

EPA Guidelines

Liquid waste classification test

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EPA 292/03: This guideline replaces EPA Technical Bulletin No. 8, 'Determination of classification of waste as a liquid' (March 2000). It provides information on assessing whether wastes, including packaged or frozen wastes, are classified as liquid.

Introduction

The transport, treatment and disposal of liquid wastes are subject to control. Some vehicles are not equipped to safely transport liquid wastes, and most waste depots are not allowed to dispose of liquid wastes by virtue of their licence under the *Environment Protection Act 1993* (the Act), or the planning approval to which the premises are subject.

Classification of waste as liquid

Summary of method

Place a predetermined amount of waste in a paint filter. If any portion of the waste passes through and drops from the filter within five minutes, the waste is deemed to be liquid waste.

Interferences

Tests must be performed at no less than 20° Celsius.

Apparatus and materials

- *Conical paint filter:* Mesh number 60 +/- 5%; available at local paint stores.
- *Glass funnel:* If the paint filter containing the waste cannot sustain its weight on the ring stand, then support it with a fluted glass funnel or a glass funnel with a mouth large enough to allow at least 25 mm of the filter mesh to protrude. The fluting or large open mouth will support the paint filter yet not interfere with the movement, to the cylinder or beaker, of the liquid that passes through the filter mesh.
- *Ring stand and ring or tripod.*
- *Cylinder or beaker.*

Reagents

None.

Sample collection, preservation and handling

Use a 100 ml or 100 g representative sample for the test. If it is not possible to obtain a sample of 100 ml or 100 g that is sufficiently representative of the waste, use larger samples in multiples of 100 ml or 100 g. However, divide the larger sample into 100 ml or 100 g portions and test each portion separately. If any portion is liquid waste, the entire sample is considered to be liquid waste. If the sample is measured volumetrically, then it should lack major air spaces or voids.

Procedure

Assemble test apparatus as shown in Figure 1.

Place sample in the filter in a funnel if necessary (see above). If the sample is of such light density that it overflows the filter, extend the sides upward by taping filter paper to the inside of the filter and above the mesh. Help the sample settle into the paint filter by lightly tapping the sides of the filter as it is being filled.

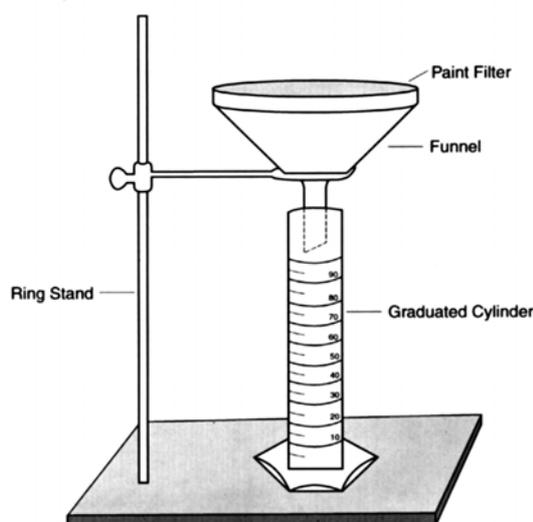


Figure 1

In order to assure uniformity and standardisation of the test, cut material that does not conform to the shape of the paint filter into small pieces and pour it into the filter. Reduce particles to be tested to a size smaller than 1 cm (ie can pass through a 9.5 mm standard sieve.) Do not grind materials as this can destroy the integrity of the sample and produce many fine particles that would not normally be present.

For brittle materials larger than 1 cm that do not conform to the filter, light crushing to reduce oversize particles is acceptable if it is not practicable to cut the material.

Allow the sample to drain for five minutes into the cylinder.

If any portion of the sample collects in the cylinder or beaker in the five-minute period then the material is deemed to be liquid waste.

Classification of packaged and/or frozen wastes

Liquid waste includes:

- any liquid waste regardless of whether or not it is packaged or otherwise contained and regardless of whether or not the packaging or container is to be disposed of together with the liquid that it contains
- any waste that is liquid (as determined by part 1 above) at 20° Celsius.

Currency of these guidelines

These guidelines offer advice to assist with compliance with the general environmental duty and specific environmental policies. They are subject to amendment and persons relying on the information should check with the EPA to ensure that it is current at any given time.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Legislation

Legislation may be viewed on the Internet at: www.parliament.sa.gov.au/dbsearch/legsearch.htm □

Copies of legislation are available for purchase from:

Government Information Centre
77 Grenfell Street
Adelaide SA 5000

Telephone: (08) 8204 1900
Facsimile: (08) 8204 1909
Freecall (country): 1800 182 234

For general information please contact:

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