



Standard Specification for Diesel Fuel Oils¹

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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 seven grades of diesel fuel oils suitable for various types of diesel engines. These grades are described as follows:

1.1.1 *Grade No. 1-D S15*—A special-purpose, light middle distillate fuel for use in diesel engine applications requiring a fuel with 15 ppm sulfur (maximum) and higher volatility than that provided by Grade No. 2-D S15 fuel.²

1.1.2 *Grade No. 1-D S500*—A special-purpose, light middle distillate fuel for use in diesel engine applications requiring a fuel with 500 ppm sulfur (maximum) and higher volatility than that provided by Grade No. 2-D S500 fuel.²

1.1.3 *Grade No. 1-D S5000*—A special-purpose, light middle distillate fuel for use in diesel engine applications requiring a fuel with 5000 ppm sulfur (maximum) and higher volatility than that provided by Grade No. 2-D S5000 fuels.

1.1.4 *Grade No. 2-D S15*—A general purpose, middle distillate fuel for use in diesel engine applications requiring a fuel with 15 ppm sulfur (maximum). It is especially suitable for use in applications with conditions of varying speed and load.²

1.1.5 *Grade No. 2-D S500*—A general-purpose, middle distillate fuel for use in diesel engine applications requiring a fuel with 500 ppm sulfur (maximum). It is especially suitable for use in applications with conditions of varying speed and load.²

1.1.6 *Grade No. 2-D S5000*—A general-purpose, middle distillate fuel for use in diesel engine applications requiring a fuel with 5000 ppm sulfur (maximum), especially in conditions of varying speed and load.

1.1.7 *Grade No. 4-D*—A heavy distillate fuel, or a blend of distillate and residual oil, for use in low- and medium-speed diesel engines in applications involving predominantly constant speed and load.

NOTE 1—A more detailed description of the grades of diesel fuel oils is given in X1.2.

NOTE 2—The Sxxx designation has been adopted to distinguish grades by sulfur rather than using words such as “Low Sulfur” as previously because the number of sulfur grades is growing and the word descriptions were thought to be not precise. S5000 grades correspond to the so-called “regular” sulfur grades, the previous No. 1-D and No. 2-D. S500 grades correspond to the previous “Low Sulfur” grades. S15 grades were not in the previous grade system and are commonly referred to as “Ultra-Low Sulfur” grades or ULSD.

1.2 This specification, unless otherwise provided by agreement between the purchaser and the supplier, prescribes the required properties of diesel fuels at the time and place of delivery.

1.2.1 Nothing in this specification shall preclude observance of federal, state, or local regulations which may be more restrictive.

NOTE 3—The generation and dissipation of static electricity can create problems in the handling of distillate diesel fuel oils. For more information on the subject, see Guide D 4865.

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

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:³

- D 56 Test Method for Flash Point by Tag Closed 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 Detection of Copper Corrosion from Petroleum Products by the Copper Strip Tarnish Test
- D 445 Test Method for Kinematic Viscosity of Transparent and Opaque Liquids (and the Calculation of Dynamic Viscosity)
- D 482 Test Method for Ash from Petroleum Products

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D02 on Petroleum Products and Lubricants and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D02.E0 on Burner, Diesel, Non-Aviation Gas Turbine, and Marine Fuels.

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² This fuel complies with 40 CFR Part 80—Control of Air Pollution from New Motor Vehicles: Heavy-Duty Engines and Vehicle Standards and Highway Diesel Fuel Sulfur Control Requirements: Final Rule. Regulation of Fuels and Fuel Additives: Fuel Quality Regulations for Highway Diesel Fuel Sold in 1993 and Later Calendar Years.

³ 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.

