Designation: D287 – 92 (Reapproved 2006)

Standard Test Method for API Gravity of Crude Petroleum and Petroleum Products (Hydrometer Method)[1]

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D287; 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.

This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the Department of Defense. This test method has been adopted for use by government agencies to replace Method 401 of Federal Test Method Standard No. 791b.

1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers the determination by means of a glass hydrometer of the API gravity of crude petroleum and petroleum products normally handled as liquids and having a Reid vapor pressure (Test Method D323) of 26 psi (180 kPa) or less. Gravities are determined at 60°F (15.56°C), or converted to values at 60°F, by means of standard tables. These tables are not applicable to nonhydrocarbons or essentially pure hydrocarbons such as the aromatics.

NOTE 1—The international version of this test method is described in Test Method D1298.

1.2 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are mathematical conversions to SI units that are provided for information only and are not considered standard.

1.3 *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 hazard statements, see 8.3.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*[2]

D323 Test Method for Vapor Pressure of Petroleum Products (Reid Method)

D1250 Guide for Use of the Petroleum Measurement Tables

D1298 Test Method for Density, Relative Density (Specific Gravity), or API Gravity of Crude Petroleum and Liquid Petroleum Products by Hydrometer Method

E1 Specification for ASTM Liquid-in-Glass Thermometers

E100 Specification for ASTM Hydrometers

2.2 *IP Standards:*[3]

Specifications for IP Standard Thermometers

IP Specifications for Petroleum Hydrometers

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions:*

3.1.1 *API gravity*—a special function of relative density (specific gravity) 60/60°F (15.56/15.56°C), represented by:

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

No statement of reference temperature is required, since 60°F is included in the definition.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 This test method is based on the principle that the gravity of a liquid varies directly with the depth of immersion of a body floating in it. The floating body, which is graduated by API gravity units in this method, is called an API hydrometer.

4.2 The API gravity is read by observing the freely floating API hydrometer and noting the graduation nearest to the apparent intersection of the horizontal plane surface of the liquid with the vertical scale of the hydrometer, after temperature equilibrium has been reached. The temperature of the sample is read from a separate accurate ASTM thermometer in the sample or from the thermometer which is an integral part of the hydrometer (thermohydrometer).

5. Significance and Use

5.1 Accurate determination of the gravity of petroleum and its products is necessary for the conversion of measured volumes to volumes at the standard temperature of 60°F (15.56°C).

5.2 Gravity is a factor governing the quality of crude oils. However, the gravity of a petroleum product is an uncertain indication of its quality. Correlated with other properties, gravity can be used to give approximate hydrocarbon composition and heat of combustion.

[1] This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D02 on Petroleum Products and Lubricants and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D02.02 on Hydrocarbon Measurement for Custody Transfer (Joint ASTM-API).

Current edition approved May 1, 2006. Published June 2006. Originally approved in 1928. Last previous edition approved in 2000 as D287 – 92 (2000)$^{\epsilon 1}$. DOI: 10.1520/D0287-92R06.

[2] 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.

[3] Available from the Institute of Petroleum, 61 New Cavendish St., London WIM, 8AR, England.