



Standard Test Method for Measurement of Hindered Phenolic Antioxidant Content in HL Turbine Oils by Linear Sweep Voltammetry¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D 6810; 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 the voltammetric determination of hindered phenol antioxidants in new or used Type HL turbine oils in concentrations from 0.0075 weight % up to concentrations found in new oils by measuring the amount of current flow at a specified voltage in the produced voltammogram.

1.2 *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.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

- D 1193 Specification for Reagent Water²
- D 4057 Practice for Manual Sampling of Petroleum and Petroleum Products³
- D 4378 Practice for In-Service Monitoring of Mineral Turbine Oils for Steam and Gas Turbines³
- D 6224 Practice for In-Service Monitoring of Lubricating Oil for Auxiliary Power Plant Equipment⁴
- D 6447 Test Method for Hydroperoxide Number of Aviation Turbine Fuels by Voltammetric Analysis⁵

2.2 ISO Standard:

- ISO 6743 Part 4—Lubricants, Industrial Oils, and Related Products⁶

3. Summary of Test Method

3.1 A measured quantity of sample is dispensed into a vial containing a measured quantity of alcohol-based electrolyte solution and containing a layer of sand. When the vial is

shaken, the hindered phenol antioxidants and other solution soluble oil components present in the sample are extracted into the solution and the remaining droplets suspended in the solution are agglomerated by the sand. The sand/droplet suspension is allowed to settle out and the hindered phenol antioxidants dissolved in the solution are quantified by voltammetric analysis. The results are calculated and reported as weight percent of antioxidant or as millimoles (mmol) of antioxidant per litre of sample for prepared and fresh oils and as a percent remaining antioxidant for used oils.

3.2 Voltammetric analysis is a technique that applies electro-analytic methods when a sample to be analyzed is mixed with an electrolyte and a solvent and placed within an electrolytic cell. Data is obtained by measuring the current passing through the cell as a function of the potential applied, and test results are based upon current, voltage and time relationships at the cell electrodes. The cell consists of a fluid container into which is mounted a small, easily polarized working electrode, and a large nonpolarizable reference electrode. The reference electrode should be massive relative to the working electrode so that its behavior remains essentially constant with the passage of small current; that is, it remains unpolarized during the analysis period. Additional electrodes, auxiliary electrodes, can be added to the electrode system to eliminate the effects of resistive drop for high resistance solutions. In performing a voltammetric analysis, the potential across the electrodes is varied linearly with time, and the resulting current is recorded as a function of the potential. As the increasing voltage is applied to the prepared sample within the cell, the various additive species under investigation within the oil are caused to electrochemically oxidize. The data recorded during this oxidation reaction can then be used to determine the remaining useful life of the oil type. A typical current-potential curve produced during the practice of the voltammetric test can be seen by reference to Fig. 1. Initially, the applied potential produces an electrochemical reaction having a rate so slow that virtually no current flows through the cell. As the voltage is increased, as shown in Fig. 1, the electro-active species (for example, substituted phenols) begin to oxidize at the working electrode surface, producing an anodic rise in the current. As the potential is further increased,

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D02 on Petroleum Products and Lubricants and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D02.09 on Oxidation.

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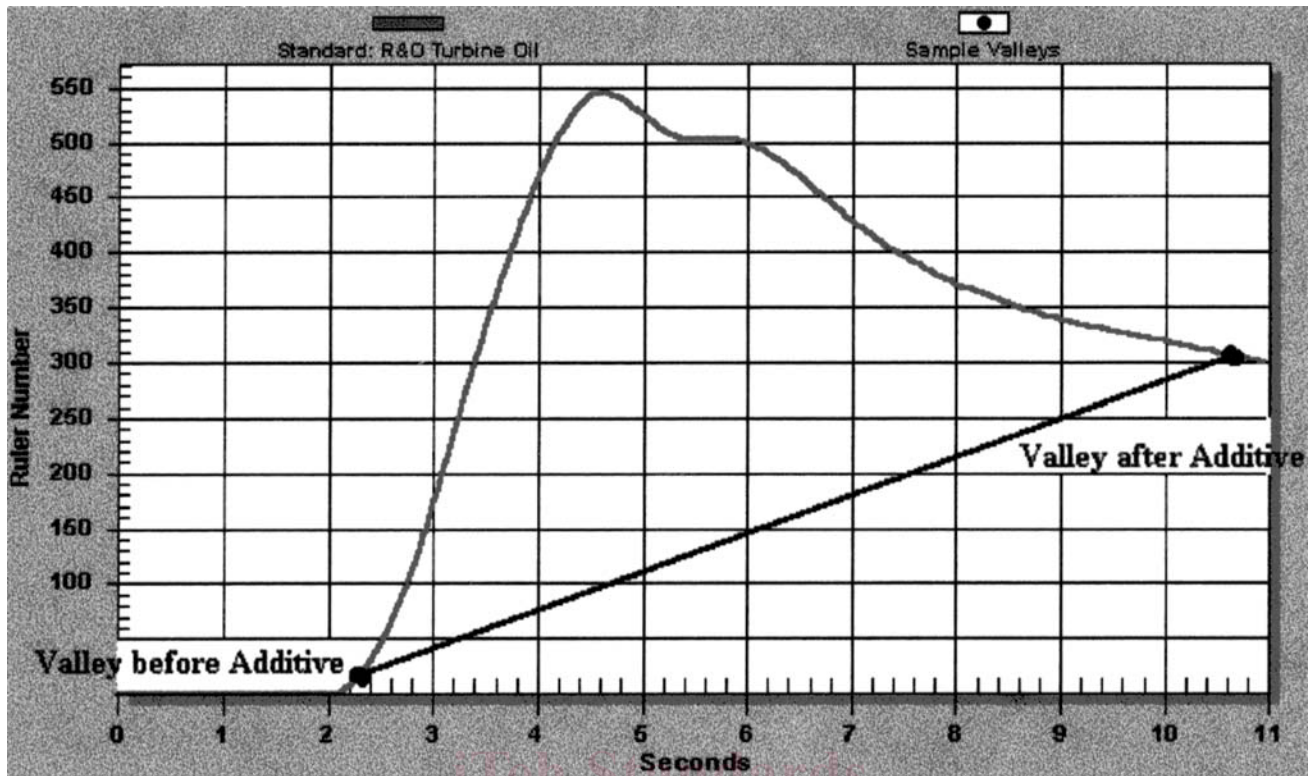
² Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 11.01.

³ Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 05.02.

⁴ Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 05.03.

⁵ Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 05.04.

⁶ Available from International Organization for Standardization (ISO), 1 rue de Varembe, Case postale 56, CH-1211, Geneva 20, Switzerland.



NOTE—x-axis = time (seconds) and y-axis is current (arbitrary units). Top line in Fig. 1 is voltammogram of a fresh R&O turbine oil showing valley indicator before and after standard.

FIG. 1 Hindered Phenol Voltammetric Response in Basic Test Solution with Blank Response Zeroed

the decrease in the electro-active species concentration at the electrode surface and the exponential increase of the oxidation rate lead to a maximum in the current-potential curve shown in Fig. 1.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 The quantitative determination of hindered phenol antioxidants in a new turbine oil measures the amount of this material that has been added to the oil as protection against oxidation. Beside phenols, turbine oils can be formulated with other antioxidants such as amines which can extend the oil life. In used oil, the determination measures the amount of original (phenolic) antioxidant remaining after oxidation have reduced its initial concentration. This test method is not designed or intended to detect all of the antioxidant intermediates formed during the thermal and oxidative stressing of the oils, which are recognized as having some contribution to the remaining useful life of the used or in-service oil. Nor does it measure the overall stability of an oil, which is determined by the total contribution of all species present. Before making final judgment on the remaining useful life of the used oil, which might result in the replacement of the oil reservoir, it is advised to perform additional analytical techniques (in accordance with Practices D 6224 and D 4378), having the capability of measuring remaining oxidative life of the used oil.

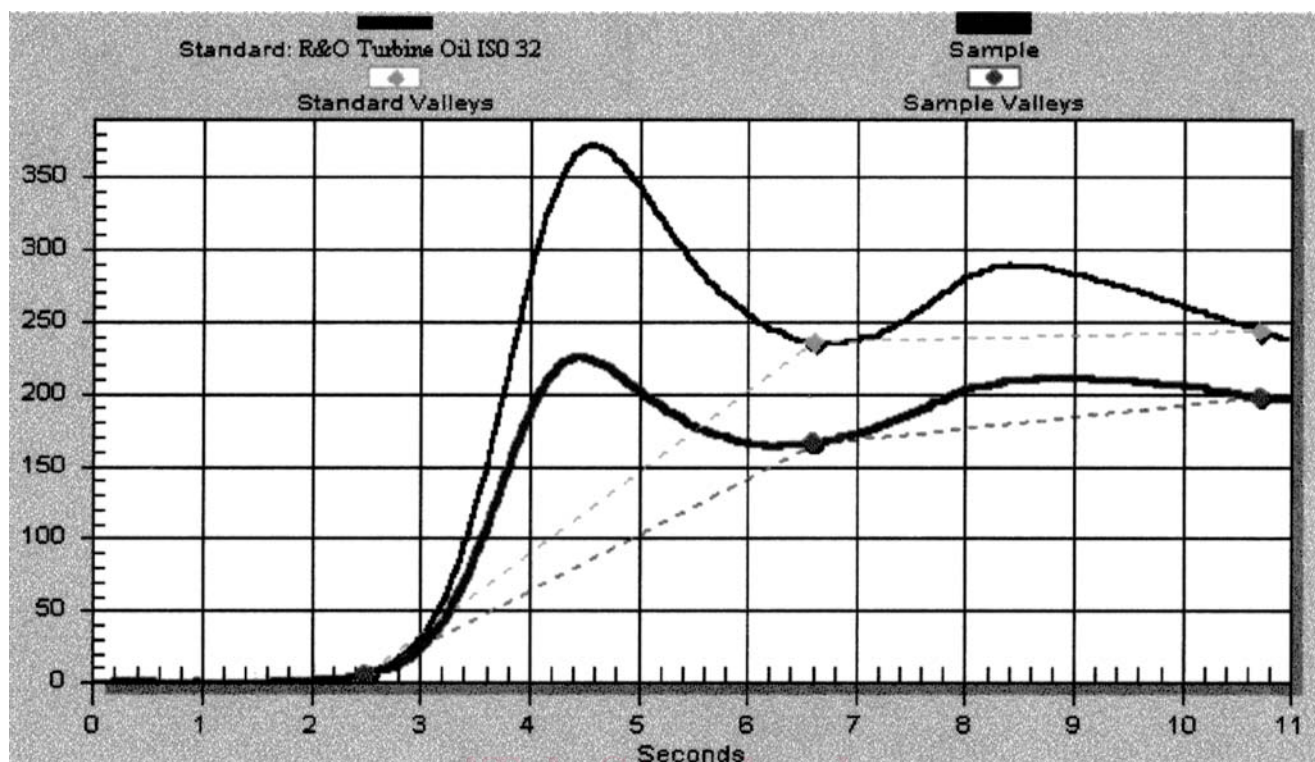
4.1.1 This test method is applicable to Type HL turbine oils as defined by ISO 6743 Part 4, Table 1. These are refined mineral oils containing rust and oxidation inhibitors, but not antiwear additives. This test method has not yet been established with sufficient precision for antiwear oils.

