



## Standard Specification for Aviation Turbine Fuels<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D 1655; 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 approval. A superscript epsilon ( $\epsilon$ ) 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 specification covers the use of purchasing agencies in formulating specifications for purchases of aviation turbine fuel under contract.

1.2 This specification defines specific types of aviation turbine fuel for civil use in the operation and certification of aircraft and describes fuels found satisfactory for the operation of aircraft and engines. The specification can be used as a standard in describing the quality of aviation turbine fuels from the refinery to the aircraft.

1.3 This specification does not include all fuels satisfactory for aviation turbine engines. Certain equipment or conditions of use may permit a wider, or require a narrower, range of characteristics than is shown by this specification.

1.4 Aviation turbine fuels defined by this specification may be used in other than turbine engines that are specifically designed and certified for this fuel.

1.5 This specification no longer includes wide-cut aviation turbine fuel (Jet B). FAA has issued a Special Airworthiness Information Bulletin which now approves the use of Specification D 6615 to replace Specification D 1655 as the specification for Jet B and refers users to this standard for reference.

### 2. Referenced Documents

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

- D 56 Test Method for Flash Point by Tag Closed Cup Tester
- D 86 Test Method for Distillation of Petroleum Products at Atmospheric Pressure
- D 93 Test Methods for Flash-Point by Pensky-Martens Closed Cup Tester
- D 129 Test Method for Sulfur in Petroleum Products (General Bomb Method)
- D 130 Test Method for Corrosiveness to Copper from Petroleum Products by the Copper Strip Test

- D 156 Test Method for Saybolt Color of Petroleum Products (Saybolt Chromometer Method)
- D 240 Test Method for Heat of Combustion of Liquid Hydrocarbon Fuels by Bomb Calorimeter
- D 323 Test Method for Vapor Pressure of Petroleum Products (Reid Method)
- D 381 Test Method for Gum Content in Fuels by Jet Evaporation
- D 445 Test Method for Kinematic Viscosity of Transparent and Opaque Liquids (and the Calculation of Dynamic Viscosity)
- D 1094 Test Method for Water Reaction of Aviation Fuels
- D 1266 Test Method for Sulfur in Petroleum Products (Lamp Method)
- D 1298 Test Method for Density, Relative Density (Specific Gravity), or API Gravity of Crude Petroleum and Liquid Petroleum Products by Hydrometer Method
- D 1319 Test Method for Hydrocarbon Types in Liquid Petroleum Products by Fluorescent Indicator Adsorption
- D 1322 Test Method for Smoke Point of Kerosine and Aviation Turbine Fuel
- D 1405 Test Method for Estimation of Net Heat of Combustion of Aviation Fuels
- D 1660 Method of Test for Thermal Stability of Aviation Turbine Fuels<sup>3</sup>
- D 1840 Test Method for Naphthalene Hydrocarbons in Aviation Turbine Fuels by Ultraviolet Spectrophotometry
- D 2276 Test Method for Particulate Contaminant in Aviation Fuel by Line Sampling
- D 2386 Test Method for Freezing Point of Aviation Fuels
- D 2622 Test Method for Sulfur in Petroleum Products by Wavelength Dispersive X-Ray Fluorescence Spectrometry
- D 2624 Test Methods for Electrical Conductivity of Aviation and Distillate Fuels
- D 2887 Test Method for Boiling Range Distribution of Petroleum Fractions by Gas Chromatography
- D 3120 Test Method for Trace Quantities of Sulfur in Light Liquid Petroleum Hydrocarbons by Oxidative Microcoulometry

<sup>1</sup> This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D02 on Petroleum Products and Lubricants and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D02.J0 on Aviation Fuels.

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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.

<sup>3</sup> Withdrawn.

