



Designation: D891 – 18

# Standard Test Methods for Specific Gravity, Apparent, of Liquid Industrial Chemicals<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D891; 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 ( $\epsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

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

## 1. Scope\*

1.1 These test methods cover the determination of the specific gravity, apparent, of liquid industrial chemicals. Two test methods are covered as follows:

1.1.1 *Test Method A*, specific gravity, apparent, by means of a hydrometer.

1.1.2 *Test Method B*, specific gravity, apparent, by means of a pycnometer.

NOTE 1—Test Method D4052 describes an instrumental procedure.

1.2 In common usage the term specific gravity, apparent, is understood to mean specific gravity.

1.3 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. No other units of measurement are included in these test methods with the exception of Fahrenheit ( $^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) in 5.1 as an example of a possible industrial specification unit.

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. For specific hazard statements, see Sections 8 and 16.*

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:<sup>2</sup>

D1193 Specification for Reagent Water

D4052 Test Method for Density, Relative Density, and API Gravity of Liquids by Digital Density Meter

D6809 Guide for Quality Control and Quality Assurance Procedures for Aromatic Hydrocarbons and Related Materials

E1 Specification for ASTM Liquid-in-Glass Thermometers

E100 Specification for ASTM Hydrometers

E202 Test Methods for Analysis of Ethylene Glycols and Propylene Glycols

E302 Test Methods for Monobasic Organic Acids (Withdrawn 2001)<sup>3</sup>

E346 Test Methods for Analysis of Methanol (Withdrawn 2017)<sup>3</sup>

2.2 Other Document:<sup>4</sup>

OSHA Regulations, 29 CFR paragraphs 1910.1000 and 1910.1200

## 3. Terminology

### 3.1 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.1.1 *specific gravity, apparent*—the ratio of the weight in air of a unit volume of a material at a stated temperature to the weight in air of equal density of an equal volume of gas-free distilled water (see Note 2) at a stated temperature. It shall be stated as follows:

$$\text{Specific gravity, apparent, } x/y \text{ } ^{\circ}\text{C} \quad (1)$$

where  $x$  is the temperature of the material and  $y$  is the temperature of the water.

NOTE 2—Gas-free distilled water is distilled water that has been boiled to eliminate dissolved gases.

## 4. Significance and Use

4.1 Specific gravity, apparent, may be used as a qualitative test in establishing the identity of a chemical. It may be used to calculate the volume occupied by a product whose weight is known, or to calculate the weight of a product from its volume. It may be used to determine the composition of binary mixtures

<sup>1</sup> These test methods are under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D16 on Aromatic, Industrial, Specialty and Related Chemicals and are the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D16.15 on Industrial and Specialty General Standards.

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<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on www.astm.org.

<sup>4</sup> Available from U.S. Government Printing Office, Superintendent of Documents, 732 N. Capitol St., NW, Washington, DC 20401-0001, http://www.access.gpo.gov.

\*A Summary of Changes section appears at the end of this standard

of pure chemicals. In the case of most refined industrial chemicals specific gravity, apparent, is of minimal value in defining quality, although it may detect gross contamination.

4.2 Of the two test methods described, the pycnometer method (Test Method B, 1.1.2) is the most accurate and precise. For this reason it is the preferred method in case of disputes. The hydrometer method (Test Method A, 1.1.1) is the least accurate and precise, but it is also the simplest and fastest to perform and is often entirely satisfactory for many purposes. If the sample is too viscous to permit the hydrometer to float freely, the pycnometer test method should be used.

## 5. Test Temperatures

5.1 Specifications for industrial chemicals often specify different temperatures at which specific gravity, apparent, shall be measured, for example:

Specific gravity, apparent, at 15.56/15.56°C,

Specific gravity, apparent, at 20/20°C,

Specific gravity, apparent, at 25/25°C, or

Specific gravity, apparent, at 60/60°F.

Where precision is desired, it is necessary to determine the specific gravity, apparent, at the temperature prescribed in the specifications for the material to be tested and to use instruments that have been calibrated and standardized at the specified temperature.

5.2 The expression “specific gravity, apparent, at 25.0/15.56°C,” for example, means the ratio of the weight in air of a unit volume of a material at 25.0°C to the weight in air of equal density of an equal volume of gas-free distilled water at 15.56°C.

