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Standard Specification for Glycol Base Engine Coolant for Automobile and Light-Duty Service¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D3306; 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 reappraisal. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reappraisal.

1. Scope*

1.1 This specification covers the requirements for ethylene glycol or propylene glycol or ethylene glycol containing glycerin base engine coolants used in automobiles or other ~~light-duty~~ light-duty service cooling systems. When concentrates are used at ~~40 to 70 % concentration~~ 40 % to 60 % concentration (allowance to 70 % concentration agreement between manufacturer and user) by volume in water, or when prediluted glycol base engine coolants 50 volume % or higher engine coolant concentrate are used without further dilution, they will function effectively to provide protection against freezing, boiling, and corrosion.

1.2 The coolants governed by this specification are categorized as follows:

Coolant Type	Description
I	Ethylene glycol base concentrate
II	Propylene glycol base concentrate
V	Ethylene glycol base concentrate containing glycerin
III	Ethylene glycol predilute 50 volume % or higher engine coolant concentrate
IV	Propylene glycol predilute 50 volume % or higher engine coolant concentrate
VI	Ethylene glycol base predilute containing glycerin 50 volume % or higher engine coolant concentrate

NOTE 1—This specification is based on the knowledge of the performance of engine coolants prepared from new or virgin ingredients. This specification shall also apply to engine coolants prepared using glycol generated from recycled or reprocessed used coolant or reprocessed industrial-source glycol, provided that said glycol meets the requirements of Specification E1177. Separate specifications (D6471 and D6472) exist for engine coolants prepared from recycled or reprocessed used coolant or reprocessed industrial-source glycol that does not meet the requirements established in Specification E1177. This specification shall also apply to glycol based engine coolants prepared using fully refined glycerin provided that said glycerin meets the requirements for Specification D7640.

1.3 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses after SI units are provided for information only and are not considered standard.

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.*

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D15 on Engine Coolants and Related Fluids and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D15.07 on Specifications.

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

NOTE 2—This specification applies to glycol base engine coolant for automobiles and ~~light-duty~~ light-duty service. Specifications **D4985** and **D6210** exist for heavy duty engine service.

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

- D512** Test Methods for Chloride Ion In Water (Withdrawn 2021)³
- D516** Test Method for Sulfate Ion in Water
- D1119** Test Method for Percent Ash Content of Engine Coolants
- D1120** Test Method for Boiling Point of Engine Coolants
- D1121** Test Method for Reserve Alkalinity of Engine Coolants and Antirusts
- D1122** Test Method for Density or Relative Density of Engine Coolant Concentrates and Engine Coolants By The Hydrometer
- D1123** Test Methods for Water in Engine Coolant Concentrate by the Karl Fischer Reagent Method
- D1126** Test Method for Hardness in Water
- D1177** Test Method for Freezing Point of Aqueous Engine Coolants
- D1287** Test Method for pH of Engine Coolants and Antirusts
- D1293** Test Methods for pH of Water
- D1384** Test Method for Corrosion Test for Engine Coolants in Glassware
- D1881** Test Method for Foaming Tendencies of Engine Coolants in Glassware
- D1882** Test Method for Effect of Cooling System Chemical Solutions on Organic Finishes for Automotive Vehicles
- D2570** Test Method for Simulated Service Corrosion Testing of Engine Coolants
- D2809** Test Method for Cavitation Corrosion and Erosion-Corrosion Characteristics of Aluminum Pumps With Engine Coolants
- D3321** Test Method for Use of the Refractometer for Field Test Determination of the Freezing Point of Aqueous Engine Coolants
- D3634** Test Method for Trace Chloride Ion in Engine Coolants
- D4327** Test Method for Anions in Water by Suppressed Ion Chromatography
- D4340** Test Method for Corrosion of Cast Aluminum Alloys in Engine Coolants Under Heat-Rejecting Conditions
- D4725** Terminology for Engine Coolants and Related Fluids
- D4985** Specification for Low Silicate Ethylene Glycol Base Engine Coolant for Heavy Duty Engines Requiring a Pre-Charge of Supplemental Coolant Additive (SCA)
- D5827** Test Method for Analysis of Engine Coolant for Chloride and Other Anions by Ion Chromatography
- D5931** Test Method for Density and Relative Density of Engine Coolant Concentrates and Aqueous Engine Coolants by Digital Density Meter
- D6130** Test Method for Determination of Silicon and Other Elements in Engine Coolant by Inductively Coupled Plasma-Atomic Emission Spectroscopy
- D6210** Specification for Fully-Formulated Glycol Base Engine Coolant for Heavy-Duty Engines
- D6471** Specification for Recycled Prediluted Aqueous Glycol Base Engine Coolant (50 Volume % Minimum) for Automobile and Light-Duty Service (Withdrawn 2019)³
- D6472** Specification for Recycled Glycol Base Engine Coolant Concentrate for Automobile and Light-Duty Service (Withdrawn 2019)³
- D6660** Test Method for Freezing Point of Aqueous Ethylene Glycol Base Engine Coolants by Automatic Phase Transition Method
- D7640** Specification for Engine Coolant Grade Glycerin
- E29** Practice for Using Significant Digits in Test Data to Determine Conformance with Specifications
- E394** Test Method for Iron in Trace Quantities Using the 1,10-Phenanthroline Method
- E1177** Specification for Engine Coolant Grade Glycol

