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Standard Test Method for Determining the Viscosity-Temperature Relationship of Used and Soot-Containing Engine Oils at Low Temperatures¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D7110; 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.

1. Scope*

1.1 This test method covers how to measure the apparent viscosity of used and soot-containing engine oils at low temperatures.

1.2 A shear rate of approximately 0.2 s^{-1} is produced at shear stresses below 200 Pa. Apparent viscosity is measured continuously as the sample is cooled at a rate of $3 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ per hour over the range of $-5 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ to $-40 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$.

1.3 The measurements resulting from this test method are viscosity, the maximum rate of viscosity increase (Gelation Index) and the temperature at which the Gelation Index occurs.

1.4 Applicability to petroleum products other than engine oils has not been determined in preparing this test method.

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

1.6 *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.*

1.7 *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

[D341 Practice for Viscosity-Temperature Equations and](#)

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 D02.07 on Flow Properties.

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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.

- [Charts for Liquid Petroleum or Hydrocarbon Products](#)
- [D3829 Test Method for Predicting the Borderline Pumping Temperature of Engine Oil](#)
- [D4684 Test Method for Determination of Yield Stress and Apparent Viscosity of Engine Oils at Low Temperature](#)
- [D4057 Practice for Manual Sampling of Petroleum and Petroleum Products](#)
- [D5133 Test Method for Low Temperature, Low Shear Rate, Viscosity/Temperature Dependence of Lubricating Oils Using a Temperature-Scanning Technique](#)
- [D6299 Practice for Applying Statistical Quality Assurance and Control Charting Techniques to Evaluate Analytical Measurement System Performance](#)
- [D7962 Practice for Determination of Minimum Immersion Depth and Assessment of Temperature Sensor Measurement Drift](#)
- [E644 Test Methods for Testing Industrial Resistance Thermometers](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions:*

3.1.1 *apparent viscosity, n*—the viscosity obtained by use of this test method.

3.1.1.1 *Discussion*—See 3.1.7 for definition of viscosity and units.

3.1.2 *digital contact thermometer (DCT), n*—an electronic device consisting of a digital display and associated temperature sensing probe.

3.1.2.1 *Discussion*—This device consists of a temperature sensor connected to a measuring instrument; this instrument measures the temperature-dependent quantity of the sensor, computes the temperature from the measured quantity, and provides a digital output. This digital output goes to a digital display and/or recording device that may be internal or external to the device.

3.1.2.2 *Discussion*—The devices are often referred to as a “digital thermometers,” however the term includes devices that sense temperature by means other than being in physical contact with the media.

3.1.2.3 *Discussion*—PET is an acronym for portable electronic thermometers, a subset of digital contact thermometers (DCT).

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

3.1.3 *Newtonian oil, n*—an oil or fluid that at a given temperature exhibits a constant viscosity at all shear rates or shear stresses.

3.1.4 *non-Newtonian oil, n*—an oil or fluid that at a given temperature exhibits a viscosity that varies with changing shear stress or shear rate.

3.1.5 *shear rate, n*—velocity gradient perpendicular to the direction of flow.

3.1.5.1 *Discussion*—The SI unit for shear rate is the reciprocal second (1/s; also s^{-1}).

3.1.6 *shear stress, n*—force per unit area in the direction of flow.

3.1.6.1 *Discussion*—The SI unit for shear stress is the pascal (Pa).

3.1.7 *viscosity, n*—the ratio between the applied shear stress and rate of shear which is sometimes called the coefficient of dynamic viscosity and is a measure of the resistance to flow of the liquid.

3.1.7.1 *Discussion*—Mathematically expressed:

$$\text{viscosity} = \text{shear stress/shear rate or, symbolically, } \eta = \tau/\dot{\gamma} \quad (1)$$

in which the symbols in the second portion of Eq 1 are defined by 3.1.5 and 3.1.6. The SI unit for viscosity used herein is millipascal seconds (mPa·s).

3.2 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.2.1 *air-binding oils, n*—those engine oils whose borderline pumping temperatures are determined by a combination of gelation and viscous flow.

3.2.2 *borderline pumping temperature, n*—that temperature at which an engine oil may have such poor flow characteristics that the engine oil pump may not be capable of supplying sufficient lubricant to the engine.

3.2.3 *calibration oil, n*—Newtonian oils developed and used to calibrate the viscometer drive module over the viscosity range required for this test method.