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

- D 524** Test Method for Ramsbottom Carbon Residue of Petroleum Products
- D 613** Test Method for Cetane Number of Diesel Fuel Oil
- D 1266** Test Method for Sulfur in Petroleum Products (Lamp Method)
- D 1319** Test Method for Hydrocarbon Types in Liquid Petroleum Products by Fluorescent Indicator Adsorption
- D 1552** Test Method for Sulfur in Petroleum Products (High-Temperature Method)
- D 1796** Test Method for Water and Sediment in Fuel Oils by the Centrifuge Method (Laboratory Procedure)
- D 2274** Test Method for Oxidation Stability of Distillate Fuel Oil (Accelerated Method)
- D 2500** Test Method for Cloud Point of Petroleum Oils
- D 2622** Test Method for Sulfur in Petroleum Products by X-Ray Spectrometry
- D 2709** Test Method for Water and Sediment in Distillate Fuels by Centrifuge
- D 2880** Specification for Gas Turbine Fuel Oils
- D 2887** Test Method for Boiling Range Distribution of Petroleum Fractions by Gas Chromatography
- D 3117** Test Method for Wax Appearance Point of Distillate Fuels
- D 3120** Test Method for Trace Quantities of Sulfur in Light Liquid Petroleum Hydrocarbons by Oxidative Microcoulometry
- D 3828** Test Methods for Flash Point by Small Scale Closed Tester
- D 4057** Practice for Manual Sampling of Petroleum and Petroleum Products
- D 4294** Test Method for Sulfur in Petroleum Products by Energy-Dispersive X-Ray Fluorescence Spectroscopy
- D 4539** Test Method for Filterability of Diesel Fuels by Low Temperature Flow Test (LTFT)
- D 4737** Test Method for Calculated Cetane Index by Four Variable Equation
- D 4865** Guide for Generation and Dissipation of Static Electricity in Petroleum Fuel Systems
- D 5453** Test Method for Determination of Total Sulfur in Light Hydrocarbons, Motor Fuels and Oils by Ultraviolet Fluorescence
- D 5771** Test Method for Cloud Point of Petroleum Products (Optical Detection Stepped Cooling Method)
- D 5772** Test Method for Cloud Point of Petroleum Products (Linear Cooling Rate Method)
- D 5773** Test Method for Cloud Point of Petroleum Products (Constant Cooling Rate Method)
- D 6078** Test Method for Evaluating Lubricity of Diesel Fuels by the Scuffing Load Ball-on-Cylinder Lubricity Evaluation (SLBOCLE)
- D 6079** Test Method for Evaluating Lubricity of Diesel Fuels by the High-Frequency Reciprocating Rig (HFRR)
- D 6217** Test Method for Particulate Contamination in Middle Distillate Fuels by Laboratory Filtration
- D 6371** Test Method for Cold Filter Plugging Point of Diesel and Heating Fuels
- D 6468** Test Method for High Temperature Stability of Distillate Fuels
- D 6469** Guide for Microbial Contamination in Fuels and Fuel Systems
- D 6920** Test Method for Total Sulfur in Naphthas, Distillates, Reformulated Gasolines, Diesels, Biodiesels, and Motor Fuels by Oxidative Combustion and Electrochemical Detection

2.2 Other Documents:

26 CFR Part 48 Manufacturers and Realtors Excise Taxes⁴

40 CFR Part 80 Regulation of Fuels and Fuel Additives⁴

IP 309 Diesel and Domestic Heating Fuels—Determination of Cold Filter Plugging Point⁵

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.1.1 *S*(numerical specification maximum)—indicates the maximum sulfur content, in weight ppm ($\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$), allowed by this specification in a diesel fuel grade.

3.1.1.1 *Discussion*—Of the seven diesel fuel grades specified in this standard, six have important distinguishing maximum sulfur regulatory requirements. These are Grades No. 1-D S15, No. 1-D S500, No. 1-D S5000, No. 2-D S15, No. 2-D S500 and No. 2-D S5000. The seventh grade, No. 4-D, is distinguished from these other grades by many major properties in addition to sulfur (unregulated maximum), and therefore is not included in this designation system. Thus, Grade No. 4-D does not have the designation S20000 as part of its grade name.

4. Test Methods

4.1 The requirements enumerated in this specification shall be determined in accordance with the following methods:

4.1.1 *Flash Point*—Test Methods **D 93**, except where other methods are prescribed by law. For all grades, Test Method **D 3828** may be used as an alternate with the same limits. For Grades No. 1-D S15, No. 1-D S500, No. 1-D S5000, No. 2-D S15, No. 2-D S500, and No. 2-D S5000, Test Method **D 56** may be used as an alternate with the same limits, provided the flash point is below 93°C and the viscosity is below $5.5 \text{ mm}^2/\text{s}$ at 40°C . This test method will give slightly lower values. In cases of dispute, Test Methods **D 93** shall be used as the referee method. Test Method **D 56** can not be used as the alternate method for Grade No. 4-D because its minimum viscosity limit is $5.5 \text{ mm}^2/\text{s}$ at 40°C .