2.2 Other Document:⁴

- Federal Method 2540B** Total Dissolved Solids Dried at 103–105°C

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.

⁴ *Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater*. American Public Health Association, et al, 800 I Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001, <http://www.apha.org>.

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.1.1 *glycerin*—*glycerin, n*—Specification **D7640** grade glycerin for engine coolant.

3.1.2 *other glycols, n*—in ethylene glycol base engine coolant, diethylene glycol, triethylene glycol, tetraethylene glycol, propylene glycol, dipropylene glycol, tripropylene glycol, and 1,3-propanediol.

3.1.3 *other glycols, n*—in propylene glycol base engine coolant, ethylene glycol, diethylene glycol, triethylene glycol, tetraethylene glycol, dipropylene glycol, tripropylene glycol, and 1,3-propanediol.

3.2 For definitions of other terms used in this specification, refer to Terminology **D4725**.

4. General Requirements

4.1 Engine coolant concentrates or prediluted glycol base engine coolants shall be formulated with either ethylene glycol or propylene glycol meeting Specification **E1177**, water, and shall contain suitable corrosion inhibitors, dye, and a foam suppressor.

4.2 Ethylene glycol base engine coolant concentrates (Type I) may contain a maximum of 15 % other glycols, as long as the physical, chemical, and performance requirements of this specification can be met. Similarly, prediluted ethylene glycol base coolants (Type III) may contain a maximum of 7.5 % other glycols as long as all of the requirements of this specification can be met.

4.3 Propylene glycol base engine coolant concentrates (Type II) may contain a combined maximum of 1 % other glycols (less than 0.5 % for prediluted propylene glycol base coolants, Type IV) and all of the physical, chemical, and performance requirements of this specification must be met.

4.4 Ethylene glycol base coolant concentrates (Type V) may contain glycerin as long as the physical, chemical and performance requirements of this specification can be met. Glycerin blended into Type V coolant concentrates shall be in accordance with Specification **D7640**.

4.5 All engine coolant concentrates or prediluted glycol base engine coolants shall conform to the general requirements given in **Table 1**.

4.6 Prediluted glycol base engine coolants shall be formulated using water that meets the following requirements:

Property	Specific Values	ASTM Test Method
Chlorides, µg/g (ppm)	25 max	D5827, D512, D4327
Sulfate, µg/g (ppm)	50 max	D5827, D516, D4327
Hardness, as CaCO ₃ , µg/g (ppm)	20 max	D6130, D1126
pH	5.5 to 8.5	D1287, D1293
Iron, µg/g (ppm)	1.0 max	D6130, E394

TABLE 1 General Requirements

Property	Specified Values	ASTM Test Method
Color	Distinctive	...
Effect on nonmetals	No adverse effect	Under consideration

