



Standard Specification for ASTM Hydrometers¹

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This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the Department of Defense.

1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers glass hydrometers graduated in systems required by the various tests in which their use is required.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

D 287 Test Method for API Gravity of Crude Petroleum and Petroleum Products (Hydrometer Method)²

D 1250 Guide for Petroleum Measurement Tables²

E 1 Specification for ASTM Thermometers³

E 77 Test Method for Inspection and Verification of Thermometers³

E 126 Test Method for Inspection and Verification of Hydrometers³

E 344 Terminology Relating to Thermometry and Hydrometry³

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—The definitions given in Terminology E 344 apply.

3.2 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.2.1 *length of the scale, n*—the length of the nominal range in the stem, not including graduations extending above and below the nominal limits.

3.2.2 *top of the hydrometer, n*—the top of the finished instrument.

3.2.3 *total length, n*—the overall length of the finished hydrometer.

4. Specifications

4.1 Individual hydrometers shall conform to the detailed specifications in Table 1 and to the general requirements specified in Sections 5-15.

NOTE 1—Changes in this specification may be made from time to time which do not affect the basic characteristics of the hydrometers. Hydrom-

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² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 05.01.

³ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 14.03.

eters manufactured prior to the adoption of the specifications will retain the same official status as those meeting current specifications.

5. Type

5.1 Hydrometers shall be of the constant-mass, variable-displacement type. Hydrometers shall be made of glass, except for the scale, ballasting material, and the thermometric liquid of thermohydrometers.

5.2 The outer surface of the stem and body shall be symmetrical about the vertical axis. There shall be no uneven or unnecessary thickening of the walls, and no abrupt changes or constrictions that would hinder thorough cleaning or tend to trap air bubbles when the instrument is immersed.

5.3 The hydrometer shall always float with its axis vertical.

5.4 The hydrometer shall be thoroughly dry on the inside when sealed. The top of the stem shall be neatly rounded without unnecessary thickening.

5.5 The glass shall be smooth, transparent, and free of bubbles, striae, or other imperfections that might interfere with the use of the hydrometer. The glass shall adequately resist the reaction of chemical agents to which hydrometers may be exposed, and also shall have suitable thermal properties to permit its use over the range of temperatures to which it may be subjected. In general, glasses suitable for constructing the bulbs of thermometers are satisfactory for hydrometers.

NOTE 2—The API hydrometers are intended to be used in conjunction with Test Method D 287, hydrometer readings being corrected using Guide D 1250, IP 200. Therefore, these hydrometers shall be made of glass having a cubical coefficient of expansion of approximately $0.0000128/1^{\circ}\text{F}$ at 60°F .

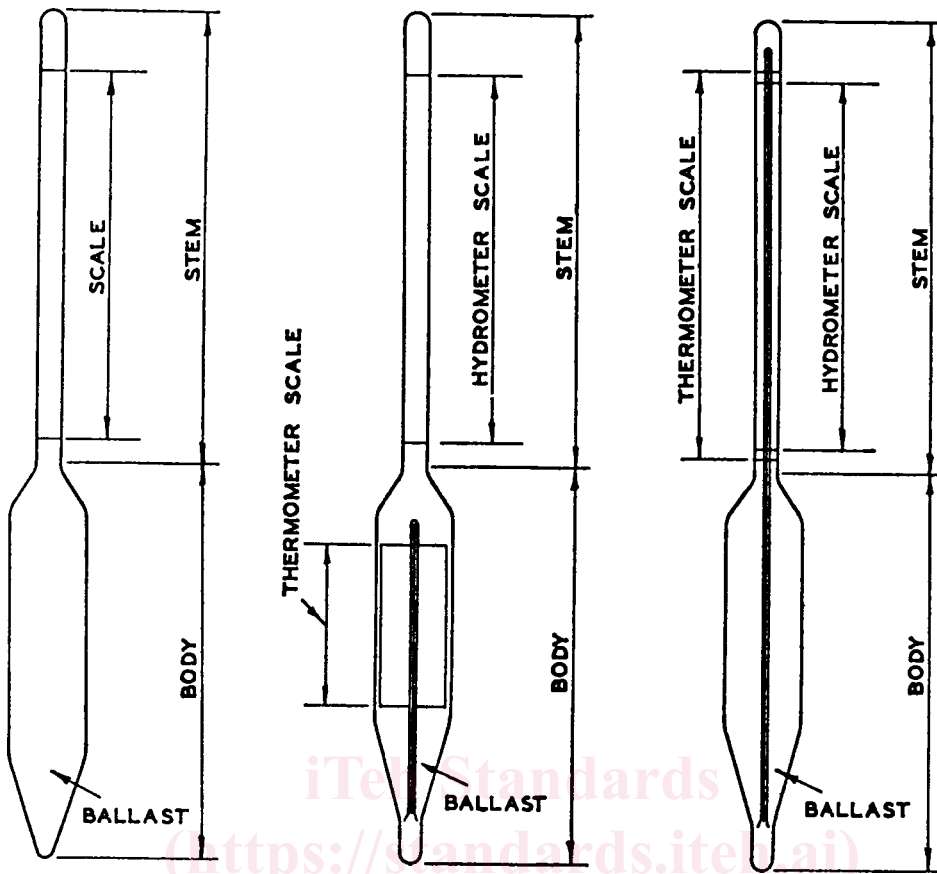
6. Body

6.1 The preferred shapes for the bodies of hydrometers are shown in Figs. 1 and 2.

7. Ballast

7.1 Material used for ballast shall be secured to the lower part of the body, and no loose material of any sort may be inside a hydrometer. When a cement is used to hold the ballast securely in place, this cement shall not soften below 105°C (221°F).

