



Designation: **D5002—18** **D5002 – 18^{ε1}**

Standard Test Method for Density, Relative Density, and API Gravity of Crude Oils by Digital Density Analyzer¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D5002; 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.

^{ε1} NOTE—Subsection 10.2.11 was corrected editorially in April 2019.

1. Scope*

1.1 This test method covers the determination of the density, relative density, and API gravity of crude oils that can be handled in a normal fashion as liquids at test temperatures between 15 °C and 35 °C utilizing either manual or automated sample injection equipment. This test method applies to crude oils with high vapor pressures provided appropriate precautions are taken to prevent vapor loss during transfer of the sample to the density analyzer.

1.2 This test method was evaluated in round robin testing using crude oils in the 0.75 g/mL to 0.95 g/mL range. Lighter crude oil can require special handling to prevent vapor losses. Heavier crudes can require measurements at higher temperatures to eliminate air bubbles in the sample.

1.3 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. No other units of measurement are included in this standard. The accepted units of measurement of density are grams per milliliter and kilograms per cubic metre.

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.* Specific warning statements are given in 7.4, 7.5, and 7.6.

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:²

[D287 Test Method for API Gravity of Crude Petroleum and Petroleum Products \(Hydrometer Method\)](#)

[D941 Test Method for Density and Relative Density \(Specific Gravity\) of Liquids by Lipkin Bicapillary Pycnometer \(Withdrawn 1993\)³](#)

[D1193 Specification for Reagent Water](#)

[D1217 Test Method for Density and Relative Density \(Specific Gravity\) of Liquids by Bingham Pycnometer](#)

[D1250 Guide for Use of the Petroleum Measurement Tables](#)

[D1298 Test Method for Density, Relative Density, or API Gravity of Crude Petroleum and Liquid Petroleum Products by Hydrometer Method](#)

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

[D4057 Practice for Manual Sampling of Petroleum and Petroleum Products](#)

[D4177 Practice for Automatic Sampling of Petroleum and Petroleum Products](#)

[D4377 Test Method for Water in Crude Oils by Potentiometric Karl Fischer Titration](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 *density, n*—mass per unit volume at a specified temperature.

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D02 on Petroleum Products, Liquid Fuels, and Lubricants and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D02.04.0D on Physical and Chemical Methods.

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² 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.

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

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

3.1.1.1 Discussion—

The SI unit of density is kg/m³; the unit of measure g/cm³ is commonly used in industry. Less preferred units, for example, kg/L or g/mL, are still in use.

3.1.2 *relative density, n*—the ratio of the density of a material at a stated temperature to the density of water at a stated temperature.

3.1.2.1 Discussion—

Relative density is also commonly known as specific gravity. Commonly used stated temperatures are 20 °C/20 °C, 15 °C/15 °C, 20 °C/4 °C and 60 °F/60 °F. “Relative density” was historically known as the deprecated term “specific gravity”.

3.2 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.2.1 *API gravity, n*—a special function of relative density 60 °F/60 °F, represented by:

$$^{\circ}\text{API} = \frac{141.5}{\text{relative density}} - 131.5 \quad (1)$$

3.2.1.1 Discussion—

No statement of reference temperature is required since 60 °F is included in the definition.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 Approximately 1 mL to 2 mL of crude oil sample is introduced into an oscillating sample tube and the change in oscillating frequency caused by the change in the mass of the tube is used in conjunction with calibration data to determine the density, relative density, and API gravity of the sample. Both manual and automated injection techniques are described.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 Density is a fundamental physical property that can be used in conjunction with other properties to characterize the quality of crude oils.

5.2 The density or relative density of crude oils is used for the conversion of measured volumes to volumes at the standard temperatures of 15 °C or 60 °F and for the conversion of crude mass measurements into volume units.

5.3 The application of the density result obtained from this test method, for fiscal or custody transfer accounting calculations, can require measurements of the water and sediment contents obtained on similar specimens of the crude oil parcel.

6. Apparatus

6.1 *Digital Density Analyzer*—A digital analyzer consisting of a U-shaped, oscillating sample tube and a system for electronic excitation, frequency counting, and display. The analyzer must accommodate the accurate measurement of the sample temperature during measurement or must control the sample temperature as described in 6.2 and 6.6. The instrument shall be capable of meeting the precision requirements described in Test Method D4052.

6.2 *Circulating Constant-Temperature Bath*, capable of maintaining the temperature of the circulating liquid constant to ±0.05 °C in the desired range. Temperature control can be maintained as part of the density analyzer instrument package.

6.3 *Syringes*, at least 2 mL in volume with a tip or an adapter tip that will fit the inlet of the density analyzer.

6.4 *Flow-Through or Pressure Adapter*, for use as an alternative means of introducing the sample into the density meter.

6.5 *Autosampler*, required for use in automated injection analyses. The autosampler shall be designed to ensure the integrity of the test specimen prior to and during the analysis and be equipped to transfer a representative portion of test specimen to the digital density analyzer.

