



Designation: D 5006 – 96

An American National Standard

Standard Test Method for Measurement of Fuel System Icing Inhibitors (Ether Type) in Aviation Fuels¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D 5006; 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 Department of Defense.

1. Scope

1.1 This test method describes a technique for measuring the concentration of Ethylene Glycol Monomethyl Ether (EGME) and Diethylene Glycol Monomethyl Ether (DiEGME) in aviation fuels. The HB and Brix scale refractometers are specified to determine the concentration of these fuel system icing inhibitors (FSII) by measuring the refractive index of a water extract. Precision estimates have been determined for the EGME and DiEGME additives using specific extraction ratios with a wide variety of fuel types. The extraction ratios are high enough that portable hand-held refractometers can be used, but not so high as to sacrifice accuracy or linearity, or both, in the 0.01 to 0.25 vol % range of interest.

1.2 This test method does not identify which FSII additive is present. The analyst must know which additive is to be measured prior to performing the test. Consult the appropriate fuel specification to determine which additive is to be measured.

1.3 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the 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 and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.* For specific hazard statements, see Note 1, Note 2, Note 4, Note 5, Note 6, Note 7, and Note 8.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

E 1 Specification for ASTM Thermometers²

E 29 Practice for Using Significant Digits in Test Data to Determine Conformance with Specifications³

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.1.1 **Brix scale**—a refractometer with a refractive index scale calibrated to weight percent cane sugar (sucrose).

3.1.2 **HB**—a refractometer that can be used in a temperature range from 18 to 35°C without incorporating a temperature correction factor.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 In order to determine the concentration of fuel system icing inhibitor in aviation fuel, a measured volume of fuel is extracted with a fixed ratio of water. The extraction procedure includes sufficient agitation and contacting time to ensure that equilibrium distributions are attained. With the HB refractometer, several drops of the water extract are placed on the prism face and the volume percent FSII is read directly from a custom graduated scale printed on the reticule. If the Brix refractometer is used, a temperature correction factor is first applied to the reading, multiplied by 2 and divided by 100 to calculate volume percent FSII.

NOTE 1—**Warning:** Ethylene glycol monomethyl ether, (EGME). Combustible, toxic material.⁴

Precaution—In addition to other precautions, EGME has been shown to be a teratogen in animals. Avoid inhalation. Do not get in eyes, on skin, or on clothing. Wash thoroughly after handling.

NOTE 2—**Warning:** Diethylene glycol monomethyl ether (Di-EGME), Slightly toxic material. This material caused slight embryo-fetal toxicity (delayed development) but no increase in birth defects in laboratory animals. Consult the suppliers' material safety data sheet.

NOTE 3—This test method is semi-quantitative if mixtures of the ether-type additives are used. Methanol is not detected because of the similarity of water/methanol refractive indices, and the presence of methanol in fuel containing other additives results in lower than true measurements.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 Fuel system icing inhibitors are miscible with water and can be readily extracted from the fuel by contact with water

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² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 14.03.

³ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 14.02.

⁴ For more detailed information on ethylene glycol monomethyl ether, refer to the *Federal Register*, Vol 51, No. 97, dated Tuesday, May 20, 1986. Consult the supplier's material safety data sheet.

during shipping and in storage. Methods are therefore needed to check the additive content in the fuel to ensure proper additive concentration in the aircraft.

5.2 This test method is applicable to analyses performed in the field or in a laboratory.

6. Apparatus

6.1 *Refractometer*—The HB temperature compensated, direct reading refractometer and the 0 to 30 or 0 to 16 Brix have been found satisfactory for use.

6.2 *Extraction Vessel*—Any suitable vessel of at least 200 mL with provisions for isolating a small column of water extract. Examples are separatory funnels, (glass or plastic), or plastic dropping bottles.

6.3 *Measuring Vessel*—Any vessel capable of measuring up to 160 mL of fuel to an accuracy of ± 2 mL, such as a 250-mL graduated cylinder, or other calibrated container.

6.4 *Water Dispenser*—2.0-mL pipettes are preferred, but syringes or burettes not exceeding 5.0-mL capacity that can dispense 2.0 ± 0.2 mL may be used.

6.5 *Thermometer*—The thermometer must have suitable range to measure air and fuel temperature in the field. Accurate to $\pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ and meeting Specification E 1.