7.2 When mercury is used for weighting, it shall be placed in a small bulb below the main bulb of the hydrometer, and completely separated from the main bulb by means of a glass



(a) Plain Hydrometer

(b) Thermohydrometer with Thermometer in Body

(c) Thermohydrometer with Thermometer in Stem

FIG. 1 Typical Hydrometers Designs

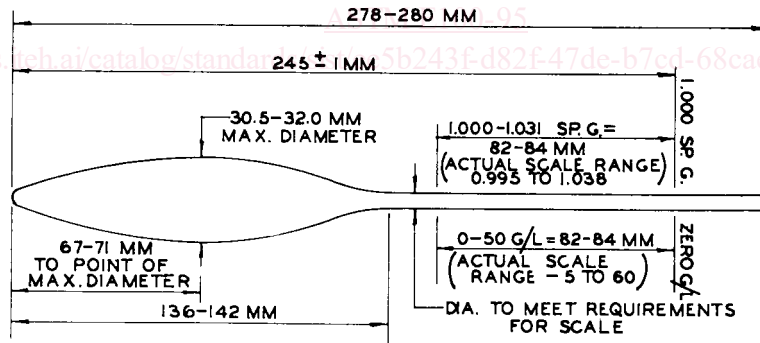


FIG. 2 Soil Hydrometers

partition or by sealing the small opening between bulbs with a suitable cement. Solid material, such as shot, also may be placed in a similar small bulb.

8. Stem

8.1 The stem shall be uniform in cross section, with no perceptible irregularities. It shall extend above the top graduation at least 15 mm, and remain cylindrical for at least 3 mm below the lowest graduation.

9. Scale

9.1 The material for the scale is optional. If paper is used, only No. 1 sulfite paper or ledger paper shall be used. The scale

may be anchored by a design which prevents it from moving; otherwise it shall be fixed in place with a cement that will not soften below 105°C (221°F) and will not deteriorate with time. The paper shall show no evidence of scorching or charring when received, or after use at 105°C (221°F). The scale must be straight and without twist.

10. Markings

10.1 Graduation lines and inscriptions shall be in a permanent black marking material, such as India ink.

10.2 All graduation lines shall be straight, fine lines not exceeding one fifth of the graduation interval in thickness, and in no case more than 0.2 mm. The lines shall be perpendicular

to the vertical axis of the hydrometer. The lengths of main division lines, and the subdivision lines, shall be so chosen as to facilitate readings. The shortest lines shall be at least 2 mm long.

10.3 All numbers of the API hydrometers must be complete. The numbers for 0.050 lines on specific gravity and density hydrometers must include the values for the first three decimal places, for example: 0.750, 0.900, 1.100; the other numbered lines may be abbreviated.

10.4 For cemented scales, there shall be a permanent reference mark on the stem of the hydrometer corresponding to a designated reference mark on the scale.

11. Graduation

11.1 All hydrometers shall be graduated to read correctly where the plane of the level liquid surface intersects the stem.

11.2 Hydrometers indicating density shall be graduated to indicate, at the temperature marked on the scale, the density of liquids in kilograms per cubic metre.

11.3 Specific gravity hydrometers shall be graduated to indicate the ratio of the mass of a unit volume of the liquid at the stated temperature to the mass of the same volume of gas-free distilled water at a stated temperature.

11.4 API hydrometers shall be graduated to give degrees of API gravity obtained as follows:

$$\text{API Gravity, deg} = 141.5/(\text{sp gr } 60/60^{\circ}\text{F}) - 131.5 \quad (1)$$

11.5 A list of liquids suitable for comparison tests of hydrometers will be found in Table 1 of Test Method E 126.

12. Thermohydrometers

12.1 The thermometer shall be of the mercury-in-glass type, unless otherwise specified.

12.2 The capillary stem shall be essentially parallel to the hydrometer axis.

12.3 When the thermometer scale is located in the stem of the hydrometer, the scale shall be in red to distinguish it from the hydrometer scale.

12.4 When the thermometer scale is in the stem, calibration and testing of the thermometer shall be based on immersion of the thermometer scale to the level of the mercury in the thermometer stem (total immersion).

12.5 The requirements in Section 9 for the scale of the hydrometer shall apply also to the scale of the thermometer.

12.6 The thermometer shall be calibrated in accordance with Test Method E 77.

13. Special Inscription

13.1 There shall appear on the scale or an extension thereof, or on a suitable label cemented permanently to the inside of the instrument, an inscription that indicates the purpose of the hydrometer. If necessary, this inscription should denote the liquid for which the hydrometer is intended, the temperature at which it is to be used, and the character of the indication.