6.6 *Thermometer*, calibrated and graduated to 0.1 °C, and a thermometer holder that can be attached to the instrument for setting and observing the test temperature. In calibrating the thermometer, the ice point and bore corrections should be estimated to the nearest 0.05 °C. Precise setting and control of the test temperature in the sample tube is extremely important. An error of 0.1 °C can result in a change in density of one in the fourth significant figure.

7. Reagents and Materials

7.1 *Purity of Reagents*—Reagent grade chemicals shall be used in all tests. Unless otherwise indicated it is intended that all reagents shall conform to the specifications of the Committee on Analytical Reagents of the American Chemical Society, where

such specifications are available.⁴ Other grades may be used, provided it is first ascertained that the reagent is of sufficiently high purity to permit its use without lessening the accuracy of the determination.

7.2 *Purity of Water*—Unless otherwise indicated, references to water shall be understood to mean reagent water as defined by Type II of Specification **D1193** or better.

7.3 *Water*, reagent water, freshly boiled, to remove dissolved gasses, for use as a primary calibration standard. (**Warning**—Handling water at boiling or near boiling temperature can present a safety hazard. Wear appropriate personal protective equipment.)

7.4 *Acetone*, for flushing and drying the sample tube. (**Warning**—Extremely flammable.)

7.5 *Petroleum Naphtha*, for flushing viscous petroleum samples from the sample tube. (**Warning**—Extremely flammable.)

NOTE 1—Suitable solvent naphthas are marketed under various designations such as “petroleum ether,” “ligroine,” or “precipitation naphtha.”

7.6 *n-Nonane, n-tridecane or cyclohexane*, 99 % purity or better, or similar pure material for which the density is known precisely from literature references or by direct determination in accordance with Test Method **D941** or **D1217**. (**Warning**—Extremely flammable.)

8. Sampling, Test Specimens, and Test Units

8.1 Sampling is defined as all the steps required to obtain an aliquot of the contents of any pipe, tank or other system, and to place the sample into the laboratory test container. The laboratory test container and sample volume shall be of sufficient dimensions to allow mixing as described in **8.3.1**. Mixing is required to obtain a homogeneous sample for analysis.

8.2 *Laboratory Sample*—Use only representative samples obtained as specified in Practices **D4057** or **D4177** for this test method.

8.3 *Test Specimen*—The aliquot of sample obtained from the laboratory sample and delivered to the density analyzer sample tube. The test specimen is obtained as follows:

8.3.1 Mix the sample of crude oil to homogenize any sediment and water present. The mixing may be accomplished as described in Practice **D4177** or Test Method **D4377**. Mixing at room temperature in an open container can result in the loss of light ends, so mixing in closed, pressurized containers or at sub-ambient temperatures is recommended.

8.3.2 Draw the test specimen from a properly mixed laboratory sample using an appropriate syringe. Alternatively, if the proper density analyzer attachments and connecting tubes are used then the test specimen can be delivered directly to the analyzer's sample tube from the mixing container. For automated injections, it is necessary to first transfer a portion of sample by appropriate means from a properly mixed laboratory sample to the autosampler vials and take the necessary steps to ensure the integrity of the test specimen prior to and during the analysis. Sample vials for the autosampler shall be sealed immediately after filling up to $80\% \pm 5\%$ and shall be kept closed until the auto sampler transfers the test specimen into the measuring cell.

9. Preparation of Apparatus

9.1 Set up the density analyzer and constant temperature bath following the manufacturer's instructions. Adjust the bath or internal temperature control so that the desired test temperature is established and maintained in the sample compartment of the analyzer. Calibrate the instrument at the same temperature at which the density of the sample is to be measured.

10. Calibration of Apparatus

10.1 Calibrate the instrument when first setting up and whenever the test temperature is changed. Thereafter, conduct calibration checks at least weekly during routine operation or more frequently as may be dictated by the nature of the crude oils being measured (see **10.3**).

10.2 Initial calibration, or calibration after a change in test temperature, necessitates calculation of the values of the Constants A and B from the periods of oscillation, (*T*), observed when the sample cell contains certified reference liquids such as air and freshly boiled reagent water. (See Warning note in **7.3**.) Other calibrating materials such as *n*-nonane, *n*-tridecane, cyclohexane, and *n*-hexadecane (for high temperature applications) can also be used as appropriate.

10.2.1 While monitoring the oscillator period, *T*, flush the sample tube with petroleum naphtha, followed with an acetone flush and dry with dry air. Continue drying until the display exhibits a steady reading. In cases where saline components can be deposited in the cell, flush with distilled water followed by acetone and dry air. Contaminated or humid air can affect the calibration. When these conditions exist in the laboratory, pass the air used for calibration through a suitable purification and drying train. In addition, the inlet and outlet ports for the U-tube must be plugged during measurement of the calibration air to prevent ingress of moist air.