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

- D 3227** Test Method for (Thiol Mercaptan) Sulfur in Gasoline, Kerosine, Aviation Turbine, and Distillate Fuels (Potentiometric Method)
- D 3240** Test Method for Undissolved Water in Aviation Turbine Fuels
- D 3241** Test Method for Thermal Oxidation Stability of Aviation Turbine Fuels (JFTOT Procedure)
- D 3242** Test Method for Acidity in Aviation Turbine Fuel
- D 3338** Test Method for Estimation of Net Heat of Combustion of Aviation Fuels
- D 3343** Test Method for Estimation of Hydrogen Content of Aviation Fuels
- D 3701** Test Method for Hydrogen Content of Aviation Turbine Fuels by Low Resolution Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrometry
- D 3828** Test Methods for Flash Point by Small Scale Closed Cup Tester
- D 3948** Test Method for Determining Water Separation Characteristics of Aviation Turbine Fuels by Portable Separometer
- D 4052** Test Method for Density and Relative Density of Liquids by Digital Density Meter
- D 4057** Practice for Manual Sampling of Petroleum and Petroleum Products
- D 4171** Specification for Fuel System Icing Inhibitors
- D 4176** Test Method for Free Water and Particulate Contamination in Distillate Fuels (Visual Inspection Procedures)
- D 4294** Test Method for Sulfur in Petroleum and Petroleum Products by Energy-Dispersive X-Ray Fluorescence Spectrometry
- D 4306** Practice for Aviation Fuel Sample Containers for Tests Affected by Trace Contamination
- D 4529** Test Method for Estimation of Net Heat of Combustion of Aviation Fuels
- D 4809** Test Method for Heat of Combustion of Liquid Hydrocarbon Fuels by Bomb Calorimeter (Precision Method)
- D 4865** Guide for Generation and Dissipation of Static Electricity in Petroleum Fuel Systems
- D 4952** Test Method for Qualitative Analysis for Active Sulfur Species in Fuels and Solvents (Doctor Test)
- D 4953** Test Method for Vapor Pressure of Gasoline and Gasoline-Oxygenate Blends (Dry Method)
- D 5001** Test Method for Measurement of Lubricity of Aviation Turbine Fuels by the Ball-on-Cylinder Lubricity Evaluator (BOCLE)
- D 5006** Test Method for Measurement of Fuel System Icing Inhibitors (Ether Type) in Aviation Fuels
- D 5190** Test Method for Vapor Pressure of Petroleum Products (Automatic Method)
- D 5191** Test Method for Vapor Pressure of Petroleum Products (Mini Method)
- D 5452** Test Method for Particulate Contamination in Aviation Fuels by Laboratory Filtration
- D 5453** Test Method for Determination of Total Sulfur in Light Hydrocarbons, Motor Fuels and Oils by Ultraviolet Fluorescence
- D 5972** Test Method for Freezing Point of Aviation Fuels (Automatic Phase Transition Method)
- D 6045** Test Method for Color of Petroleum Products by the Automatic Tristimulus Method
- D 6469** Guide for Microbial Contamination in Fuels and Fuel Systems
- D 6615** Specification for Jet B Wide-Cut Aviation Turbine Fuel
- E 29** Practice for Using Significant Digits In Test Data to Determine Conformance with Specifications
- 2.2 *Energy Institute Standards:*<sup>4</sup>
- IP 225 Copper Content of Aviation Turbine Fuel
- IP 227 Silver Corrosion of Aviation Turbine Fuel
- 2.3 *ANSI Standard:*<sup>5</sup>
- ANSI 863** Report of Test Results
- 2.4 *Other Standard:*<sup>6</sup>
- Defence Standard 91-91 Issue 4** (DERD 2494) Turbine Fuel, Aviation Kerosine Type, Jet A-1

### 3. General

3.1 This specification, unless otherwise provided, prescribes the required properties of aviation turbine fuel at the time and place of delivery.

### 4. Classification

4.1 Two types of aviation turbine fuels are provided, as follows:

4.1.1 *Jet A and Jet A-1*—Relatively high flash point distillates of the kerosine type.