3.2.3.1 *Discussion*—These calibration oils are specially blended to give sufficient sensitivity and range for the special viscometer head used.

3.2.4 *computer-programmed automated analysis, n*—use of techniques for acquiring analog data, converting these to digital values and using this information to automatically record and analyze torque output from the viscometer drive module and to render this information into tabular data and plotted relationships.

3.2.4.1 *analog-to-digital (A-D) converter, n*—a device for converting continuously produced electrical signals into discrete numerical values capable of being analyzed by computer technology.

3.2.5 *critical pumpability temperature, n*—the temperature at which an oil reaches a viscosity believed to be critical to limiting pumpability of the oil (see 3.2.6).

3.2.6 *critical pumpability viscosity, n*—that apparent viscosity believed to cause pumpability problems in an engine.

3.2.7 *flow-limited oils, n*—those oils whose borderline pumping temperatures are determined by viscous flow.

3.2.8 *gelation, n*—a rheological condition of an oil characterized by a marked increase in flow resistance over and above the normal exponential increase of viscosity with decreasing temperature, particularly at lower shear stresses and temperatures.

3.2.8.1 *Discussion*—Gelation has been attributed to a process of nucleation and crystallization of oil components and the consequent formation of a gel-like mass.³

3.2.9 *Gelation Index, n*—the maximum value of the incremental ratio:

$$-[(\log \log \eta_1) - (\log \log \eta_2)]/(\log T_1 - \log T_2) \quad (2)$$

in which η is dynamic viscosity and T is temperature in Kelvin over the temperature range scanned when the incremental decrease in temperature is 1 K.

3.2.9.1 *Discussion*—The technique of deriving Gelation Index was first developed and practiced⁴ by collecting information from a strip-chart recording and applying the empirical MacCoull-Walther-Wright equation. For further information, see Appendix 1 of Viscosity-Temperature Charts D341.

3.2.10 *Gelation Index reference oils, n*—non-Newtonian oils chosen to give certain levels of Gelation Index as a check on instrument performance.

3.2.11 *Gelation Index Temperature, n*—the temperature in degrees Celsius at which the Gelation Index occurs.

3.2.12 *programmable cooling bath, n*—a liquid or dry block (referred to as direct cool) bath having a temperature controller capable of being programmed to run the calibration and the analysis portions of the test method within the temperature tolerances listed.

3.2.13 *sample preheater, n*—a water bath, air bath or oven, or dry bath (integrated or separate) to heat the samples for 1.5 h at $90^\circ\text{C} \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ before testing.

3.2.14 *temperature controller, n*—a programmable device which, when properly programmed, ramps the temperature upward or downward at a chosen rate or series of steps while simultaneously controlling temperature excursions.

3.2.14.1 *calibration program, n*—a program to run the required series of temperatures at which the torque values necessary to calibrate the viscometer drive module are collected and analyzed.

3.2.14.2 *test program, n*—a program to run the test oil analysis at 3°C/h temperature decrease.

3.2.14.3 *hold program, n*—a program to reach and hold the programmable cooling bath at -5°C .

3.2.15 *test cell, n*—the combination of the rotor and stator. Critical elements of the test cell are sketched in Fig. 1.

3.2.15.1 *rotor, n*—a titanium rotor sized to give a compromise of sensitivity and range to the determination of viscosity and gelation using this test method.

³ Symposium on Low Temperature Lubricant Rheology Measurement and Relevance to Engine Operation, ASTM STP 1143, Ed. Robert B. Rhodes, ASTM, 1992.

⁴ Selby, T. W., "The Use of the Scanning Brookfield Technique to Study the Critical Degree of Gelation of Lubricants at Low Temperatures," SAE Paper 910746, Society of Automotive Engineers, 1991.

