



# Standard Test Method for Vapor-Liquid Ratio Temperature Determination of Fuels (Evacuated Chamber Method)<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D 5188; 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 ( $\epsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

## 1. Scope\*

1.1 This test method covers the determination of the temperature at which the vapor formed from a selected volume of volatile petroleum product saturated with air at 0 to 1°C (32 to 34°F) produces a pressure of one atmosphere in an evacuated chamber of fixed volume. This test method is applicable to samples for which the determined temperature is between 36 and 80°C (97 and 176°F) and the vapor-liquid ratio is between 8 to 1 and 75 to 1.

NOTE 1—When the vapor-liquid ratio is 20:1, the result is intended to be comparable to the results determined by Test Method D 2533.

NOTE 2—This test method may also be applicable at pressures other than one atmosphere, but the stated precision may not apply.

1.2 This test method is applicable to both gasoline and gasoline-oxygenate blends.

1.2.1 Some gasoline-oxygenate blends may show a haze when cooled to 0 to 1°C. If a haze is observed in 11.5, it shall be indicated in the reporting of results. The precision and bias statements for hazy samples have not been determined (see Note 9).

1.3 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard. The values given in parentheses are for information only.

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 warnings, see 7.2 and 8.1.1.*

## 2. Referenced Documents

### 2.1 ASTM Standards:<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D02 on Petroleum Products and Lubricants and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D02.08 on Volatility.

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<sup>2</sup> 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.

D 2533 Test Method for Vapor-Liquid Ratio of Spark-Ignition Engine Fuels

D 2892 Test Method for Distillation of Crude Petroleum (15-Theoretical Plate Column)

D 4057 Practice for Manual Sampling of Petroleum and Petroleum Products

## 3. Terminology

### 3.1 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.1.1  $T_{(V/L=20), n}$ —the equilibrium temperature at which the partial pressure of a sample under test conditions is equal to 101.3 kPa (14.69 psia) and the vapor-liquid ratio is 20.

3.1.2 *vapor-liquid ratio of a fuel, n*—the ratio at a specified temperature and pressure of the volume of vapor in equilibrium with liquid to the volume of sample charged, as a liquid, at 0°C (32°F).

## 4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 A known volume of chilled, air-saturated sample is introduced into an evacuated, thermostatically controlled test chamber of known volume. The sample volume is calculated to give the desired vapor-liquid ratio for the chamber volume in use. After injection, the chamber temperature is adjusted until a stable chamber pressure of 101.3 kPa (14.69 psia) is achieved.

## 5. Significance and Use

5.1 The tendency of a fuel to vaporize in automotive engine fuel systems is indicated by the vapor-liquid ratio of the fuel.

5.2 Automotive fuel specifications generally include  $T_{(V/L=20)}$  limits to ensure products of suitable volatility performance. For high ambient temperatures, a fuel with a high value of  $T_{(V/L=20)}$ , indicating a fuel with a low tendency to vaporize, is generally specified; conversely for low ambient temperatures, a fuel with a low value of  $T_{(V/L=20)}$  is specified.

## 6. Apparatus

6.1 Apparatus suitable for use shall employ a small volume test chamber incorporating a transducer for pressure measurements and associated equipment for thermostatically controlling the chamber temperature, evacuating the test chamber prior to sample introduction, and cleaning and purging the

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

chamber following the test. Critical elements of the apparatus shall meet the following specifications:

6.1.1 *Test Chamber*, constructed of stainless steel or aluminum, designed to contain between 5 and 50 mL of liquid plus vapor with a tolerance of  $\pm 1\%$  of the nominal capacity.

NOTE 3—The test chamber volumes of the instruments used for the 1991 cooperative test program to determine the precision and bias statements were between 5 and 15 mL of liquid plus vapor with a tolerance of  $\pm 1\%$  of the nominal capacity.

6.1.2 *Pressure Transducer*, minimum operational range from 1 to 177 kPa (0 to 25.6 psia) with minimum resolution of 0.1 kPa (0.01 psi) and minimum accuracy of  $\pm 0.8$  kPa ( $\pm 0.12$  psi). The pressure measurement system shall include associated electronics and readout devices to display the resulting pressure reading.

6.1.3 *Heater*, thermostatically controlled heater capable of maintaining the test chamber within  $0.1^\circ\text{C}$  of the set temperature for a minimum of 5 min.