4.2 Jet A and Jet A-1 represent two grades of kerosine fuel that differ in freezing point. Other grades would be suitably identified.

4.3 This specification previously cited the requirements for Jet B. Requirements for Jet B fuel now appear in Specification **D 6615**.

### 5. Materials and Manufacture

5.1 Aviation turbine fuel, except as otherwise specified in this specification, shall consist of refined hydrocarbons derived from conventional sources including crude oil, natural gas liquid condensates, heavy oil, shale oil, and oil sands. The use of jet fuel blends, containing components from other sources, are only permitted on a specific, individual basis (see **Annex A1**).

5.1.1 Fuels used in certified engines and aircraft are ultimately approved by the certifying authority subsequent to formal submission of evidence to the authority as part of the type certification program for that aircraft and engine model. Additives to be used as supplements to an approved fuel must also be similarly approved on an individual basis (see **X1.2.4** and **X1.11.1**).

<sup>4</sup> Available from Directorate of Standardization, Stan 1, Room 5131, Kentigern House, 65 Brown St., Glasgow, G2 8EX, United Kingdom.

<sup>5</sup> Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036.

<sup>6</sup> Available from Procurement Executive DFS (Air), Ministry of Defence, St. Giles Court 1, St. Giles High St., London WC2H 8LD.

5.2 *Additives*—May be added to each type of aviation turbine fuel in the amount and of the composition specified in the following list of approved material:<sup>7</sup>

5.2.1 *Antioxidants*—In amounts not to exceed 24.0 mg/L active ingredients (not including weight of solvent):

5.2.1.1 2,6-ditertiary-butyl phenol.

5.2.1.2 2,6-ditertiary-butyl-4-methyl phenol.

5.2.1.3 2,4-dimethyl-6-tertiary-butyl phenol.

5.2.1.4 75 % minimum 2,6-ditertiary-butyl phenol, plus 25 % maximum mixed tertiary and tritertiary-butyl phenols.

5.2.1.5 55 % minimum 2,4-dimethyl-6-tertiary-butyl phenol, plus 15 % minimum 2,6-ditertiary-butyl-4-methyl phenol, remainder as monomethyl and dimethyl tertiary-butyl phenols.

5.2.1.6 72 % minimum 2,4-dimethyl-6-tertiary-butyl phenol, 28% maximum monomethyl and dimethyl-tertiary-butyl phenols.

5.2.2 *Metal Deactivator Additive (MDA)*, in amount not to exceed 2.0 mg/L (not including weight of solvent) on initial fuel manufacture at the refinery. Higher initial concentrations are permitted in circumstances where copper contamination is suspected to occur during distribution. Cumulative concentration of MDA when retreating the fuel shall not exceed 5.7 mg/L.

5.2.2.1 *N,N*-disalicylidene-1,2-propane diamine.

5.2.3 *Electrical Conductivity Additive*—Stadis 450<sup>8</sup> not to exceed 3 mg/L.

5.2.3.1 When loss of fuel conductivity necessitates retreatment with electrical conductivity additive, the following concentration limits apply:

	<i>At Manufacture</i>
Stadis 450	3 mg/L, max
	<i>Retreatment</i>
Stadis 450	cumulative total 5 mg/L, max

5.2.4 *Leak Detection Additive*—Tracer A (LDTA-A)<sup>9</sup> may be added to the fuel in amounts not to exceed 1 mg/kg.

5.2.5 Other additives are permitted under 5.1 and 7.1. These include fuel system icing inhibitor, other antioxidants, inhibitors, and special purpose additives. The quantities and types must be declared by the fuel supplier and agreed to by the purchaser. Only additives approved by the aircraft certifying authority are permitted in the fuel on which an aircraft is operated.

5.2.5.1 Biocidal additives are available for controlled usage. Where such an additive is used in the fuel, the approval status of the additive and associated conditions must be checked for the specific aircraft and engines to be operated.