4.1.2 *Cloud Point*—Test Method **D 2500**. For all fuel grades in **Table 1**, the automatic Test Methods **D 5771**, **D 5772**, or **D 5773** can be used as alternates with the same limits. Test Method **D 3117** can also be used since it is closely related to Test Method **D 2500**. **In case of dispute, Test Method D 2500 shall be the referee method.**

4.1.3 *Water and Sediment*—Test Method **D 2709** is used for fuel Grades No. 1-D S15, No. 1-D S500, No. 1-D S5000, No. 2-D S15, No. 2-D S500, and No. 2-D S5000. Test Method **D 1796** is used for Grade No. 4-D.

4.1.4 *Carbon Residue*—Test Method **D 524** is used for fuel Grades No. 1-D S15, No. 1-D S500, No. 1-D S5000, No. 2-D

⁴ Available from Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.

⁵ Available from Energy Institute, 61 New Cavendish St., London, WIG 7AR, U.K.

TABLE 1 Detailed Requirements for Diesel Fuel Oils^A

Property	ASTM Test Method ^B	Grade						
		No. 1-D S15	No. 1-D S500 ^C	No. 1-D S5000 ^D	No. 2-D S15	No. 2-D S500 ^{C,E}	No. 2-D S5000 ^{D,E}	No. 4-D ^D
Flash Point, °C, min.	D 93	38	38	38	52 ^E	52 ^E	52 ^E	55
Water and Sediment, % vol, max	D 2709 D 1796	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	...
Distillation: one of the following requirements shall be met: 1. Physical Distillation	D 86	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.50
Distillation Temperature, °C 90 % , % vol recovered								
min		...	...	...	282 ^E	282 ^E	282 ^E	...
max		288	288	288	338	338	338	...
2. Simulated Distillation	D 2887							
Distillation Temperature, °C 90 % , % vol recovered								
min						300 ^E	300 ^E	
max		304	304			356	356	
Kinematic Viscosity, mm ² /S at 40°C	D 445							
min		1.3	1.3	1.3	1.9 ^E	1.9 ^E	1.9 ^E	5.5
max		...	...	...	4.1	4.1	4.1	24.0
Ash % mass, max	D 482	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.10
Sulfur, ppm (µg/g) ^F max	D 5453	15	...	...	15	...	...	...
% mass, max	D 2622^G	...	0.05	...	...	0.05	...	...
% mass, max	D 129	...	...	0.50	...	...	0.50	2.00
Copper strip corrosion rating max 3 h at 50°C	D 130	No. 3	No. 3	No. 3	No. 3	No. 3	No. 3	...
Cetane number, min ^H	D 613	40 ^I	40 ^I	40 ^I	40 ^I	40 ^I	40 ^I	30 ^I
One of the following properties must be met:								
(1) Cetane index, min.	D 976–80^G	40	40	...	40	40	...	...
(2) Aromaticity, % vol, max	D 1319^G	35	35	...	35	35	...	...
Operability Requirements								
Cloud point, °C, max	D 2500	J	J	J	J	J	J	...
or								
LTFT/CFPP, °C, max	D 4539/ D 6371							
Ramsbottom carbon residue on 10 % distillation residue, % mass, max	D 524	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.35	0.35	0.35	...
Lubricity, HFRR @ 60°C, micron, max	D 6079	520	520	520	520	520	520	...

^A To meet special operating conditions, modifications of individual limiting requirements may be agreed upon between purchaser, seller, and manufacturer.

^B The test methods indicated are the approved referee methods. Other acceptable methods are indicated in 4.1.

^C Under United States regulations, if Grades No. 1–D S500 or No. 2–D S500 are sold for tax exempt purposes then, at or beyond terminal storage tanks, they are required by 26 CFR Part 48 to contain the dye Solvent Red 164 at a concentration spectrally equivalent to 3.9 lb per thousand barrels of the solid dye standard Solvent Red 26, or the tax must be collected.

^D Under United States regulations, Grades No. 1–D S5000, No. 2–D S5000, and No. 4–D are required by 40 CFR Part 80 to contain a sufficient amount of the dye Solvent Red 164 so its presence is visually apparent. At or beyond terminal storage tanks, they are required by 26 CFR Part 48 to contain the dye Solvent Red 164 at a concentration spectrally equivalent to 3.9 lb per thousand barrels of the solid dye standard Solvent Red 26.