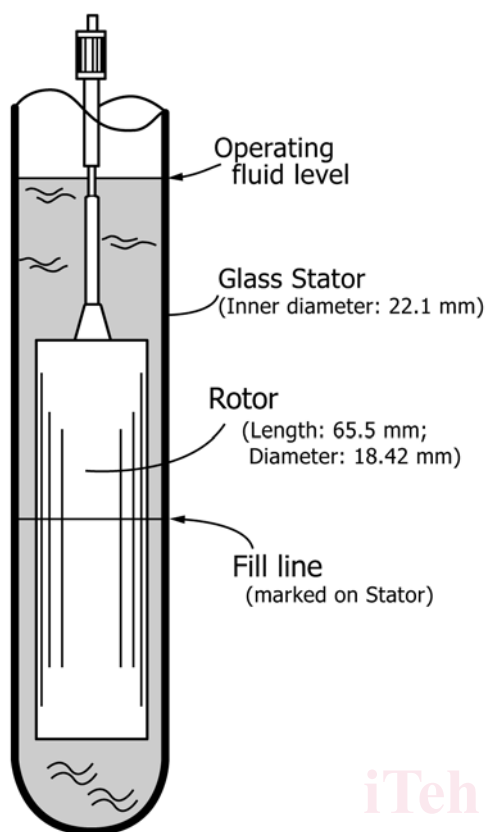


FIG. 1 Test Cell

3.2.15.2 *stator, n*—a precision-bore borosilicate glass tube, to which a measured amount of oil is added for the test and within which the specially-made rotor turns.

3.2.15.2.1 *stator collar, n*—a clamp for the stator which also positions it on the test cell alignment device.

3.2.15.3 *test cell alignment device, n*—a special device used to support the viscometer drive module while maintaining the stator and the rotor coaxial and vertical in regard to the viscometer driveshaft. Later designs admit dry gas into the cell to prevent moisture and frost buildup.

3.2.16 *test oil, n*—any oil for which apparent viscosity is to be determined using the procedure described by this test method.

3.2.17 *viscometer drive module, n*—the rotor drive and torque-sensing component of a rotational viscometer.

3.2.18 *viscometer module support, n*—a part of the test cell alignment device supporting the viscometer drive module.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 Used and sooted engine oils are analyzed using a special rotational viscometer with analog or digital output to a computer program. A specially made metal or glass stator/metal rotor cell is attached to the viscometer and subjected to a programmed temperature change for both calibration and sample analysis. Following calibration of the rotor-stator set, an approximately 20 mL test sample of a test lubricating oil is poured into the stator and preheated for 1.5 h to 2.0 h at 90 °C in a sample preheater. Shortly after completing the preheating

step, the room-temperature rotor is put into the stator containing the heated oil and coupled to a torque-sensing viscometer head using an adapter to automatically center the rotor in the stator during test. A programmable cooling bath is used to cool the cell at a specified rate of 3 °C/h from –5 °C to the temperature at which the maximum torque recordable is exceeded when using a speed of 0.3 r/min for the rotor. After the desired information has been collected, the computer program generates the desired viscometric and rheological values from the recorded data.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 *Significance of Low Temperature, Low Shear Rate, Engine Oil Rheology*—The low-temperature, low-shear viscometric behavior of an engine oil, whether new, used, or sooted, determines whether the oil will flow to the sump inlet screen, then to the oil pump, then to the sites in the engine requiring lubrication in sufficient quantity to prevent engine damage immediately or ultimately after cold temperature starting. Two forms of flow problems have been identified,³ flow-limited and air-binding behavior. The first form of flow restriction, flow-limited behavior, is associated with the oil’s viscosity; the second, air-binding behavior, is associated with gelation.

5.2 *Significance of the Test Method*—The temperature-scanning technique employed by this test method was designed to determine the susceptibility of the engine oil to flow-limited and air-binding response to slow cooling conditions by providing continuous information on the rheological condition of the oil over the temperature range of use.^{3,4,5} In this way, both viscometric and gelation response are obtained in one test.

NOTE 1—This test method is one of three related to pumpability related problems. Measurement of low-temperature viscosity by the two other pumpability test methods, D3829 and D4684, hold the sample in a quiescent state and generate the apparent viscosity of the sample at shear rates ranging up to 15 s⁻¹ and shear stresses up to 525 Pa at a previously selected temperature. Such difference in test parameters (shear rate, shear stress, sample motion, temperature scanning, and so forth) can lead to differences in the measured apparent viscosity among these methods with some test oils, particularly when other rheological factors associated with gelation are present. In addition, the three methods differ considerably in cooling rates.

5.3 *Gelation Index and Gelation Index Temperature*—This test method has been further developed to yield parameters called the Gelation Index and Gelation Index Temperature. The first parameter is a measure of the maximum rate of torque increase caused by the rheological response of the oil as the oil is cooled slowly. The second parameter is the temperature at which the Gelation Index occurs.

6. Apparatus

6.1 *Test Cell*—Shown in Fig. 1, consisting of a matched rotor and a stator of the following critical dimensions:

6.1.1 *Rotor Dimensions*—Critical length is 65.5 mm ± 0.1 mm and critical diameter is 18.40 mm ± 0.02 mm.