5.2.5.2 *Fuel System Icing Inhibitor*:

(1) *Diethylene Glycol Monomethyl Ether (DiEGME)*, conforming to the requirements of Specification D 4171, Type III, may be used in concentrations of 0.10 to 0.15 volume %.

(2) Test Method D 5006 may be used to determine the concentration of DiEGME in aviation fuels.

<sup>7</sup> Supporting data (Guidelines for Approval or Disapproval of Additives) have been filed at ASTM International Headquarters and may be obtained by requesting Research Report RR: D02-1125.

<sup>8</sup> Stadis 450 is a registered trademark marketed by Octel America, 200 Executive Dr., Newark, DE 19702.

<sup>9</sup> Tracer A (LDTA-A) is a registered trademark of Tracer Research Corp., 3755 N. Business Center Dr., Tucson, AZ 85705.

5.3 Guidance material is presented in Appendix X3 concerning the need to control processing additives in jet fuel production.

## 6. Detailed Requirements

6.1 The aviation turbine fuel shall conform to the requirements prescribed in Table 1.

6.2 Test results shall not exceed the maximum or be less than the minimum values specified in Table 1. No allowance shall be made for the precision of the test methods. To determine conformance to the specification requirement, a test result may be rounded to the same number of significant figures as in Table 1 using Practice E 29. Where multiple determinations are made, the average result, rounded in accordance with Practice E 29, shall be used.

## 7. Workmanship, Finish and Appearance

7.1 The aviation turbine fuel specified in this specification shall be visually free of undissolved water, sediment, and suspended matter. The odor of the fuel shall not be nauseating or irritating. No substance of known dangerous toxicity under usual conditions of handling and use shall be present, except as permitted in this specification.

## 8. Sampling

8.1 Because of the importance of proper sampling procedures in establishing fuel quality, use the appropriate procedures in Practice D 4057.

8.2 A number of jet fuel properties, including thermal stability, water separation, electrical conductivity, and others, are very sensitive to trace contamination, which can originate from sample containers. For recommended sample containers, refer to Practice D 4306.

## 9. Report

9.1 The type and number of reports to ensure conformance with the requirements of this specification shall be mutually agreed upon by the seller and the purchaser of the aviation turbine fuel.

9.2 A suggested form for reporting inspection data on aviation turbine fuels is given in Appendix X4.

## 10. Test Methods

10.1 Determine the requirements enumerated in this specification in accordance with the following ASTM test methods.

10.1.1 *Density*—Test Method D 1298 or D 4052.

10.1.2 *Distillation*—Test Method D 86. For Jet A and Jet A-1, Test Method D 2887 can be used as an alternate with the limits listed in Table 1. In case of dispute, Test Method D 86 shall be the referee method (see X1.6.1.1).

10.1.3 *Flash Point*—Test Method D 56 or D 3828.

10.1.4 *Freezing Point*—Test Method D 2386 or D 5972. Test Method D 2386 shall be the referee test method.

10.1.5 *Viscosity*—Test Method D 445.

10.1.6 *Net Heat of Combustion*—Test Method D 4529, D 3338, or D 4809.

10.1.7 *Corrosion (Copper Strip)*—Test Method D 130.

10.1.8 *Total Acidity*—Test Method D 3242.