10.2.2 Allow the dry air in the U-tube to come to thermal equilibrium with the test temperature and record the *T*-value for air.

⁴ *Reagent Chemicals, American Chemical Society Specifications*, American Chemical Society, Washington, DC. For Suggestions on the testing of reagents not listed by the American Chemical Society, see *Annual Standards for Laboratory Chemicals*, BDH Ltd., Poole, Dorset, U.K., and the *United States Pharmacopeia and National Formulary*, U.S. Pharmacopeial Convention, Inc. (USPC), Rockville, MD.

TABLE 1 Density of Water^A (in vacuo)

NOTE 1—Several metrological entities have issued water density tables and alternative water density data is referenced in publications external to ASTM and this test method. Using water density data from an alternative recognized source does not pose a compliance issue with this test method as the variation in the data typically is limited to the sixth decimal place.

| Temperature, °C | Density, g/mL | Temperature, °C | Density, g/mL | Temperature, °C | Density, g/mL |
|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 0.01 | 0.999844 | 21.0 | 0.997996 | 40.0 | 0.992216 |
| 3.0 | 0.999967 | 22.0 | 0.997773 | 45.0 | 0.990213 |
| 4.0 | 0.999975 | 23.0 | 0.997541 | 50.0 | 0.988035 |
| 5.0 | 0.999967 | 24.0 | 0.997299 | 55.0 | 0.985693 |
| 10.0 | 0.999703 | 25.0 | 0.997048 | 60.0 | 0.983196 |
| 15.0 | 0.999103 | 26.0 | 0.996786 | 65.0 | 0.980551 |
| 15.56 | 0.999016 | 27.0 | 0.996516 | 70.0 | 0.977765 |
| 16.0 | 0.998946 | 28.0 | 0.996236 | 75.0 | 0.974843 |
| 17.0 | 0.998778 | 29.0 | 0.995947 | 80.0 | 0.971790 |
| 18.0 | 0.998599 | 30.0 | 0.995650 | 85.0 | 0.968611 |
| 19.0 | 0.998408 | 35.0 | 0.994033 | 90.0 | 0.965310 |
| 20.0 | 0.998207 | 37.78 | 0.993046 | 99.9 | 0.958421 |

^A Densities conforming to the International Temperature Scale 1990 (ITS 90) were extracted from Lemmon, E. W., McLinden, M. O., and Friend, D. G., "Thermophysical Properties of Fluid Systems," *NIST Chemistry WebBook*, NIST Standard Reference Database No. 68, Eds. P.J. Linstrom and W.G. Mallard, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD, <http://webbook.nist.gov>. (retrieved July 24, 2013).

10.2.3 Introduce a small volume, about 1 mL to 2 mL, of freshly boiled reagent water into the sample tube using a suitable syringe. (See Warning note in 7.3.) The water must be free of even the smallest air or gas bubbles. The sample tube shall be completely full. Allow the water to reach thermal equilibrium at the test temperature and record the T -value for water and the test temperature.

10.2.4 Alternatively introduce one of the hydrocarbon calibration standards and measure the T -value as in 10.2.3.

10.2.5 Calculate the density of air at the temperature of test using the following equation:

$$\rho_a = 0.001293[273.15/T][P/101.325] \text{ g/mL} \quad (2)$$

where:

ρ_a = density of air,

T = temperature, K, and

P = barometric pressure, kPa.

10.2.6 Determine the density of water at the temperature of test by reference to Table 1.

10.2.7 Alternatively record the density at the test temperature for the hydrocarbon calibrant used in 10.2.4 as obtained from an appropriate reference source or from direct determination (see 7.6).

10.2.8 Using the observed T -values and the reference values for water and air, calculate the values of the Constants A and B using the following equations:

$$A = [T_w^2 - T_a^2][\rho_w - \rho_a] \quad (3)$$

$$B = T_a^2 - (A \times \rho_a) \quad (4)$$

where:

T_w = observed period of oscillation for cell containing water, μs ,

T_a = observed period of oscillation for cell containing air, μs ,

ρ_w = density of water at test temperature, g/mL, and

ρ_a = density of air at test temperature, g/mL.

Alternatively, use the T and d values for the other reference liquid if one is used.

10.2.9 If the instrument is equipped to calculate density from the Constants A and B and the observed T -value from the sample, then enter the constants in the instrument memory in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

10.2.10 Check the calibration and adjust if needed by performing the routine calibration check described in 10.3.

10.2.11 To calibrate the instrument to determine relative density, that is, the density of the sample at a given temperature referred to the density of water at the same temperature, follow 10.2.1 – 10.2.9, but substitute 1.000 for d_{ρ_w} in performing the calculations described in 10.2.8.

10.3 Since some crude oils can be difficult to remove from the sample tube, frequent calibration checks are recommended. These checks and any subsequent adjustments to Constants A and B can be made if required, without repeating the calculation procedure.