⁵ Shaub, H., “A History of ASTM Accomplishments in Low Temperature Engine Oil Rheology,” *Symposium on Low Temperature Lubricant Rheology Measurement and Relevance to Engine Operation*, ASTM STP 1143, Rhodes, R. B., ed., ASTM, 1992, pp. 1-19.

6.1.2 *Stator Dimensions*—Critical diameter is 22.05 mm (± 0.02 mm) at whatever length will satisfy the immersion depth when the upper oil level is a minimum of 15 mm below the cooling liquid level over the entire temperature range.

6.2 *Viscometer Drive Modules*—Rotational viscometer drive modules capable of producing an analog signal to an analog-to-digital converter or other analog signal data processor such as a strip-chart recorder.

6.2.1 With the rotor and stator described in 6.1.1 and 6.1.2, the viscometer drive module must be capable of measuring to at least 90 000 mPa·s (cP).

6.3 *Test Cell Alignment Device*—Simultaneously maintains a vertical axial alignment and reasonably consistent positioning of the rotor in the stator to give repeatable torque readout from test to test when setting up the apparatus for analysis.

6.3.1 *Viscometer Support*—Supports the viscometer drive module and aligns it vertically.

6.3.2 *Stator Collar*—Clamps the stator and supports it when the stator collar is attached to the viscometer support.

6.4 A means of providing a dry gas atmosphere over the top of the test sample is necessary to prevent condensation and freezing of water on the oil surface.

6.5 *Programmable Liquid or Scanning Brookfield Technique (SBT) Direct Cool Bath*—Capable of running either the calibration or the testing program with temperature control of ± 0.1 °C over the temperature range desired at 3 °C/h.

6.5.1 *Temperature Controller* is set up to operate according to two programs, the calibration program and the test program. At any temperature the controller modulates temperature within 0.1 °C of the desired value.

6.6 *Computer, Analog-to-Digital Converter, and Analysis Program*—Means of receiving data from the viscometer drive module and converting this data into the desired information.

6.7 *Sample Preheater*—A programmable water bath, air bath or oven, or dry bath (integrated or separate) for precise control of the test oils at 90 °C \pm 2 °C during immersion time after the sample reaches pre-treatment temperature. SBT Direct Cool bath can also perform the preheating portion of the test.

6.8 *Thermometer*—Calibrated liquid-in-glass or digital contact thermometer meeting the following requirements:

6.8.1 *Calibrated Liquid-in-Glass Thermometer*—One calibrated at 90 °C and reading to ± 0.2 °C and another calibrated at -20 °C reading to ± 0.1 °C.

6.8.2 *Digital Contact Thermometer*—A DCT meeting the criteria of Table 1.

7. Materials

7.1 *Calibration Oil*—A Newtonian calibration oil of known dynamic viscosity over a temperature range of -5 °C to -35 °C.

7.2 *Gelation Index Reference Oils, GIR-series, non-Newtonian Reference Oils*, having gelation indices of established values as well as related values for the gelation index temperatures.

7.3 *Finger Cots*, latex, used to close the top of the oil-filled stators when they are in the sample preheater, particularly if subject to water condensation inside the stator when heated in water baths.

7.4 *Viscometer Heads*, equipped with torque signal output and suitable sensitivity.

TABLE 1 Digital Contact Thermometer Criteria for the Independent Temperature Indicator

Parameter	Liquid Baths	Dry Baths
Nominal temperature range ^A		-40 °C to 0 °C
Display resolution, minimum		0.1 °C
Accuracy, ^B minimum		-40 °C to 0 °C: ± 100 mK (± 0.1 °C)
Sensor type		PRT
Immersion depth ^C	114 mm (4.50 in.) minimum by Practice D7962	89 mm (3.50 in.) minimum by Practice D7962
Measurement drift ^D		less than 100 mK (0.1 °C) per year
Response time ^E		12 s
Sensor sheath, ^F max diameter	4.77 mm (0.188 in.)	3.18 mm (0.125 in.)
Sensor length, ^G max		25 mm (1.0 in.)
Temperature calibration data ^H	When the 'range-of-use' is 30° or greater and less than 90° then at least 3 data points are required. When the 'range-of-use' is 90° or greater, then at least 4 data points are required. In all cases the calibration data is to be included in calibration report.	
Temperature calibration report	The DCT shall have a report of temperature calibration traceable to a national calibration or metrology standards body issued by a competent calibration laboratory with demonstrated competency in temperature calibration. An ISO 17025 accredited laboratory with temperature calibration in its accreditation scope would meet this requirement.	