4.2 This test method is also suitable for manufacturing control and specification acceptance.

4.3 When a voltammetric analysis is obtained for a turbine oil inhibited with a typical hindered phenol antioxidant, there is an increase in the current of the produced voltammogram between 3-5 s (or 0.3 to 0.6 V applied voltage) (see Note 1) in basic alcohol solution (Fig. 1—x-axis 1 second = 0.1 V). Hindered phenol antioxidants detected by voltammetric analysis include, but are not limited to, 2,6-di-tert-butyl-4-methylphenol; 2,6-di-tert-butylphenol and 4,4'-methylenebis(2,6-di-tert-butylphenol).

NOTE 1—Voltages listed with respect to reference electrode. The voltammograms shown in Figs. 1 and 2 were obtained with a platinum reference electrode and a voltage scan rate of 0.1 V/s.

4.4 For turbine oils containing amine compounds (antioxidants and corrosion inhibitors), there is an increase in the current of the produced voltammogram between 7-11 s (0.7 to



NOTE—x-axis = time (seconds) and y-axis is current (arbitrary units). Top line in Fig. 2 is fresh oil, and lower line is used oil.

FIG. 2 Amine and Hindered Phenols Peaks in the Basic Test Solution with Blank Response Zeroed

1.1 V applied voltage in Fig. 2) (see Note 1) which does not interfere with the hindered phenol measurement in basic solution.

5. Apparatus

5.1 *Voltammetric Analyzer*⁷—The instrument used to quantify the hindered phenol antioxidants is a voltammograph equipped with a three-electrode system and a digital or analog output. The combination electrode system consists of a glassy carbon disc (3-mm diameter) working electrode, a platinum wire (0.5-mm diameter) auxiliary electrode, and a platinum wire (0.5-mm diameter) reference electrode, as described in Test Method D 6447. The voltammetric analyzer applies a linear voltage ramp (0 to -1.8 V range with respect to the reference electrode) at a rate of 0.01 to 0.5 V/s (0.1 optimum) to the auxiliary electrode. The current output of the working electrode is converted to voltage by the voltammetric analyzer, using the gain ratio of 1 V/20 μ A, and is outputted to an analog or digital recording device (0 to 1 V full scale) as shown in Figs. 1 and 2.

5.2 *Vortex Mixer*⁸, with a 2800 to 3000 rpm motor and a pad suitable for mixing test tubes and vials.

5.3 *Pipette*, or equivalent, capable of delivering sample volumes required in this test method, from 0.10 to 0.50 mL.

5.4 *Solvent Dispenser*, or equivalent, capable of delivering volumes of analysis solution (see 7.3) required in this test method, such as 3.0 and 5.0 mL.

5.5 *Glass Vials*, with caps, 4 or 7-mL capacity; and containing 1 g of sand white quartz suitable for chromatography, within the size range of $200 \pm 100 \mu\text{m}$.

6. Sampling

6.1 Obtain the sample in accordance with Practice D 4057.

7. Reagents

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.⁹ Other grades may be used, provided it is first ascertained that the reagent is sufficiently pure to permit its use without lessening the accuracy of the determination.

7.2 *Purity of Water*—Unless otherwise specified, references to water that conforms to Specification D 1193, Type II.

⁷ Voltammetric analyzers specifically designed to perform hindered phenol determinations of turbine oils are commercially available from Fluitec International, Dayton, OH and Koehler Instrument Company, Bohemia, NY.

⁸ Vortex mixers suitable for mixing the prepared standard and sample solution are available from Barnstead/Thermolyne, Dubuque, IA and Fisher Scientific Co., Pittsburgh, PA.

⁹ *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.