TABLE 2 Physical and Chemical Requirements for Concentrates

Property	Type I	Type II	Type V	ASTM Test Method
Relative density 15.6/15.6 °C (60/60 °F)	1.110 to 1.145	1.030 to 1.065	1.110 to 1.160 ^A	D1122, D5931
Freezing point, ^{B,C} °C (°F), 50 vol % in DI water	−36.4 (−33.5) max	−31.0 (−23.8) max	−36.4 (−33.5) max	D1177, D6660
Boiling point, ^{B,D} °C (°F), 50 vol % in DI water Undiluted	108 (226) min 163 (325) min	104 (219) min 152 (305) min	108 (226) min 163 (325) min	D1120
Ash content, mass %	5 max	5 max	5 max	D1119
pH, 50 vol % in DI water	7.5 to 11.0	7.5 to 11.0	7.5 to 11.0	D1287
Chloride, µg/g	25 max	25 max	25 max	D3634, D5827 ^E
Water, mass %	report	report	report	D1123
Reserve alkalinity, mL	report ^F	report ^F	report ^F	D1121
Effect on automotive finish (use clear coat thermoset urethane or acrylic urethane finish)	no effect	no effect	no effect	D1882 ^G

^A Type V engine coolant is ethylene glycol base containing glycerin. Other ingredients that do not meet Specifications E1177 and D7640 shall not be substituted in this blend.

^B For purposes of determining conformance with this specification, an observed value shall be rounded “to the nearest unit” in the last right-hand digit used in expressing the specification limit, in accordance with the rounding method of Practice E29.

^C Test Methods D1177 and D6660 work with glycol/glycerin mixtures. Field test devices based on refractive index and density are under development.

^D Some precipitate may be observed at the end of the test. This should not be cause for rejection.

^E In case of dispute, Test Method D3634 shall be the preferred test method.

^F Value as agreed upon between the supplier and the customer.

^G Currently, many vehicle manufacturers prepare test panels using the specific paint finishes employed on their actual products. Coolant suppliers and vehicle manufacturers should agree on the exact test procedures and acceptance criteria on an individual basis.

NOTE 3—Prediluted coolants are intended for direct addition to an engine cooling system with no further dilution. However, if circumstances require addition and prediluted aqueous engine coolant is not available, use the appropriate engine coolant concentrate (Type I, II, or V) diluted to 50 volume % with water of at least the quality outlined in Table X1.1.

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4.7 When diluting engine coolant concentrates for actual service, use deionized (demineralized) or distilled water, municipal (treated) water, or a low mineral content well water (see Appendix X1, Table X1.1). This procedure will minimize the formation of hard water scale and avoid the introduction of mineral components, such as chlorides and sulfates, which can increase the corrosion rate of aluminum and iron.

4.8 When installed in accordance with the vehicle manufacturer’s recommendations and those on the product label, engine coolant concentrates or prediluted glycol base engine coolants shall be suitable for use in a properly maintained cooling system (Appendix X1) in normal light-duty service for a minimum of one year without adversely affecting fluid flow and heat transfer.

5. Detailed Requirements

5.1 Glycol base coolant concentrates and prediluted coolants shall conform to the physical and chemical requirements prescribed in Table 2 and Table 3 depending on coolant type (see 1.2).

5.2 The requirements listed in Table 2 and Table 3 for prediluted coolants (Types III, IV, and VI) are prescribed for the coolant as packaged, without further dilution or adjustment.

5.3 All coolant concentrates and prediluted coolants shall conform to the performance requirements listed in Table 4.

5.4 Coolant concentrates shall be diluted for performance testing as described in the individual ASTM test methods.

5.5 If the freezing point of the prediluted product is below −36.4 °C (for Type III and VI) or −31.0 °C (for Type IV) adjust with deionized water before proceeding with performance testing. The freezing point of prediluted ethylene glycol base coolants (Type