^E When a cloud point less than –12°C is specified, as can occur during cold months, it is permitted and normal blending practice to combine Grades No. 1 and No. 2 to meet the low temperature requirements. In that case, the minimum flash point shall be 38°C, the minimum viscosity at 40°C shall be 1.7 mm²/s, and the minimum 90 % recovered temperature shall be waived.

^F Other sulfur limits can apply in selected areas in the United States and in other countries.

^G These test methods are specified in 40 CFR Part 80.

^H Where cetane number by Test Method D 613 is not available, Test Method D 4737 can be used as an approximation.

^I Low ambient temperatures as well as engine operation at high altitudes may require the use of fuels with higher cetane ratings.

^J It is unrealistic to specify low temperature properties that will ensure satisfactory operation at all ambient conditions. In general, cloud point (or wax appearance point) Low Temperature Flow Test, and Cold Filter Plugging Point Test may be used as an estimate of operating temperature limits for Grades No. 1–D S500; No. 2–D S500; and No. 1–D S5000 and No. 2–D S5000 diesel fuel oils. However, satisfactory operation below the cloud point (or wax appearance point) may be achieved depending on equipment design, operating conditions, and the use of flow-improver additives as described in X4.1.2. Appropriate low temperature operability properties should be agreed upon between the fuel supplier and purchaser for the intended use and expected ambient temperatures. Test Methods D 4539 and D 6371 may be especially useful to estimate vehicle low temperature operability limits when flow improvers are used. Due to fuel delivery system, engine design, and test method differences, low temperature operability tests may not provide the same degree of protection in various vehicle operating classes. Tenth percentile minimum air temperatures for U.S. locations are provided in Appendix X4 as a means of estimating expected regional temperatures. The tenth percentile minimum air temperatures may be used to estimate expected regional target temperatures for use with Test Methods D 2500, D 4539, and D 6371. Refer to X4.1.3 for further general guidance on test application.

S15, No. 2-D S500 and No. 2-D S5000. Grade No. 4-D does not have a limit for carbon residue..

4.1.5 Ash—Test Method D 482 is used for all grades in Table 1.

4.1.6 Distillation—Test Method D 86 is used for Grades No. 1-D S15, No. 1-D S500, No. 1-D S5000, No. 2-D S15, No. 2-D S500 and No. 2-D S5000. For all grades, 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. Grade No. 4-D does not have distillation requirements.

4.1.7 Viscosity—Test Method D 445 is used for all fuel grades in Table 1.

4.1.8 *Sulfur*—The following list shows the referee test methods and alternate test methods for sulfur, the range over which each test method applies and the corresponding fuel grades.

Sulfur Test Method	Range	Grades
D 129 (referee)	>0.1 mass %	No. 1-D S500, No. 2-D S500, No. 4-D
D 1266	0.0005 to 0.4 mass %	No. 1-D S500, No. 2-D S500
D 1552	5 to 4000 mg/kg (wt ppm) >0.06 mass %	No. 1- D S5000, No. 2-D S5000, No. 4-D
D 2622 (referee for S500 Grades)	0.0003 to 5.3 mass % 3 to 53 000 mg/kg (wt ppm)	All Grades
D 3120	3.0 to 100 mg/kg (wt ppm)	No. 1-D S15, No. 2-D S15 No. 1-D S500, No. 2-D S500 (S500 grades must be diluted before testing)
D 4294	0.0150 to 5.00 mass % 150 to 50 000 mg/kg (wt ppm)	No. 1- D S5000, No. 2-D S5000, No. 4-D
D 5453 (referee for S15 grades)	0.0001 to 0.8 [†] mass % 1.0 to 8000 mg/kg (wt ppm)	All Grades
D 6920	1 to 40 mg/kg (wt ppm)	No. 1-D S15, No. 2-D S15

[†] Editorially corrected.

NOTE 4—The units used to report results in the above test methods are:

D 129	mass %
D 1266	mass %
D 1552	mass %
D 2622	mass %
D 3120	ppm (µg/g)
D 4294	mass %
D 5453	ppm (µg/g)
D 6920	mg/kg

Results reported in mg/kg and in ppm (µg/g) are numerically the same. The units used in **Table 1** for the sulfur requirements are the units in which results for the referee test are reported.