^A A device's minimum and maximum temperature may be different than the values shown provided the calibration requirements are met.
^B Accuracy is the total combined accuracy of the DCT unit, which includes the display, electronics, and sensor probe with correction factors.
^C Minimum probe immersion depth as determined by Practice D7962, or an equivalent procedure, and is to be equal to or less than the value in the table. This is the minimum immersion needed to obtain an accurate temperature measurement. Thus, the actual immersion will likely exceed this minimum.
^D Drift is the difference between the corrected DCT temperature and a reference.
^E *Response Time*—This applies to a Digital Contact Thermometer's (DCT) combined display and sensor system. Conformance with this requirement is to be provided in the manufacturer's or supplier's product documentation. Response time is defined as the time for a DCT to respond to a 63.2 % step change in temperature. The step change begins with the DCT probe at an initial temperature of 20 °C \pm 5 °C in air and the timing begins when it is transferred to water at 77 °C \pm 5 °C which is flowing at 0.9 m/s \pm 0.09 m/s past the sensor, as described in Test Method E644 or an equivalent method. The DCT display refresh rate is to be at intervals of every 3 seconds or less.
^F Sensor sheath is the tube that holds the sensing element. The value is the nominal outside diameter of the sheath segment containing the sensing element.
^G The physical length of the temperature sensing element. Contact the DCT supplier to determine whether this parameter is met, as it will not be accessible to the user.
^H Minimum number of calibration data points used to establish calibration.

7.5 *Temperature-programmable, Low-temperature Bath.*

7.6 *Torque Signal Recorder*—Computer, analog-to-digital converter, and data analysis program.

7.7 *Constant-temperature Oven or Water Bath*, (programmable or non-programmable) for preheating samples.

7.8 *Operator Calibrated, Temperature Measuring Devices*, for 90 °C and –20 °C.

7.9 *Newtonian Calibration Oil.*

7.10 *Source of Dry Air or Nitrogen Gas* and means of gas introduction over top of stator.

8. Sampling

8.1 Approximately a 20 mL sample of test oil is necessary for the test. The sample must be thoroughly shaken so that the sample is homogeneous (see 12.1).

NOTE 2—The submitter of samples should refer to Practice D4057 to be aware of how to properly acquire representative samples of petroleum products.

9. Preparation of Apparatus

9.1 Pretreat the samples using a preheater.

9.1.1 *Water Baths*—Using boiling distilled water and correcting for barometric pressure (if significant because of altitude of the laboratory), check the calibration of liquid-in-glass or digital contact thermometer used in the sample preheater by appropriate methods.

9.1.1.1 Check the constant temperature of the water bath after ensuring that it is filled with distilled water to a level 20 mm above the oil level in the immersed stators. The temperature should be constant at 90 °C ± 2 °C. Complete this check upon initial set-up or if test results indicate suspicious viscous behavior of the sample. Examples of such behavior might include non-repeatable gelation indices or GI temperature for a given fluid, unexpectedly high or low gelation indices, gelation at an unexpected temperature, or non-repeatable viscosity-temperature curves.

9.1.2 *Air Baths or Ovens and Separate Dry Block Heaters*—Check the calibration of the temperature sensing device by appropriate methods. The temperature should be constant at 90 °C ± 2 °C. Complete this check upon initial set-up or if test results indicate suspicious viscous behavior of the sample. Examples of such behavior might include non-repeatable gelation indices or GI temperature for a given fluid, unexpectedly high or low gelation indices, gelation at an unexpected temperature, or non-repeatable viscosity-temperature curves.

9.1.2.1 Determine the length of time required to bring the sample up to 90 °C. Use this time interval to establish the length of time the sample is held in the preheater.

NOTE 3—Preheaters integral to the dry block bath and calibrated at –20 °C can reasonably be assumed to hold 90 °C ± 2 °C without additional checks.

9.2 *Preparing Programmable Cooling Bath*—If using a liquid bath, fill to proper depth according to supplier's instructions at –5 °C.