TABLE 3 Physical and Chemical Requirements for Predilute

Property	Type III	Type IV	Type VI	ASTM Test Method
Relative density 15.6/15.6 °C (60/60 °F)	1.065 min	1.025 min	1.065 min ^A	D1122, D5931
Freezing point, ^{B,C} °C (°F), undiluted	-36.4 (-33.5) max	-31.0 (-23.8) max	-36.4 (-33.5) max	D1177, D6660
Freezing point, ^{B,C} °C (°F), undiluted	-36.4 (-33.5) max	-31.0 (-23.8) max	-36.4 (-33.5) max	D1177, D6660
Boiling point, ^{B,D} °C (°F), undiluted	108 (226) min	104 (219) min	108 (226) min	D1120
Ash content, mass %	2.5 max	2.5 max	2.5 max	D1119
pH, undiluted	7.5 to 11.0	7.5 to 11.0	7.5 to 11.0	D1287
Chloride, µg/g	25 max	25 max	25 max	D3634, D5827 ^E
Water, mass %	not applicable	not applicable	not applicable	D1123
Reserve alkalinity, mL	report ^F	report ^F	report ^F	D1121
Effect on automotive finish (use clear coat thermoset urethane or acrylic urethane finish)	no effect	no effect	no effect	D1882 ^G

^A Type VI engine coolant is ethylene glycol base containing glycerin. Other ingredients that do not meet Specifications E1177 and D7640 shall not be substituted in this blend.

^B For purposes of determining conformance with this specification, an observed value shall be rounded "to the nearest unit" in the last right-hand digit used in expressing the specification limit, in accordance with the rounding method of Practice E29.

^C Test Methods D1177 and D6660 work with glycol/glycerin mixtures. Field test devices based on refractive index and density are under development.

^D Some precipitate may be observed at the end of the test. This should not be cause for rejection.

^E In case of dispute, Test Method D3634 shall be the preferred test method.

^F Value as agreed upon between the supplier and the customer.

^G Currently, many vehicle manufacturers prepare test panels using the specific paint finishes employed on their actual products. Coolant suppliers and vehicle manufacturers should agree on the exact test procedures and acceptance criteria on an individual basis.

TABLE 4 Performance Requirements^A

Property	Specific Values	ASTM Test Method	Test Solution Concentration, vol % Product
Corrosion in glassware		D1384 ^B	33
Weight loss, mg/specimen			
copper	10 max		
solder	30 max		
brass	10 max		
steel	10 max		
cast iron	10 max		
aluminum	30 max		
Simulated service test		D2570 ^C	44
Weight loss, mg/specimen			
copper	20 max		
solder	60 max		
brass	20 max		
steel	20 max		
cast iron	20 max		
aluminum	60 max		
Corrosion of Cast Aluminum Alloys at Heat-Rejecting Surfaces, mg/cm ² /week	1.0 max	D4340 ^D	25
Foaming		D1881 ^E	33
Volume, mL	150 max		
Break time, s	5 max		
Cavitation-Erosion	8 min	D2809 ^F	17
Rating for pitting, cavitation, and erosion of the water pump			

^A For engine coolant concentrates, test solutions shall be prepared in accordance with the directions provided in the individual ASTM test methods noted. For prediluted engine coolants, prepare test solutions using the directions provided in Footnotes B through F.

^B For prediluted coolants, prepare the test solution by mixing 67 volume % of the adjusted (see 5.5) prediluted product with 33 volume % ASTM Type IV reagent water. Add 99 mg of sodium sulfate, 110 mg of sodium chloride, and 92 mg of sodium bicarbonate per litre of test solution.

^C For prediluted coolants, prepare the test solution by mixing 88 volume % of the adjusted (see 5.5) prediluted product with 12 volume % ASTM Type IV reagent water. Add 83 mg of sodium sulfate, 92 mg of sodium chloride, and 77 mg of sodium bicarbonate per litre of test solution.

^D For prediluted coolants, prepare the test solution by mixing 50 volume % of the adjusted (see 5.5) prediluted product with 50 volume % ASTM Type IV reagent water. Add 165 mg of sodium chloride per litre of test solution.

^E For prediluted coolants, prepare the test solution by mixing 66 volume % of the adjusted (see 5.5) prediluted product with 34 volume % ASTM Type II reagent water.

^F For prediluted coolants, prepare the test solution by mixing 33 volume % of the adjusted (see 5.5) prediluted product with 67 volume % ASTM Type IV reagent water. Add 123 mg of sodium sulfate, 137 mg of sodium chloride, and 115 mg of sodium bicarbonate per litre of test solution.