

Petroleum and Petrochemical Bulletin

OBSOLETE TEST METHODS

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IFIA Member company laboratories test products using methods issued and approved predominantly by internationally recognised standards bodies (ASTM, EI, ISO). It frequently happens that, as technologies improve, those bodies or organisations which publish test methods withdraw their approval and methods become obsolete.

Manufacturers frequently stop producing and providing support for equipment specific to obsolete methods.

Despite approval being withdrawn it sometimes happens that products are traded on the basis of specifications offered or required by one or both parties which invoke an obsolete method.

It is the position of IFIA that when member companies are asked to use an obsolete test method the member company may decline to accept the application of the method requested, and may suggest an alternative test method to its principal, if one is available.

In cases where the principal requests the use of an obsolete or withdrawn method and the IFIA Member company agrees to perform the test, IFIA wishes to make it clear that member companies do not accept responsibility for the results obtained. Withdrawal of a method by the standards body indicates problems with the method, frequently technical in nature. Therefore, while an IFIA member can accept responsibility for correctly following the method, responsibility for validity or accuracy of the results obtained cannot be accepted.

A recommended disclaimer for IFIA Members is given below.

IFIA recognises that there may be occasions when member companies are requested by their principals to conduct analysis in accordance with methods which are not the latest published revision of that method. However, the comments above apply only to obsolete or withdrawn methods.

Recommended Disclaimer

“Warning: The reported findings are based on methods and/or procedures which are now obsolete but have been used at the specific request of our principal. The principal has been informed of the availability of current approved methods and/or procedures which address the same needs but which may lead to different results.”

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Revisions/Reaffirmations

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