of a value generated by a specific procedure to the assumed or accepted true value, and includes both precision and bias.

**acidity**—the quantitative capacity of aqueous media to react with hydroxyl ions.

**acidity, free mineral**—the quantitative capacity of aqueous media to react with hydroxyl ions to pH 4.3.

**acidity, theoretical free mineral**—the free mineral acidity that would result from the conversion of the anions of strong acids in solution to their respective free acids.

**analyte**—a possible sample component whose presence and concentration is of interest.

**anion-exchange material**—a material capable of the reversible exchange of negatively charged ions.

**alkalinity**—the quantitative capacity of aqueous media to react with hydrogen ions.

**bias**—the persistent positive or negative deviation of the method average value from the assumed or accepted true value.

**biological deposits**—deposits of organisms or the products of their life processes.

**blank**—matrix carried through all or part of the analytical process, where the analyte is not present, or where the analyte response is suppressed.

NOTE 1—A blank must be appropriate to the analytical process it is being used with.

NOTE 2—A blank is typically used to monitor contamination or to establish a baseline for quantitation.

**brackish water**—water that contains dissolved matter at an approximate concentration range from 1000 to 30 000 mg/L.

**brine**—water that contains dissolved matter at an approximate concentration of more than 30 000 mg/L.

**cation conductivity**—a conductivity measurement performed on water after cations have been exchanged for protons using cation exchange media.

**cation-exchange material**—a material capable of the reversible exchange of positively charged ions.

**caustic embrittlement**—a form of metal failure that occurs in steam boilers at riveted joints and at tube ends, the cracking being predominantly intercrystalline.

**chlorine requirement**—the amount of chlorine required to achieve, under specified conditions, the objectives of chlorination.

**chlorine residual**—the amount of available chlorine present in water at any specified time.

**chlorine, combined available**—residual chlorine combined with ammonia nitrogen or nitrogenous compounds.

**chlorine, free available**—the hypochlorite ions ( $\text{OCl}^-$ ), hypochlorous acid ( $\text{HOCl}$ ) or the combination thereof present in water.

**chlorosity**—the concentration of the dissolved chloride equivalent in water at 20°C.

**composite sample**—a combination of two or more samples.

**concentrate (reverse osmosis)**—the residual portion of an aqueous solution applied to a membrane.

**control analyses**—the determination of specific parameters used as criteria for proper operation of a system.

**corrosion products**—products that result from chemical or electrochemical reaction between a metal and its environment.

**dispersion staining**—the color effects produced when a transparent object, immersed in a liquid having a refractive index near that of the object is viewed under the microscope by a transmitted light and precise-aperture control.

**dissolved matter**—that matter, exclusive of gases, which is dispersed in water to give a single homogeneous liquid phase.

**duplicate sample**—one of two (2) representative portions taken from the same sample or sample source.

**electrical conductivity**—the reciprocal of the resistance in ohms measured between opposite faces of a centimetre cube of an aqueous solution at a specified temperature.

**equivalent per million (epm)**—a unit chemical equivalent weight of solute per million unit weights of solution.

**fixed matter**—residues from the ignition of particulate or dissolved matter, or both.

**flow-proportioned sample**—a sample obtained by collecting an aliquot volume in proportion to the rate of flow of the stream sampled.

**ghosting**—a gas-chromatographic interference, showing as a

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<sup>2</sup> A Summary of Changes section appears at the end of this terminology.