NOTE 4—To ensure adequate cooling fluid height above the sample, it is advisable to fill the liquid bath at –5 °C to the appropriate level

indicated by the manufacturer in the owners' manual to avoid over-filling the bath and to always bring the bath back to this temperature when on stand-by. This slows the evaporation rate. In addition, for many liquid baths, operation at some temperature moderately below room temperature maintains best operational response. Finally, it prevents overflow of the bath medium due to expansion of the cooling fluid. Cooling fluid must not be added to the bath during a sample test or calibration to avoid temperature deviations.

9.2.1 Install or check the cooling programs for the programmable liquid cold bath. The programs to be implemented are shown in Table 2 and Table 3.

9.3 Determine that the upper hook threaded (left hand thread) to the viscometer drive module's driveshaft is firmly finger-tightened. In the tightening process, gently and slightly lift the driveshaft.

NOTE 5—Do not pull down or push or pull laterally on the driveshaft as this may harm the internal jeweled bearing and perhaps bend the driveshaft as well.

10. Preparation for Calibration of Cells and Testing of Samples

10.1 Using the programmable cooling bath temperature controller and manufacturer's instructions, temporarily set bath temperature at –20 °C and allow to come to equilibrium for 1 h. For the dry block bath, fill the test cells with 40 mL of methanol and place a rubber stopper on the cells. Check liquid bath temperature, or cell temperature for the dry block bath, using an independent, accurate and sensitive temperature indicator such as a short-range, partial-immersion thermometer or a digital contact thermometer (DCT) that meets the criteria in Table 1. If using a DCT with the liquid bath, insert the DCT so the tip of the probe is between 115 mm and 120 mm below the surface of the bath fluid. If using a DCT with the dry block bath, insert the DCT so the tip of the probe is between 90 mm and 95 mm from the surface of the methanol in the test cell. If the independent temperature indicator shows that the measured temperature is more than ±0.2 °C from set point on the programmable cooling bath or the temperature indicator integral to the temperature controller, or both, either the controller requires adjustment, or the temperature indicator integral to the controller is out of calibration, or both. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for the programmable cooling bath to mitigate the situation.

10.1.1 Perform the steps described in 10.1 at least every 6 months.

NOTE 6—Any time following the procedure of 10.1 reveals a difference in temperature between the independent temperature indicator and the programmable cooling bath set point, after the situation has been

TABLE 2 Program for Programmable Cooling Bath to Obtain Calibration Information—Calibration Profile

Step	Action	°C	Time
1	Cool to –5 °C and hold	–5	^A
2	Stabilize bath at –5 °C	–5	^A
3	Set up data acquisition and initiate program	–5	^A
4	Cool to –40 °C or until 40 000 cP is reached	–5 to –40	1 °C/h or 2 °C/h
5	Return to –5 °C and hold	–5	^A

^A Indeterminate, non-critical period.

TABLE 3 Program for Programmable Cooling Bath to Obtain Information on Test Oils

Step	Action	°C	Time
1	Cool to -5 °C and hold	-5	A
2	Stabilize bath at -5 °C	-5	A
3	Set up data acquisition and initiate program	-5	A
4	Cool to -40 °C or until 40 000 cP is reached	-5 to -40	3 °C/h
5	Return to -5 °C and hold	-5	A

^A Indeterminate, non-critical period.

mitigated it is recommended to calibrate the test cell by following the steps of Section 11.

10.1.2 Set the bath to hold at -5 °C until either a calibration or test program is started.

10.2 Clean and prepare test cell rotors, rotor hook connectors, and stators.

10.2.1 Clean and dry test cell rotors and stators of any residues of oil from previous tests using suitable techniques before reusing.

10.2.2 Attach left-hand threaded rotor hook to rotor shaft connector by firmly finger-tightening the hook to the rotor to seat the connection.

10.2.2.1 Check the rotor shafts and connected hooks for straightness as directed by the manufacturer.

10.2.3 Attach left-hand threaded viscometer hook to viscometer drive-shaft connector (see Fig. 1) carefully. Exercise particular care that the viscometer drive-shaft connector is lifted slightly during hook connection so that no damage occurs to the jeweled pivot bearing within the viscometer head.

10.2.3.1 Check straightness of the viscometer head hook shank by running viscometer at 12 r/min and observing any shank oscillation. If oscillation occurs, the hook must be replaced. If oscillation is in the viscometer drive and not in the hook, the viscometer head must be repaired or replaced.

10.3 At room temperature, pour the calibration oil to the fill line (Fig. 1) of the stators to be calibrated and place in a suitable rack until ready. For stainless steel stators, insert 16 mL of sample using a volume-measuring device such as a syringe.