4.1.9 *Copper Corrosion*—Test Method **D 130**, 3 h test at 50°C. This test method is used for fuel Grades No. 1-D S15, No. 1-D S500, No. 1-D S5000, No. 2-D S15, No. 2-D S500 and No. 2-D S5000. Grade No. 4-D does not have a copper corrosion requirement.

4.1.10 *Cetane Number*—Test Method **D 613** is used for all fuel grades in **Table 1**.

4.1.11 *Cetane Index*—Test Methods D 976–80 is used for fuel Grades No. 1-D S15, No. 1-D S500, No. 2-D S15 and No. 2-D S500. Grades No. 1-D S5000, No. 2-D S5000 and No. 4-D do not have an aromatics content requirement, so do not use this test method as a surrogate for aromatics content.

4.1.12 *Aromaticity*—Test Method **D 1319**. This test method provides an indication of the aromatics content of fuels. For fuels with a maximum final boiling point of 315°C, this method is a measurement of the aromatic content of the fuel. This test method is used for fuel Grades No. 1-D S15, No. 1-D S500, No. 2-D S15 and No. 2-D S500. Grades No. 1-D S5000, No. 2-D S5000 and No. 4-D do not have an aromatics content requirement.

4.1.13 *Lubricity*—Test Method **D 6079**.

5. Workmanship

5.1 The diesel fuel shall be visually free of undissolved water, sediment, and suspended matter.

6. Requirements

6.1 The grades of diesel fuel oils herein specified shall be hydrocarbon oils conforming to the detailed requirements shown in **Table 1**.

6.2 *Grades No. 2-D S15, No. 2-D S500 and No. 2-D S5000*—When a cloud point less than –12°C is specified, as can occur during cold months, it is permitted and normal blending practice to combine Grades No. 1 and No. 2 to meet the low temperature requirements. In that case, the minimum flash point shall be 38°C, the minimum viscosity at 40°C shall be 1.7 mm²/s, and the minimum 90 % recovered temperature shall be waived.

7. Keywords

7.1 diesel; fuel oil; petroleum and petroleum products

APPENDIXES

(Nonmandatory Information)

X1. SIGNIFICANCE OF ASTM SPECIFICATION FOR DIESEL FUEL OILS

X1.1 Introduction

X1.1.1 The properties of commercial fuel oils depend on the refining practices employed and the nature of the crude oils from which they are produced. Distillate fuel oils, for example, may be produced within the boiling range of 150 and 400°C having many possible combinations of various properties, such as volatility, ignition quality, viscosity, and other characteristics.

X1.2 Grades

X1.2.1 This specification is intended as a statement of permissible limits of significant fuel properties used for speci-

fying the wide variety of commercially available diesel fuel oils. Limiting values of significant properties are prescribed for seven grades of diesel fuel oils. These grades and their general applicability for use in diesel engines are broadly indicated as follows:

X1.2.2 *Grade No. 1-D S15*—Grade No. 1-D S15 comprises the class of very low sulfur, volatile fuel oils from kerosine to the intermediate middle distillates. Fuels within this grade are applicable for use in (1) high-speed diesel engines and diesel engine applications that require ultra-low sulfur fuels, (2)

applications necessitating frequent and relatively wide variations in loads and speeds, and (3) applications where abnormally low operating temperatures are encountered.

X1.2.3 Grade No. 1-D S500—Grade No. 1-D S500 comprises the class of low-sulfur, volatile fuel oils from kerosine to the intermediate middle distillates. Fuels within this grade are applicable for use in (1) high-speed diesel engines that require low sulfur fuels, (2) in applications necessitating frequent and relatively wide variations in loads and speeds, and (3) in applications where abnormally low operating temperatures are encountered.

X1.2.4 Grade No. 1-D S5000—Grade No. 1-D S5000 comprises the class of volatile fuel oils from kerosine to the intermediate middle distillates. Fuels within this grade are applicable for use in high-speed diesel engines applications necessitating frequent and relatively wide variations in loads and speeds, and also for use in cases where abnormally low operating temperatures are encountered.