**TABLE 1 Detailed Requirements of Aviation Turbine Fuels<sup>A</sup>**

Property		Jet A or Jet A-1	ASTM Test Method <sup>B</sup>
<b>COMPOSITION</b>			
Acidity, total mg KOH/g	max	0.10	D 3242
Aromatics, vol %	max	25	D 1319
Sulfur, mercaptan, <sup>C</sup> mass %	max	0.003	D 3227
Sulfur, total mass %	max	0.30	D 1266, D 2622, D 4294, or D 5453
<b>VOLATILITY</b>			
Distillation: one of the following requirements shall be met.			
1. Physical Distillation			
Distillation temperature, °C:			
10 % recovered, temperature	max	205	D 86
20 % recovered, temperature	max	...	
50 % recovered, temperature	max	report	
90 % recovered, temperature	max	report	
Final boiling point, temperature	max	300	
Distillation residue, %	max	1.5	D 2887
Distillation loss, %	max	1.5	
2. Simulated Distillation			
Distillation temperature, °C			
10% recovered, temperature	max	185	D 56 or D 3828 <sup>E</sup>
50 % recovered, temperature		report	
90 % recovered, temperature		report	
Final boiling point, temperature	max	340	
Flash point, °C	min	38 <sup>D</sup>	
Density at 15°C, kg/m <sup>3</sup>		775 to 840	D 1298 or D 4052
<b>FLUIDITY</b>			
Freezing point, °C	max	-40 Jet A <sup>F</sup> -47 Jet A-1 <sup>F</sup>	D 2386 or D 5972
Viscosity -20°C, mm <sup>2</sup> /s <sup>G</sup>	max	8.0	D 445
<b>COMBUSTION</b>			
Net heat of combustion, MJ/kg	min	42.8 <sup>H</sup>	D 4529, D 3338, or D 4809
One of the following requirements shall be met:			
(1) Smoke point, mm, or	min	25	D 1322
(2) Smoke point, mm, and	min	18	D 1322
Naphthalenes, vol, %	max	3.0	D 1840
<b>CORROSION</b>			
Copper strip, 2 h at 100°C	max	No. 1	D 130
<b>THERMAL STABILITY</b>			
JFTOT (2.5 h at control temperature of 260°C min)			
Filter pressure drop, mm Hg	max	ASTM D 2515-05 3 <sup>J</sup>	D 3241
Tube deposits less than		No Peacock or Abnormal Color Deposits	
<b>CONTAMINANTS</b>			
Existent gum, mg/100 mL	max	7	D 381
Water reaction:			
Interface rating	max	1b	D 1094
Microseparometer, <sup>K</sup> Rating			D 3948
Without electrical conductivity additive	min	85	
With electrical conductivity additive	min	70	
<b>ADDITIVES</b>			
Electrical conductivity, pS/m		See 5.2 L	D 2624

<sup>A</sup> For compliance of test results against the requirements of Table 1, see 6.2.

<sup>B</sup> The test methods indicated in this table are referred to in Section 10.

<sup>C</sup> The mercaptan sulfur determination may be waived if the fuel is considered sweet by the doctor test described in Test Method D 4952.

<sup>D</sup> A higher minimum flash point specification may be agreed upon between purchaser and supplier.

<sup>E</sup> Results obtained by Test Methods D 3828 may be up to 2°C lower than those obtained by Test Method D 56, which is the preferred method. In case of dispute, Test Method D 56 will apply.

<sup>F</sup> Other freezing points may be agreed upon between supplier and purchaser.

<sup>G</sup> 1 mm<sup>2</sup>/s = 1 cSt.

<sup>H</sup> For all grades use either Eq 1 or Table 1 in Test Method D 4529 or Eq 2 in Test Method D 3338. Test Method D 4809 may be used as an alternative. In case of dispute, Test Method D 4809 shall be used.

<sup>I</sup> Preferred SI units are 3.3 kPa, max.

<sup>J</sup> Tube deposit ratings shall always be reported by the Visual Method; a rating by the Tube Deposit Rating (TDR) optical density method is desirable but not mandatory.

<sup>K</sup> At point of manufacture.