NOTE 7—Since the calibration oil is Newtonian in behavior throughout the low temperature test range and thus is non-gelling, no special pre-heating preparation is necessary.

10.4 *Computer Data Acquisition and Analysis*—For setting up a computer automated analysis, refer to the owner’s manual or Appendix X2.

10.5 Turn on dry gas supply and set each gas line to deliver approximately 10 mL/min to 20 mL/min to each cell.

11. Calibration of the Test Cell

11.1 Computer Method:

11.1.1 This calibration shall be completed at least one time each year.

11.1.2 Set up cell and viscometer head as directed by the manufacturer using a reference Newtonian oil having an appropriate viscosity range and established as a standard for this test method.

11.1.3 Select special calibration cooling program shown in Table 2 on programmable cooling bath according to manufacturer’s instructions, but do not start the program.

11.1.4 Open and enter required viscosity and temperature data in computer program.

11.1.5 Open main flow control valve for dry gas flow above liquid in stator at approximate rate of 10 mL/min per cell.

11.1.6 Simultaneously initiate:

11.1.6.1 Cooling program on programmable cooling bath, and

11.1.6.2 Data recording on computer according to bath manufacturer’s instructions.

11.1.7 Collect and analyze complete recorded data using program developer’s instructions.

11.1.8 The slope and intercept values of the best line through the collected viscosity/percent maximum torque data and the correlation coefficient, *R* should be as shown in Table 4. If not, another calibration run should be made to check the results and if no improvement is shown, the program developer or equipment manufacturer should be contacted for advice.

11.2 Verify the apparatus performance at least once per year by running a check standard meeting the requirements in Practice D6299. Any single result should agree with the known Gelation Index and Gelation Index Temperature of the standard to within 0.7 *R*, for those measurements as given in sections 15.2.2 and 15.3.2, respectively.

12. Preparation for Analysis of the Test Oil

12.1 Homogenize the sample in its original container thoroughly by stirring, shaking, or rolling, depending on the container geometry.

12.2 Pour the test oil into the stator to the fill line on the stator (see Fig. 1) in preparation for preheating and cover with a suitable material (such as a latex finger cot) to prevent any loss of more volatile components or condensation of moisture.

NOTE 8—A beaker may be used to preheat the test oil (if covered to prevent volatilization of components or condensation of moisture). In all cases, however, preheated oils are to be poured or injected by syringe into their respective stators within a few minutes after completing the preheating step.

12.2.1 Place samples in sample preheater. See also Appendix X1.

NOTE 9—A rack to hold the sample-containing stators is convenient for either air baths, ovens, or water baths.

12.2.2 After the samples have reached 90 °C ± 2 °C, using the time determined in 9.1.2.1, hold at this temperature for 1.5 h to 2.0 h.

TABLE 4 Values for Slope, Intercept, and Correlation Coefficient of the Best-fit Line for Calibration

Viscometer Model	Slope of viscosity/percent maximum torque best-fit line	Intercept of viscosity/percent maximum torque best-fit line	Correlation coefficient, <i>R</i>
TAV-I	>80	0 ± 150	>0.999
TAV-II	>450	0 ± 1500	
TAV-III	>950	0 ± 1500	

12.2.3 After preheating in a water bath, air bath or oven, or separate dry bath, remove the samples, exercising care in handling the hot rack (if used) and samples. Remove covers over the samples at this time. Proceed to 13.4 as soon as the glass stators have cooled sufficiently for handling, from 10 min to 20 min maximum.

NOTE 10—Heating the rotor with the stator and test oil prolongs cooling considerably and is not acceptable for liquid programmable cooling baths.

12.2.4 See **Appendix X1** for details on sample treatment after preheating using a dry block programmable cooling bath.

13. Procedure for Testing Samples

13.1 Prepare to use special cooling program shown in **Table 3** for testing unknown oils on the programmable cooling bath. Follow equipment manufacturer's instructions.

13.2 Set programmable cooling bath to hold at -5°C until test is begun.

13.3 Follow equipment manufacturer's instructions for entering identification of samples and sample cells into computer program.

13.4 Follow 12.2 to properly preheat the oils in preparation for analysis. It is critical to the test method that this preheating step be followed precisely as described.

13.5 *Liquid Programmable Cooling Bath:*

13.5.1 Zero the viscometer head according to equipment manufacturer's instructions.

13.5.2 Insert matching, room-temperature rotor into the appropriate stator in preparation for joining the test cell to the adapter/viscometer head support and proceed immediately to remaining steps for preparation and sample immersion.

