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⟨602⟩ PROPELLANTS

[**CAUTION**—Hydrocarbon propellants are highly flammable and explosive. Observe precautions, and perform sampling and analytical operations in a well-ventilated fume hood.]

GENERAL SAMPLING PROCEDURE

This procedure is used to obtain test specimens for those propellants that occur as gases at about 25° and that are stored in pressurized cylinders. Use a stainless steel sample cylinder equipped with a stainless steel valve with a capacity of NLT 200 mL and a pressure rating of 240 psi or more. Dry the cylinder with the valve open at 110° for 2 h, and evacuate the hot cylinder to less than 1 mm of mercury. Close the valve, cool, and weigh. Connect one end of a charging line tightly to the propellant container and the other end loosely to the sample cylinder. Carefully open the propellant container, and allow the propellant to flush out the charging line through the loose connection. Avoid excessive flushing, which causes moisture to freeze in the charging line and connections. Tighten the fitting on the sample cylinder, and open the sample cylinder valve, allowing the propellant to flow into the evacuated cylinder. Continue sampling until the desired amount of specimen is obtained, then close the propellant container valve, and finally close the sample cylinder valve.

[**CAUTION**—Do not overload the sample cylinder. Hydraulic expansion due to temperature change can cause overloaded cylinders to explode.]

Again weigh the charged sample cylinder, and calculate the weight of the specimen.

APPROXIMATE BOILING TEMPERATURE

Transfer a 100-mL specimen to a tared, pear-shaped, 100-mL centrifuge tube containing a few boiling stones, and weigh. Suspend a thermometer in the liquid, and place the tube in a medium maintained at a temperature of 32° above the expected boiling temperature. When the thermometer reading becomes constant, record as the boiling temperature the thermometer reading after at least 5% of the specimen has distilled. Retain the remainder of the specimen for the determination of high-boiling residues.

HIGH-BOILING RESIDUES, METHOD I

Allow 85 mL of the specimen to distill as directed in the test for *Approximate Boiling Temperature*, and transfer the centrifuge tube containing the remaining 15 mL of specimen to a medium maintained at a temperature 10° above the boiling temperature. After 30 min, remove the tube from the water bath, blot dry, and weigh. Calculate the weight of the residue.

HIGH-BOILING RESIDUES, METHOD II

Prepare a cooling coil from copper tubing (about 6 mm outside diameter × about 6.1 m long) to fit into a vacuum-jacketed flask. Immerse the cooling coil in a mixture of dry ice and acetone in a vacuum-jacketed flask, and connect one end of the tubing to the propellant sample cylinder. Carefully open the sample cylinder valve, flush the cooling coil with about 50 mL of the propellant, and discard this portion of liquefied propellant. Continue delivering liquefied propellant from the cooling coil, and collect it in a previously chilled 1000-mL sedimentation cone until the cone is filled to the 1000-mL mark. Allow the propellant to evaporate, using a warm water bath maintained at about 40° to reduce evaporating time. When all of the liquid has evaporated, rinse the sedimentation cone with two 50-mL portions of pentane, and combine the rinsings in a tared 150-mL evaporating dish. Transfer 100 mL of the pentane solvent to a second tared 150-mL evaporating dish, place both evaporating dishes on a water bath, evaporate to dryness, and heat the dishes in an oven at 100° for 60 min. Cool the dishes in a desiccator, and weigh. Repeat the heating for 15-min periods until successive weighings are within 0.1 mg, and calculate the weight of the residue obtained from the propellant as the difference between the weights of the residues in the two evaporating dishes.

WATER CONTENT

Proceed as directed in [Water Determination \(921\)](#), with the following modifications: (a) Provide the closed-system titrating vessel with an opening through which passes a coarse-porosity gas dispersion tube connected to a sampling cylinder. (b) Dilute the *Reagent* with anhydrous methanol to give a water equivalence factor of between 0.2 and 1.0 mg/mL, and age this diluted solution for NLT 16 h before standardization. (c) Obtain a 100-g specimen as directed under *General Sampling Procedure*, and introduce the specimen into the titration vessel through the gas dispersion tube at a rate of about 100 mL of gas per min. If necessary, heat the sample cylinder gently to maintain this flow rate.

OTHER DETERMINATIONS

For those aerosols that use propellants, perform the tests specified in the individual *NF* propellant monographs.

Auxiliary Information - Please [check for your question in the FAQs](#) before contacting USP.

Topic/Question	Contact	Expert Committee
<602> PROPELLANTS	Kahkashan Zaidi Principal Scientific Liaison	GCDF2020 General Chapters - Dosage Forms 2020

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