



Designation: D740 – 11 (Reapproved 2019)

Standard Specification for Methyl Ethyl Ketone^{1,2}

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D740; 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 (ϵ) 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 This specification covers two types of methyl ethyl ketone that are used primarily as solvents in lacquers and industrial coatings, but also in adhesives, printing inks, lube oil dewaxing, and as chemical intermediates.

1.2 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. No other units of measurement are included in this standard.

1.3 The following applies to all specified limits in this standard: for purposes of determining conformance with this standard, an observed value or a calculated value shall be rounded off “to the nearest unit” in the last right-hand digit used in expressing the specification limit, in accordance with the rounding-off method of Practice E29.

1.4 For specific hazard information and guidance, see the supplier’s Material Safety Data Sheet for materials listed in this specification.

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:³

[D268 Guide for Sampling and Testing Volatile Solvents and Chemical Intermediates for Use in Paint and Related Coatings and Material](#)

[D1078 Test Method for Distillation Range of Volatile Organic Liquids](#)

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D01 on Paint and Related Coatings, Materials, and Applications and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D01.35 on Solvents, Plasticizers, and Chemical Intermediates.

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² Also known as butanone and 2-butanone.

³ 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.

[D1209 Test Method for Color of Clear Liquids \(Platinum-Cobalt Scale\)](#)

[D1353 Test Method for Nonvolatile Matter in Volatile Solvents for Use in Paint, Varnish, Lacquer, and Related Products](#)

[D1364 Test Method for Water in Volatile Solvents \(Karl Fischer Reagent Titration Method\)](#)

[D1613 Test Method for Acidity in Volatile Solvents and Chemical Intermediates Used in Paint, Varnish, Lacquer, and Related Products](#)

[D2804 Test Method for Purity of Methyl Ethyl Ketone By Gas Chromatography](#)

[D4052 Test Method for Density, Relative Density, and API Gravity of Liquids by Digital Density Meter](#)

[D5386 Test Method for Color of Liquids Using Tristimulus Colorimetry](#)

[E29 Practice for Using Significant Digits in Test Data to Determine Conformance with Specifications](#)

[E300 Practice for Sampling Industrial Chemicals](#)

2.2 U.S. Federal Specification:⁴

[PPP-C-2020 Chemicals, Liquid, Dry, and Paste: Packaging of](#)

3. Classification

3.1 Methyl ethyl ketone shall be of the following types, as specified:

3.1.1 *Type I*—Regular, and

3.1.2 *Type II*—Urethane grade. This type may be suited for use in urethane coatings, provided that the water content and alcohol content are acceptable.

4. Properties

4.1 The physical and chemical properties of methyl ethyl ketone shall conform to the requirements specified in [Table 1](#).

5. Sampling

5.1 The material shall be sampled in accordance with Practice [E300](#).

⁴ Available from Standardization Documents Order Desk, DODSSP, Bldg. 4, Section D, 700 Robbins Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19111-5098, <http://dodssp.daps.dla.mil>.