- peak, which appears at the same elution time as a component from previous injection.
- hardness**—the polyvalent-cation concentration of water (generally calcium and magnesium).
- hydrogen cycle**—the operation of a cation-exchange cycle wherein the removal of specified cations from the influent water is accomplished by exchange with an equivalent amount of hydrogen ion from the exchange material.
- internal standard**—a material present in or added to samples in known amount to serve as a reference measurement.
- ion exchange**—a reversible process by which ions are interchanged between an insoluble material and a liquid with no substantial structural changes of the material.
- ion-exchange capacity (volume basis)**—the number of milliequivalents of exchangeable ions per millilitre of backwashed and settled bed of ion-exchange material in its standard form.
- ion-exchange capacity (weight basis)**—the number of milliequivalents of exchangeable ions per dry gram of ion-exchange material in its standard form.
- ion-exchange material**—a water insoluble material that has the ability to exchange reversibly certain ions in its structure, or attached to its surface as functional groups, with ions in a surrounding medium.
- ion-exchange membrane**—an ion-exchange material in a form suitable for use as a barrier between two fluids.
- ion-exchange particle**—an ion-exchange material in the form of spheroids or granules with an average diameter less than 10 mm.
- ion-exchange resin**—a synthetic, organic-ion-exchange material.
- matrix**—substance in which the analyte or property exists.
- measurement quality objective**—the precision, accuracy, and detection requirements for measurement data, based on the intended use of that data.
- membrane filter**—a thin, nonfibrous filtration medium for fluids, with mean pore size larger than 0.01  $\mu\text{m}$  in diameter, with which particles larger than the rated pore size are retained at or near the delivery surface.
- minimum determinability**—the lowest value that can be determined within the stated precision of a method expressed quantitatively in the same dimension that is used for reporting results of the test.
- mixed bed**—a physical mixture of anion-exchange and cation-exchange materials.
- monitoring**—the continual sampling, measuring, recording, and/or signaling, of the characteristics of water or waterborne material.
- multiple laboratories operational precision**—the standard deviation of the results of a series of determinations by several laboratories employing the method with its associated sample container preparation, collection, splitting, preservation, transmission, and storage on a homogeneous sample.
- neat petroleum**—oil visibly free of contaminants.
- noise**—an extraneous electronic signal that effects baseline stability.
- nuclide**—an atomic species characterized by the constitution of its nucleus, specifically by the number of protons and neutrons.
- odor-intensity index**—the number of times the concentration of the original sample is halved by addition of odor-free water to obtain the least definitely perceptible odor.
- odor threshold number**—the greatest dilution of the sample with odor-free water to yield the least definitely perceptible odor.
- operating cycle**—an ion-exchange process consisting of a backwash, regeneration, rinse, and service run.
- oxidation-reduction potential**—the electromotive force developed by a noble metal electrode immersed in the water, referred to the standard hydrogen electrode.
- oxygen demand**—the amount of oxygen required, under the specified test conditions for the oxidation of waterborne organic and inorganic matter.
- parametric system**—a system that uses the response of a sensor to produce an output that is correlatable with the selected parameter.
- particulate matter**—that nonliquid matter, exclusive of gases, which is heterogeneously dispersed in water.
- pH**—the negative logarithm of the hydrogen-ion activity in an aqueous solution, or, the logarithm of the reciprocal of the hydrogen-ion activity.
- phenolic compounds**—hydroxy derivatives of benzene and its condensed nuclei.
- precision**—the degree of agreement of repeated measurements of the same parameter expressed quantitatively as the standard deviation computed from the results of a series of controlled determinations.
- radioactive daughter**—the direct radioactive decay product of a radionuclide.
- radioactivity**—spontaneous nuclear disintegration with emission of corpuscular or electromagnetic radiation, or both.
- radioactivity half-life**—the unvarying characteristic period of time in which one half of the radioactive atoms of a given radionuclide decay.
- radioisotopes**—radionuclides having the same atomic number.
- reference sample**—a matrix whose analytes of interest are of known or accepted concentration or property.
- regeneration**—that part of the operating cycle of an ion-exchange process in which a specific chemical solution is passed through the ion-exchange bed to prepare it for a service run.
- regeneration level**—the total weight of regenerant used per unit quantity of ion-exchange material in a single regeneration.
- relative retention ratio**—in chromatography, the column retention time of a component divided by the column retention time of a standard.
- retention time**—the time that elapses from the introduction of the sample until the component peak maximum is reached.
- rinse**—that part of the operating cycle of an ion exchange process in which a specified water is passed through a bed of the ion exchange material to remove the residual regenerant solution.
- salinity**—the concentration of dissolved matter found in water