NOTE 4—The use of automated instruments that automatically adjust the temperature, after sample injection, to give a pressure of 101.3 kPa (14.69 psia) is allowed.

6.1.4 *Platinum Resistance Thermometer*, used to measure the temperature of the test chamber, having a minimum temperature range of  $36$  to  $80^\circ\text{C}$ , minimum resolution of  $0.1^\circ\text{C}$  ( $0.2^\circ\text{F}$ ) and minimum accuracy of  $\pm 0.1^\circ\text{C}$  ( $\pm 0.2^\circ\text{F}$ ).

6.2 *Vacuum Pump*, capable of reducing the pressure in the test chamber to less than 0.01 kPa (0.001 psia).

6.3 *Syringes*, (if required for sample introduction), gas-tight, 1- to 20-mL capacity with minimum accuracy and precision of  $\pm 1\%$ .

6.4 *Bath*, iced water or air, for chilling the samples and syringe (if required) to between  $0$  and  $1^\circ\text{C}$  ( $32$  to  $34^\circ\text{F}$ ).

6.5 *Pressure Measuring Device*, capable of measuring local station pressure with an accuracy of 0.20 kPa (0.03 psi) or better, at the same elevation relative to sea level as the apparatus in the laboratory.

6.5.1 When a mercury manometer is not used as the pressure measuring device, the calibration of the pressure measuring device employed shall be periodically checked (with traceability to a nationally recognized standard) to ensure that the device remains within the required accuracy specified in 6.5.

6.6 *McLeod Vacuum Gage or Calibrated Electronic Vacuum Measuring Device for Calibration*, to cover at least the range from 0.01 to 0.67 kPa (0.1 to 5 mm Hg). The calibration of the electronic vacuum measuring device shall be regularly verified in accordance with the annex section on Vacuum Sensors (A6.3) of Test Method D 2892.

## 7. Reagents and Materials

7.1 *Purity of Reagents*—Unless otherwise indicated, all reagents shall conform to the specifications of the Committee

on Analytical Reagents of the American Chemical Society<sup>3</sup> where such specifications are available. Lower purities can be used, provided it is first ascertained that the reagent is of sufficient purity to permit its use without lessening the accuracy of the determination. Reagents used for performance checks (see 10.3) shall be of at least 99 % purity.

7.2 *n*-pentane, (**Warning**—Flammable, health hazard.)

## 8. Sampling

### 8.1 General:

8.1.1 Conduct bulk sampling to obtain the laboratory samples in accordance with Practice D 4057 except for gasoline-oxygenate blends where water displacement is not used. The extreme sensitivity of  $T_{(V/L)}$  measurements to losses through evaporation and the resulting changes in composition is such as to require the utmost precaution and the most meticulous care in the handling of samples. (**Warning**—Extremely flammable, harmful if inhaled or ingested. Skin irritant on repeated contact. Aspiration hazard.)

8.1.2 The size of the sample container from which the sample is taken shall be 1 L (1 qt). It shall be 70 to 80 % filled with sample.

8.1.3 The precision statement will be derived using samples in 1-L (1-qt) containers. However, samples taken in containers of other sizes as prescribed in Practice D 4057 can be used if it is recognized that the precision could be affected. In the case of referee testing, the 1-L (1-qt) sample is mandatory.

8.1.4 Perform the  $T_{(V/L)}$  determination on the first test specimen withdrawn from the sample container. Do not use the remaining sample in the container for a second  $T_{(V/L)}$  determination. If a second determination is necessary, obtain a new sample.

8.1.5 Protect samples from excessive temperature prior to testing. This can be accomplished by storage in an appropriate ice bath or refrigerator.

8.1.6 Do not test samples stored in leaky containers. Discard and obtain a new sample if leaks are detected.

8.2 *Sampling Temperature*—Cool the sample container and contents in an iced bath or refrigerator to between  $0$  and  $1^\circ\text{C}$  ( $32$  to  $34^\circ\text{F}$ ) prior to opening the sample container. Ensure sufficient time to reach this temperature by direct measurement of the temperature of a similar liquid in a like container placed in the cooling bath at the same time as the sample.

### 8.3 Verification of Sample Container Filling:

8.3.1 With the sample at a temperature of  $0$  to  $1^\circ\text{C}$ , take the container from the cooling bath or refrigerator and wipe dry with absorbent material. If the container is not transparent,

<sup>3</sup> *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 *Analar 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.