13.2 The designation of standard temperature and reference temperature may be abbreviated, for example, sp gr 60/60°F, means that the hydrometer indicates at 60°F the specific gravity of the liquid, referred to water at 60°F as unity.

13.3 The inscription shall include also the hydrometer number (1H, 6H, etc.) but not the year designation (62, etc.); a unique serial number; and the name or trademark of the manufacturer or vendor.

14. Standardization

14.1 When tests are made at three scale points, the points shall include at least 60 % of the graduated interval of the scale. Neither of the extreme points shall be farther from the nearest end of the graduated scale than a distance represented by 25 % of the length of the graduated scale. No two adjacent points shall be farther apart than a distance represented by 50 % of the length of the graduated scale.

NOTE 3—When testing thermohydrometers, the thermometer in the instrument shall not be used to determine the temperature of the bath. An ASTM Gravity Thermometer as prescribed in Specification E 1, or an instrument of equal sensitivity and accuracy, must be used.

15. Case

15.1 The hydrometer shall be supplied in a suitable carton on which shall appear the ASTM number, name, and range, as given in Table 1.

16. Method for Inspection, Test, and Standardization

16.1 Hydrometers shall be inspected, tested, and standardized in accordance with Test Method E 126.

17. Keywords

17.1 ballast; body; hydrometers; specific gravity; stem; thermohydrometers

TABLE 1 Specifications for ASTM Hydrometers

API Gravity Hydrometers		Specific Gravity Hydrometers		Specific Gravity Hydrometers	
		For Petroleum Products and Other Liquids of Similar Surface Tensions (33 dynes/cm or less)		For General Use	
ASTM Hydrometer No.	Nominal API Gravity Range, deg	ASTM Hydrometer No.	Nominal Specific Gravity Range	ASTM Hydrometer No.	Nominal Specific Gravity Range
1H-62	-1 to + 11	82H-62	0.650 to 0.700	For Alcohols ^A	
2H-62	9 to 21	83H-62	0.700 to 0.750	98H-62	0.950 to 1.000
3H-62	19 to 31	84H-61	0.750 to 0.800	For Heavy Liquids ^A	
4H-62	29 to 41	85H-62	0.800 to 0.850	111H-62	1.000 to 1.050
5H-62	39 to 51	86H-62	0.850 to 0.900	112H-62	1.050 to 1.100
6H-62	49 to 61	87H-62	0.900 to 0.950	113H-62	1.100 to 1.150
7H-62	59 to 71	88H-62	0.950 to 1.000	114H-62	1.150 to 1.200
8H-62	69 to 81	89H-62	1.000 to 1.050	115H-62	1.200 to 1.250
9H-62	79 to 91	90H-62	1.050 to 1.100	116H-62	1.250 to 1.300
10H-62	89 to 101			117H-62	1.300 to 1.350
				118H-62	1.350 to 1.400
				119H-62	1.400 to 1.450
				120H-62	1.450 to 1.500
Standard temperature, °F	60	60/60		60/60	
Subdivisions	0.1° API	0.0005		0.0005	
Intermediate lines at	0.5° API	0.001		0.001	
Main (numbered) lines at	1.0° API	0.005		0.005	
Scale error at any point not to exceed	0.1° API	0.0005		0.0005	
Total length	325 to 335	325 to 335		325 to 335	
Length of nominal scale, mm	125 to 145	125 to 145		125 to 145	
Scale extension beyond nominal range limits, max	0.2°	0.0025		0.0025	
Body diameter, mm	23 to 27	23 to 27		23 to 27	
Stem diameter min, mm	4.0	5.0		4.0	

ASTM E100- API Gravity Hydrometers

For Petroleum Products and Other Liquids of Similar Surface Tensions (33 dynes/cm or less)		For General Use	
ASTM Hydrometer No.	Nominal API Gravity Range, deg	ASTM Hydrometer No.	Nominal API Gravity Range, deg
21H-62	0 to 6	31H-62	50 to 56
22H-62	5 to 11	32H-62	55 to 61
23H-62	10 to 16	33H-62	60 to 66
24H-62	15 to 21	34H-62	65 to 71
25H-62	20 to 26	35H-62	70 to 76
26H-62	25 to 31	36H-62	75 to 81
27H-62	30 to 36	37H-62	80 to 86
28H-62	35 to 41	38H-62	85 to 91
29H-62	40 to 46	39H-62	90 to 96
30H-62	45 to 51	40H-62	95 to 101
Standard temperature, °F		60	
Subdivision, ° API		0.1	
Intermediate lines at, ° API		0.5	
Main (numbered) lines at, ° API		1.0	
Scale error at any point not to exceed, ° API		0.2	
Total length, mm		158 to 168	
Length of nominal scale, mm		48 to 61	
Scale extension beyond nominal range limits, max		0.2° API	
Body diameter, mm		12 to 15	
Stem diameter min, mm		2.5	