7. Reagents and Materials.

7.1 *Water*—Distilled or deionized water is preferred for the extraction procedure, but potable water may be used.

8. Calibration

8.1 Calibration of the HB or Brix scale refractometer consists of setting the reading obtained with water at ambient temperature to 0.0 with the zero adjustment.

8.2 The calibration step is incorporated into the procedure to minimize the effect of temperature changes between the time of calibration and measurement.

NOTE 4—Caution: The extraction, calibration, and measurement steps should be done at ambient conditions. Avoid placing the refractometer on hot or cold surfaces, in pockets on your person, or other locations that would change the temperature of the instrument from ambient. When setting zero or making a measurement, take care not to heat or cool the refractometer from ambient.

9. Procedure

9.1 *Extraction Procedure for the HB Refractometer (Temperature Compensated, Direct Reading):*

9.1.1 Locate the thermometer and refractometer where they will remain at ambient temperature during the test.

9.1.2 Measure 160 mL of fuel to be tested into the extraction vessel.

9.1.3 Measure 2.0 mL of water into the extraction vessel.

9.2 *Extraction Procedure for the Brix Scale Refractometer (Non-Temperature Compensated):*

9.2.1 Locate the thermometer and refractometer where they will remain at ambient temperature during the test.

9.2.1.1 For ethylene glycol monomethyl ether (EGME), measure 140 mL of the fuel to be tested into the extraction vessel.

NOTE 5—Warning: Combustible, toxic material.

9.2.1.2 For diethylene glycol monomethyl ether (DiEGME), measure 80 mL of the fuel to be tested into the extraction vessel.

9.2.2 Measure 1.0 mL of water into the extraction vessel.

9.3 *Procedure for the Determination of Fuel System Icing Inhibitor:*

9.3.1 Shake the extraction vessel vigorously for a minimum of 5 min for all fuels.

9.3.1.1 Mechanical shakers may be used provided thorough intermixing of the aqueous and fuel phases occurs, similar to that obtained by hand shaking.

NOTE 6—Caution: Following the extraction procedures is most critical. Failure to extract for the specified time or failure to provide vigorous agitation can result in false readings. If lower than expected readings are obtained, a second test should be done with a longer extraction time.

9.3.2 Allow the extraction vessel to sit undisturbed at ambient temperature for a period of at least 2 min to allow the water to settle to the bottom.

NOTE 7—Caution: Fuel entrained in the water causes an indistinct refractometer reading. In most cases fuel residue can be eliminated by *SLOWLY* lowering the refractometer cover. The surface tension of water will sweep fuel off the prism surface.

9.3.3 Open the cover of the refractometer prism and wipe it clean with a tissue. Place several drops of the water used for the extraction on the prism face.

9.3.4 Close the cover and view the scale through the eyepiece. Adjust the focus if necessary to bring the numbered scale into focus. Observe the position of the shadow line on the numbered scale.

9.3.5 Rotate the zero adjustment knob or set screw so that the shadow line intersects at 0.0 on the HB or Brix scale refractometer.

9.3.6 Open the prism cover and wipe the surface clean with a tissue.

9.3.7 Isolate several drops of the water extract from the extraction vessel and place on the prism face.

9.3.7.1 If a separatory funnel is used, it may be necessary to collect some extract into a smaller container, and then transfer several drops to the prism face with a clean eyedropper, syringe or pipette.

9.3.7.2 If a dropping bottle is used as an extraction vessel, place it right side up, remove the cap, squeeze slightly, and replace the cap with the bottle under a slight vacuum. Invert the bottle and allow the water extract to settle to the bottom. Uncap the bottle and squeeze it gently until several drops of extract are collected on a tissue held in the same hand as the refractometer, and then allow several drops of the water extract to fall onto the prism face.

9.3.8 *SLOWLY* lower the prism cover into place using the same technique described in 9.3.4. Observe and record the position of the shadow line.

9.3.9 Record the ambient temperature to the nearest degree Centigrade using a thermometer.

9.3.10 Properly dispose of test fluids, wash apparatus with soap and water, and dry all items.

NOTE 8—Caution: Treat the refractometer as an optical instrument and avoid damage to the lens and window elements. Store the refractometer in a protective cover or case.