- after bromide and iodide have been replaced by an equivalent quantity of chloride, all carbonate converted to oxide, and all organic matter destroyed.
- sample**—a discreet portion of matrix intended to represent its source.
- sampling**—obtaining a representative portion of the material concerned.
- scale**—a deposit formed from solution directly upon a surface.
- service run**—that part of the operating cycle of an ion-exchange process in which a water is passed through a bed of the ion-exchange material in order to remove specific ions from the water or to exchange them for an equivalent amount of a specific ion from the bed material.
- signal conditioner**—the component that receives the output from a sensor and processes it for subsequent use.
- single-operator operational precision, SOOP**—the standard deviation of the results of a series of determinations by a single operator employing the method with its associated sample container preparation, collection, splitting, preservation, transmission, and storage on a homogeneous sample.
- sludge**—a water-formed sedimentary deposit.
- sodium cycle**—the operation of a cation-exchange unit wherein the removal of specific cations from the influent water is accomplished by exchange with an equivalent amount of sodium ion from the exchange material.
- spiked sample**—a sample portion into which a known amount of analyte has been added.
- sterile**—free from any viable organism, either active or dormant.
- suppressor device**—an ion-exchange-based device placed between the analytical column and the conductivity detector of an ion chromatography system, that exchanges counter-ions with hydronium or hydroxyl ions. This process enhances the analyte signal by lowering eluant background conductivity, and, for strong acid and strong base ions, forms a more conductive species.
- surface tension**—a property arising from the molecular forces of the surface film of all liquids which tend to alter the contained volume of liquid into a form of minimum superficial area, expressed as work in newtons per millimetre.
- surveillance**—the act of maintaining supervision or vigilance over a well-specified portion of water so that detailed information is provided concerning the state of that portion.
- time-proportioned sample**—a sample collected at preselected time intervals.
- total Kjeldahl nitrogen**—the sum of the nitrogen contained in the free ammonia and other nitrogen compounds which are converted to ammonium sulfate under specified digestion conditions.
- total matter**—the sum of the particulate and dissolved matter.
- trivial name**—a name that is not produced by any systematic procedure of naming.
- turbidity**—reduction of transparency of a sample due to the presence of particulate matter.
- turbidity, absolute**—the fractional decrease of incident monochromatic light through the sample, integrating both scattering and transmitted light.
- turbidity, Jackson candle**—an empirical measure of turbidity in special apparatus, based on the measurement of the depth of a column of water sample that is just sufficient to extinguish the image of a burning standard candle observed vertically through the sample.
- turbidity, nephelometric**—an empirical measure of turbidity based on a measurement of the light-scattering characteristics (Tyndall effect) of the particulate matter in the sample.
- ultrafiltration, *n***—a process employing semipermeable membrane under a hydraulic pressure gradient for the separation of components in a solution. The pores of the membrane are of a size which allow passage of the solvent(s) but will retain non-ionic solutes based primarily on physical size, not chemical potential.
- DISCUSSION—The ultrafiltration class membranes comprise a range of possible pore sizes, all of which function for the removal of dissolved solids larger than atomic radii, metal ions, and aqueous salts, but smaller than undissolved particulates.
- DISCUSSION—Ultrafiltration membranes are inherently capable of performing the microfiltration of particulates.
- DISCUSSION—Unlike reverse osmosis, ultrafiltration is known to rely on a separation mechanism based largely on physical size exclusion (sieve mechanism). Many other potential influencing factors for separation exist, but the sieve mechanism predominates.
- uncertainty**—(of measurement) parameter, associated with the result of a measurement that characterizes the dispersion of values that could reasonably be attributed to the measurand.
- volatile matter**—that matter that is changed under conditions of the test to the gaseous state.
- waste water**—water discharged from a process as a result of its formation or use in that process.
- water-formed deposits**—any accumulation of insoluble material derived from water or formed by the reaction of water upon the surfaces in contact with the water.
- weathering of waterborne oil**—the combined effects of evaporation, solution, chemical oxidation, and biological decomposition from environmental exposure.

**SUMMARY OF CHANGES**

This section identifies the location of selected changes to this terminology that have been incorporated since the last issue. For the convenience of the user, Committee D-19 has highlighted those changes that may impact the use of this terminology. This section may also include descriptions of the change or reasons for the changes, or both.

- (1) The following terms were added to this standard:
  - (a) measurement quality objective,
  - (b) uncertainty

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