13.5.3 Place test cell into test cell adapter according to manufacturer's instructions, taking care that no air bubbles are clinging to the bottom of the rotor when the cell and adapter are affixed to the viscometer head. If bubbles are noted after assembly, tip the assemblage to the side until the bubbles slide off the rotor bottom and hold upright again to permit bubbles to rise to the surface.

13.5.4 Fasten test cell and adapter to viscometer head after hooking rotor shaft to viscometer motor shaft.

13.6 *Dry Block (Direct Cool) Programmable Cooling Bath*—See **Appendix X1** for details.

13.7 Place the assembled test cell and viscometer head onto the programmable cooling bath within 20 min of removing the test oil sample from the preheater.

13.8 Set up the dry gas flow at approximately 10 mL/min for each test cell.

13.9 Set the viscometer speed first to 12 r/min for 10 min to homogenize the oil and then set the rotor speed to 0.3 r/min.

NOTE 11—While performing the round robin testing to determine method precision, it was observed that for some highly viscous samples, after the homogenization was started at 12 r/min, the torque on the rotor exceeded its maximum. This caused the rotor to stop in order to prevent damage to the viscometer head. Analysis of the data from the round robin indicated that this phenomenon did not result in statistical outliers in the data set. Therefore, it was concluded that if the homogenization step stops prematurely because of excess torque, the test method is still valid.

13.10 Watch the viscometer torque or viscosity readout and when the viscometer readout is reasonably stable at -5°C (approximately 15 min), turn on the computer program and simultaneously initiate:

13.10.1 Cooling program on the bath, and

13.10.2 Data recording on the computer according to bath manufacturers' instructions.

13.10.3 At the conclusion of the test, use the special computer program for data analysis and determination of critical pumpability temperature, Gelation Index, and Gelation Index Temperature according to the manufacturer's directions.

NOTE 12—It is necessary to complete Section 11 for calibration of viscometer and cells before using the computer program or the program will not be able to accept information generated during the analysis of test oils.

14. Report

14.1 Report the temperature associated with each of the following viscosities: 5000; 15 000; 25 000; 40 000; and 60 000 mPa·s (cP).

14.2 Report the critical pumpability temperature for the critical pumpability viscosity chosen as a criterion by the user of the test method.

14.3 Report the Gelation Index and Gelation Index Temperature.

NOTE 13—Gelation indices are a measure of the incremental viscosity-temperature relationship of the oil. The value of Gelation Index is essentially constant for oils that develop no gelation. For engine oils, this constant is less than six and is repeatable for any given oil. To avoid potential confusion among those who may think that any Gelation Index value connotes gelation, report the value as less than six, rather than affixing a value. For others who recognize the meaning and significance of the Gelation Index as a measure of the viscosity-temperature relationship of an oil, as well as a test of the ability of the operator and equipment to determine that no gelation is present, report the actual Gelation Index value.

NOTE 14—In oils devoid of gelation (as indicated by the absence of an evident peak in the Gelation Index versus temperature curve) Gelation Index Temperatures are not meaningful and are not to be reported.

NOTE 15—For oils having a viscosity index above 90 and free of gelation down to a temperature of -15°C , if the average value of the Gelation Index above this temperature is 6 or more, the operator shall verify instrument calibration and condition.

15. Precision and Bias

NOTE 16—The following equipment was used to develop this precision statement:⁶

(a) *Viscometer Heads*—TAV III.

(b) *Temperature-Programmed Baths*—Tannas Co. Models PlusTwo, PlusFour, and PlusEight programmable, low-temperature baths.⁷

(c) *Rotor-Stator Sets*—Tannas Co. Part Numbers: Stator No. 1055, Rotor #1030.⁷

(d) *Operating Program*—Tannas Co. SBT Applications Program.⁷

15.1 The precision for critical temperatures derived from this round robin are as follows:

⁶ Supporting data have been filed at ASTM International Headquarters and may be obtained by requesting Research Report RR:D02-1570. Contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org.

⁷ The sole source of supply of the apparatus known to the committee at this time is Tannas Co., 4800 James Savage Rd., Midland, MI, 48642. If you are aware of alternative suppliers, please provide this information to ASTM International Headquarters. Your comments will receive careful consideration at a meeting of the responsible technical committee,¹ which you may attend.