5.3 It is possible to convert the specific gravity, apparent, at  $x/T_1$  °C to the corresponding value at  $x/T_2$  °C by multiplying the value at  $T_1$  by the factor given in Table 1. For example, a liquid has a specific gravity, apparent, of 0.9500 at 20/20°C and the value at 20/4°C is desired:  $0.9500 \times 0.9982336 = 0.9483$ , the value at 20/4°C. The values in Table 1 are the ratios of the density of water at the appropriate temperatures.

5.4 If the change in specific gravity, apparent, with temperature of the liquid is known, the specific gravity, apparent, at  $T_2/y$  may be converted to that at  $T_1/y$  by the following equation:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Specific gravity, apparent, at } T_2/y &= (T_1 - T_2)k \\ &+ \text{specific gravity, apparent, at } T_1/y \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

where:

$T_1$  = original temperature, °C,

$T_2$  = the second temperature, °C, and

$k$  = change in specific gravity, apparent, per °C.

*Example:* The specific gravity, apparent, of *n*-butanol at 20/20°C is 0.8108 and the change in specific gravity, apparent, is 0.00074/°C. What is the specific gravity, apparent, at 4/20°C?

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Specific gravity, apparent, at } 4/20^\circ\text{C} &= [(20 - 4)0.00074] + 0.8108 \\ &= 0.8226 \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

## TEST METHOD A—SPECIFIC GRAVITY, APPARENT, BY MEANS OF A HYDROMETER

### 6. Summary of Test Method

6.1 The specific gravity, apparent, of the sample is determined by immersing a calibrated hydrometer in the sample at the test temperature. The displacement of the hydrometer is a function of the specific gravity, apparent, of the sample that is read on the hydrometer scale at the level of the meniscus of the sample.

### 7. Apparatus

7.1 *Hydrometer*—The hydrometers to be used shall be those specified in Specification E100, as follows:

Nominal Apparent Specific Gravity Range	ASTM Hydrometer No.
0.650 to 0.700	82H-62
0.700 to 0.750	83H-62
0.750 to 0.800	84H-62
0.800 to 0.850	85H-62
0.850 to 0.900	86H-62
0.900 to 0.950	87H-62
0.950 to 1.000	88H-62
1.000 to 1.050	89H-62
1.050 to 1.100	90H-62
1.100 to 1.150	113H-62
1.150 to 1.200	114H-62
1.200 to 1.250	115H-62

NOTE 3—The ASTM hydrometers prescribed in Test Method A, 7.1, are calibrated as if all weights are in vacuum. Equivalent values at the same temperature for all weights in air may be approximated for ambient conditions as follows:

$$\text{apparent specific gravity} = 1.00120 \times (\text{sp gr}) - 0.00120$$

where:

sp gr = specific gravity determined by ASTM hydrometer.

7.2 *Hydrometer Cylinder*—The vessel in which the sample for the gravity test is confirmed shall be made of clear glass and shall be cylindrical in shape. For convenience in pouring, it may have a lip on the rim. The inside diameter shall be at least 25 mm greater than the outside diameter of the hydrometer used in it. The height of the cylinder shall be such that after equilibrium has been reached, the lowest point on the hydrometer will be at least 25 mm off the bottom of the cylinder.

7.3 *Thermometer*—The thermometers used shall be those specified in Specification E1. Thermometer 90C, a 76-mm

**TABLE 1 Conversion of Specific Gravities, Apparent, from Basis  $x/T_1$  to Basis  $x/T_2$  °C**

Specific Gravities, Apparent, on Basis $x/T_1$	Multiplied by This Factor Gives Specific Gravities, Apparent, on Basis $x/T_2$				
	$t/4$	$t/15$	$t/15.56$	$t/20$	$t/25$
$t/4$	1	1.0008722	1.0009586	1.0017695	1.0029335
$t/15$	0.9991286	1	1.0000864	1.0008966	1.0020595
$t/15.56$	0.9990423	0.9999136	1	1.0008101	1.0019730
$t/20$	0.9982336	0.9991042	0.9991905	1	1.0011619
$t/25$	0.9970751	0.9979447	0.9980309	0.9988395	1