X1.2.5 Grade No. 2-D S15—Grade No. 2-D S15 includes the class of very low sulfur, middle distillate gas oils of lower volatility than Grade No. 1-D S15. These fuels are applicable for use in (1) high speed diesel engines and diesel engine applications that require ultra-low sulfur fuels, (2) applications necessitating relatively high loads and uniform speeds, or (3) diesel engines not requiring fuels having higher volatility or other properties specified in Grade No. 1-D S15.

X1.2.6 Grade No. 2-D S500—Grade No. 2-D S500 includes the class of low-sulfur, middle distillate gas oils of lower volatility than Grade No. 1-D S500. These fuels are applicable for use in (1) high-speed diesel engine applications that require low sulfur fuels, (2) applications necessitating relatively high loads and uniform speeds, or (3) diesel engines not requiring fuels having higher volatility or other properties specified for Grade No. 1-D S500.

X1.2.7 Grade No. 2-D S5000—Grade No. 2-D S5000 includes the class of middle distillate gas oils of lower volatility than Grade No. 1-D S5000. These fuels are applicable for use in (1) high-speed diesel engines in applications necessitating relatively high loads and uniform speeds, or (2) in diesel engines not requiring fuels having higher volatility or other properties specified for Grade No. 1-D S5000.

X1.2.8 Grade No. 4-D—Grade No. 4-D comprises the class of more viscous middle distillates and blends of these middle distillates with residual fuel oils. Fuels within this grade are applicable for use in low- and medium-speed diesel engines in applications necessitating sustained loads at substantially constant speed.

X1.3 Selection of Particular Grade

X1.3.1 The selection of a particular diesel fuel oil from one of these seven ASTM grades for use in a given engine requires consideration of the following factors:

- X1.3.1.1 Fuel price and availability,
- X1.3.1.2 Maintenance considerations,
- X1.3.1.3 Engine size and design,
- X1.3.1.4 Emission control systems,
- X1.3.1.5 Speed and load ranges,
- X1.3.1.6 Frequency of speed and load changes, and

X1.3.1.7 Atmospheric conditions. Some of these factors can influence the required fuel properties outlined as follows:

X1.4 Cetane Number

X1.4.1 Cetane number is a measure of the ignition quality of the fuel and influences combustion roughness. The cetane number requirements depend on engine design, size, nature of speed and load variations, and on starting and atmospheric conditions. Increase in cetane number over values actually required does not materially improve engine performance. Accordingly, the cetane number specified should be as low as possible to assure maximum fuel availability.

X1.5 Distillation

X1.5.1 The fuel volatility requirements depend on engine design, size, nature of speed and load variations, and starting and atmospheric conditions. For engines in services involving rapidly fluctuating loads and speeds as in bus and truck operation, the more volatile fuels may provide best performance, particularly with respect to smoke and odor. However, best fuel economy is generally obtained from the heavier types of fuels because of their higher heat content.

X1.6 Viscosity

X1.6.1 For some engines it is advantageous to specify a minimum viscosity because of power loss due to injection pump and injector leakage. Maximum viscosity, on the other hand, is limited by considerations involved in engine design and size, and the characteristics of the injection system.

X1.7 Carbon Residue

X1.7.1 Carbon residue gives a measure of the carbon depositing tendencies of a fuel oil when heated in a bulb under prescribed conditions. While not directly correlating with engine deposits, this property is considered an approximation.

X1.8 Sulfur

X1.8.1 The effect of sulfur content on engine wear and deposits appears to vary considerably in importance and depends largely on operating conditions. Fuel sulfur can affect emission control systems performance. To assure maximum availability of fuels, the permissible sulfur content should be specified as high as is practicable, consistent with maintenance considerations.

X1.9 Flash Point

X1.9.1 The flash point as specified is not directly related to engine performance. It is, however, of importance in connection with legal requirements and safety precautions involved in fuel handling and storage, and is normally specified to meet insurance and fire regulations.

X1.10 Cloud Point

X1.10.1 Cloud point is of importance in that it defines the temperature at which a cloud or haze of wax crystals appears in the oil under prescribed test conditions which generally relates to the temperature at which wax crystals begin to precipitate from the oil in use.

X1.11 Ash

X1.11.1 Ash-forming materials may be present in fuel oil in two forms: (1) abrasive solids, and (2) soluble metallic soaps. Abrasive solids contribute to injector, fuel pump, piston and ring wear, and also to engine deposits. Soluble metallic soaps have little effect on wear but may contribute to engine deposits.