<sup>L</sup> If electrical conductivity additive is used, the conductivity shall not exceed 450 pS/m at the point of use of the fuel. When electrical conductivity additive is specified by the purchaser, the conductivity shall be 50 to 450 pS/m under the conditions at point of delivery.

$$1 \text{ pS/m} = 1 \times 10^{-12} \Omega^{-1} \text{ m}^{-1}$$

**TABLE 2 Detailed Requirements for Additives in Aviation Turbine Fuels**

Additive	Dosage
Fuel Performance Enhancing Additives	
Antioxidants <sup>A,B</sup> One of the following: 2,6 ditertiary-butyl phenol 2,6 ditertiary-butyl-4-methyl phenol 2,4 dimethyl-6-tertiary-butyl-phenol 75 % minimum, 2,6 ditertiary-butyl phenol plus 25 % maximum mixed tertiary and tritertiary butyl-phenols 55 % minimum 2,4 dimethyl-6-tertiary-butyl phenol plus 15 % minimum 2,6 ditertiary-butyl-4-methyl phenol, remainder as monomethyl and dimethyl tertiary-butyl phenols 72 % minimum 2,4 dimethyl-6-tertiary-butyl phenol plus 28 % maximum monomethyl and dimethyl-tertiary-butyl-phenols	24.0 mg/L max <sup>C</sup>
Metal Deactivator <sup>A</sup> N,N-disalicylidene-1,2-propane diamine On initial blending After field reblending cumulative concentration	2.0 mg/L max <sup>C,D</sup> 5.7 mg/L max
Fuel System Icing Inhibitor <sup>E</sup> Diethylene Glycol Monomethyl Ether (see Specification D 4171)	0.10 vol % min 0.15 vol % max
Fuel Handling and Maintenance Additives	
Electrical Conductivity Improver <sup>F</sup> Stadis 450 <sup>B</sup> On initial blending After field reblending, cumulative concentration If the additive concentration is unknown at time of retreatment, additional concentration is restricted to 2 mg/L max	3 mg/L max 5 mg/L max
Leak Detection Additive Tracer A (LDTA-A) <sup>9</sup>	1 mg/kg max
Biocidal Additives <sup>E,G</sup>	

<sup>A</sup> The active ingredient of the additive must meet the composition specified.

<sup>B</sup> Supporting data (a list of proprietary products meeting the composition requirements for oxidation inhibitors) have been filed at ASTM International Headquarters and may be obtained by requesting Research Report RR: D02:1125.

<sup>C</sup> Active ingredient (not including weight of solvent).

<sup>D</sup> If copper contamination is suspected, initial treatment may exceed 2.0 mg/L but cumulative total must be below 5.7 mg/L.

<sup>E</sup> The quantity must be declared by the fuel supplier and agreed to by the purchaser.

<sup>F</sup> If electrical conductivity improver is used, the conductivity shall not exceed 450 pS/m at the point of use of the fuel. When electrical conductivity additive is specified by the purchaser, the conductivity shall be 50 to 450 pS/m under the conditions at point of delivery.

<sup>G</sup> Biocidal additives are available for controlled usage. Where such an additive is used in the fuel, the approval status of the additive and associated conditions must be checked for the specific aircraft and engines to be operated.

10.1.9 *Sulfur*—Test Method D 1266, D 2622, D 4294, or D 5453.

10.1.10 *Mercaptan Sulfur*—Test Method D 3227.

10.1.11 *Water Reaction*—Test Method D 1094.

10.1.12 *Existent Gum*—Test Method D 381.

10.1.13 *Thermal Stability*—Test Method D 3241.

10.1.14 *Aromatics*—Test Method D 1319.

10.1.15 *Smoke Point*—Test Method D 1322.

10.1.16 *Naphthalene Content*—Test Method D 1840.

10.1.17 *Electrical Conductivity*—Test Method D 2624.

## 11. Keywords

11.1 aviation turbine fuel; avtur; Jet A; Jet A-1; jet fuel; turbine fuel



**(Mandatory Information)**
**A1. FUELS FROM NON-CONVENTIONAL SOURCES**
**A1.1 Introduction**

A1.1.1 Jet fuels containing synthetic hydrocarbons have been previously allowed under Specification D 1655. However, the fraction of these hydrocarbons was not limited, and there were no requirements or restrictions placed on either these hydrocarbons or the final blend. It has been recognized that synthetic blends represent a potential departure from experience and from key assumptions on which the fuel property requirements defined in **Table 1** have been based.