X1.12 Copper Strip Corrosion

X1.12.1 This test serves as a measure of possible difficulties with copper and brass or bronze parts of the fuel system.

X1.13 Aromaticity

X1.13.1 This test is used as an indication of the aromatics content of diesel fuel. Aromatics content is specified to prevent

an increase in the average aromatics content in Grades No. 1-D S15, No. 1-D S500, No. 2-D S15 and No. 2-D S500 fuels and is required by 40 CFR Part 80. Increases in aromatics content of fuels over current levels may have a negative impact on emissions.

X1.14 Cetane Index

X1.14.1 Cetane Index is specified as a limitation on the amount of high aromatic components in Grades No. 1-D S15, No. 1-D S500, No. 2-D S15 and No. 2-D S500.

X1.15 Other

X1.15.1 *Microbial Contamination*—Refer to Guide D 6469 for a discussion of this form of contamination.

X2. STORAGE AND THERMAL STABILITY OF DIESEL FUELS

X2.1 Scope

X2.1.1 This appendix provides guidance for consumers of diesel fuels who may wish to store quantities of fuels for extended periods or use the fuel in severe service or high temperature applications. Fuels containing residual components are excluded. Consistently successful long-term fuel storage or use in severe applications requires attention to fuel selection, storage conditions, handling and monitoring of properties during storage and prior to use.

X2.1.2 Normally produced fuels have adequate stability properties to withstand normal storage and use without the formation of troublesome amounts of insoluble degradation products. Fuels that are to be stored for prolonged periods or used in severe applications should be selected to avoid formation of sediments or gums, which can overload filters or plug injectors. Selection of these fuels should result from supplier-user discussions.

X2.1.3 These suggested practices are general in nature and should not be considered substitutes for any requirements imposed by the warranty of the distillate fuel equipment manufacturer or by federal, state, or local government regulations. Although they cannot replace a knowledge of local conditions or good engineering and scientific judgment, these suggested practices do provide guidance in developing an individual fuel management system for the middle distillate fuel user. They include suggestions in the operation and maintenance of existing fuel storage and handling facilities and for identifying where, when, and how fuel quality should be monitored or selected for storage or severe use.

X2.2 Definitions

X2.2.1 *bulk fuel*—fuel in the storage facility.

X2.2.2 *fuel contaminants*—foreign materials that make fuel less suitable or unsuitable for the intended use.

X2.2.2.1 *Discussion*—Fuel contaminants include materials introduced subsequent to the manufacture of fuel and fuel degradation products.

X2.2.3 *fuel-degradation products*—those materials that are formed in fuel during extended storage or exposure to high temperatures.

X2.2.3.1 *Discussion*—Insoluble degradation products may combine with other fuel contaminants to reinforce deleterious effects. Soluble degradation products (soluble gums) are less volatile than fuel and may carbonize to form deposits due to complex interactions and oxidation of small amounts of olefinic or sulfur-, oxygen- or nitrogen-containing compounds present in fuels. The formation of degradation products may be catalyzed by dissolved metals, especially copper salts. When dissolved copper is present it can be deactivated with metal deactivator additives.

X2.2.4 *long-term storage*—storage of fuel for longer than 12 months after it is received by the user.

X2.2.5 *severe use*—use of the fuel in applications which may result in engines operating under high load conditions that may cause the fuel to be exposed to excessive heat.

X2.3 Fuel Selection

X2.3.1 Certain distilled refinery products are generally more suitable for long-term storage and severe service than others. The stability properties of middle distillates are highly dependent on the crude oil sources, severity of processing, use of additives and whether additional refinery treatment has been carried out.

X2.3.2 The composition and stability properties of middle distillate fuels produced at specific refineries may be different. Any special requirements of the user, such as long-term storage or severe service, should be discussed with the supplier.

X2.3.3 Blends of fuels from various sources may interact to give stability properties worse than expected based on the characteristics of the individual fuels.

X2.4 Fuel Additives

X2.4.1 Available fuel additives can improve the suitability of marginal fuels for long-term storage and thermal stability, but may be unsuccessful for fuels with markedly poor stability properties. Most additives should be added at the refinery or during the early weeks of storage to obtain maximum benefits.

X2.4.2 Biocides or biostats destroy or inhibit the growth of fungi and bacteria, which can grow at fuel-water interfaces to