A1.1.2 The longer-term strategy is to revise Specification D 1655 to fully encompass fuels from non-conventional

sources, but this has yet to be defined. As an interim solution, it has been deemed necessary to recognize, on an individual basis, fuels from non-conventional sources whose performance complies with the intent of this specification.

*A1.2 Acceptable Fuels from Non-Conventional Sources—*The SASOL semi-synthetic fuel, a blend of conventionally produced kerosine and a synthetic kerosine and specified in **Defence Standard 91-91/Issue 4**, dated June 14, 2002, is recognized as meeting the requirements of Specification D 1655.

**APPENDIXES**
**(Nonmandatory Information)**
**X1. PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS OF AVIATION TURBINE FUELS**
**X1.1 Introduction**

X1.1.1 This appendix describes the performance characteristics of aviation turbine fuels. A more detailed discussion of the individual test methods and their significance is found in ASTM Manual No. 1.<sup>10</sup>

**X1.2 Significance and Use**

X1.2.1 Specification D 1655 defines two types of jet fuel for civil use. Limiting values for the two types of fuel covered are placed on fuel properties believed to be related to the performance of the aircraft and engines in which they are most commonly used.

X1.2.2 The safe and economical operation of aircraft requires fuel that is essentially clean and dry and free of any contamination prior to use. It is possible to measure a number of jet fuel characteristics related to quality.

X1.2.3 The significance of standard tests for fuel properties may be summarized for convenience in terms of the technical relationships with performance characteristics as shown in **Table X1.1**.

X1.2.4 The acceptability of additives for use must ultimately be determined by the engine and aircraft type certificate holder and must be approved by his certifying authority. In the United States of America, the certifying authority is the Federal Aviation Administration.

**X1.3 Thermal Stability**

X1.3.1 Stability to oxidation and polymerization at the operating temperatures encountered in certain jet aircraft is an

important performance requirement. The thermal stability measurements are related to the amount of deposits formed in the engine fuel system on heating the fuel in a jet aircraft. Commercial jet fuels should be thermally stable at a fuel temperature as high as 149°C (300°F). Such fuels have been demonstrated to have inherent storage stability.

X1.3.2 Originally, thermal stability was measured by Test Method **D 1660**, known as the ASTM Coker. When this test was replaced by Test Method **D 3241**, the JFTOT, a correlation study was conducted between the two methods. (CRC Report 450, dated 1969 and revised in 1972. See also Bert and Painter's SAE paper 730385.<sup>11</sup>) It was concluded that, on average, a Test Method **D 3241** test at 245°C was equivalent to the original Test Method **D 1660** requirement of 300°F/400°F/5 lb/h (149°C/204.5°C/2.27 kg/h). However, the data scattered about the best fit line was such that users insisted on the initial test of 260°C as a safety margin but permitted a retest at 245°C.

**X1.4 Combustion**

X1.4.1 Jet fuels are continuously burned in a combustion chamber by injection of liquid fuel into the rapidly flowing stream of hot air. The fuel is vaporized and burned at near stoichiometric conditions in a primary zone. The hot gases produced are continuously diluted with excess air to lower their temperature to a safe operating level for the turbine. Fuel combustion characteristics relating to soot formation are emphasized by current specification test methods. Other fuel

<sup>10</sup> *Manual on Significance of Tests for Petroleum Products*, MNL 1, ASTM International, 1993.

<sup>11</sup> Bert, J. A., and Painter, L., "A New Fuel Thermal Stability Test (A Summary of Coordinating Research Council Activity)," SAE Paper 730385, Society of Automotive Engineers, Warrendale, PA, 1973.