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Standard Test Method for Estimation of Net Heat of Combustion of Aviation Fuels¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers the estimation of the net heat of combustion at constant pressure in metric (SI) units, megajoules per kilogram.

1.2 This test method is purely empirical, and it is applicable only to liquid hydrocarbon fuels derived by normal refining processes from conventional crude oil which conform to the requirements of specifications for aviation gasolines or aircraft turbine and jet engine fuels of limited boiling ranges and compositions as described in [Note 1](#).

NOTE 1—The estimation of the net heat of combustion of a hydrocarbon fuel from its aniline point temperature and density is justifiable only when the fuel belongs to a well-defined class for which a relationship between these quantities has been derived from accurate experimental measurements on representative samples of that class. Even in this class, the possibility that the estimates can be in error by large amounts for individual fuels should be recognized. The JP-8 fuel, although not experimentally tested, has properties similar to JP-5 and Jet A fuels and can be considered in the same class. The classes of fuels used to establish the correlation presented in this test method are represented by the following applications:

Fuel	Specification
Aviation gasoline fuels: Grades 80, 82, 100/130, and 115/145	Specification D910 Specification D6227 DEF STAN 91-90 NATO Code F-18
Aviation turbine fuels: JP-4, Avtag/FSII	MIL-DTL-5624 DEF STAN 91-88 NATO Code F-40
JP-5, Avcat/FSII	MIL-DTL-5624 DEF STAN 91-86 NATO Code F-44

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D02 on Petroleum Products and Lubricants and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D02.05 on Properties of Fuels, Petroleum Coke and Carbon Material.

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JP-8, Avtur/FSII

[MIL-DTL-83133](#)
[DEF STAN 91-87](#)
NATO Code [F-34](#)

Jet A, Jet A-1, Avtur

Specification [D1655](#)
[DEF STAN 91-91](#)
NATO Code [F-35](#)

1.3 The net heat of combustion can also be estimated by Test Method [D1405](#). Test Method [D1405](#) requires calculation of one of four equations dependent on the fuel type with the precision equivalent to that of this test method.

1.4 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. No other units of measurement are included in this standard.

1.5 *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:²

- [D129 Test Method for Sulfur in Petroleum Products \(General Bomb Method\)](#)
- [D240 Test Method for Heat of Combustion of Liquid Hydrocarbon Fuels by Bomb Calorimeter](#)
- [D611 Test Methods for Aniline Point and Mixed Aniline Point of Petroleum Products and Hydrocarbon Solvents](#)
- [D910 Specification for Aviation Gasolines](#)
- [D941 Test Method for Density and Relative Density \(Specific Gravity\) of Liquids by Lipkin Bicapillary Pycnometer³](#)
- [D1217 Test Method for Density and Relative Density \(Specific Gravity\) of Liquids by Bingham Pycnometer](#)
- [D1250 Guide for Use of the Petroleum Measurement Tables](#)
- [D1266 Test Method for Sulfur in Petroleum Products \(Lamp Method\)](#)
- [D1298 Test Method for Density, Relative Density \(Specific](#)

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 Withdrawn.

- Gravity), or API Gravity of Crude Petroleum and Liquid Petroleum Products by Hydrometer Method
- D1405** Test Method for Estimation of Net Heat of Combustion of Aviation Fuels
- D1655** Specification for Aviation Turbine Fuels
- D2622** Test Method for Sulfur in Petroleum Products by Wavelength Dispersive X-ray Fluorescence Spectrometry
- D3120** Test Method for Trace Quantities of Sulfur in Light Liquid Petroleum Hydrocarbons by Oxidative Microcoulometry
- D4052** Test Method for Density, Relative Density, and API Gravity of Liquids by Digital Density Meter
- D4294** Test Method for Sulfur in Petroleum and Petroleum Products by Energy Dispersive X-ray Fluorescence Spectrometry
- D4809** Test Method for Heat of Combustion of Liquid Hydrocarbon Fuels by Bomb Calorimeter (Precision Method)
- D5453** Test Method for Determination of Total Sulfur in Light Hydrocarbons, Spark Ignition Engine Fuel, Diesel Engine Fuel, and Engine Oil by Ultraviolet Fluorescence
- D6227** Specification for Grade 82 Unleaded Aviation Gasoline

2.2 U.S. Military Standards:⁴

MIL-DTL-5624 Aviation Turbine Fuels, Grades JP-4, JP-5, and JP-5/JP-8 ST

MIL-DTL-83133 Aviation Turbine Fuel, Kerosene Types, NATO F-34 (JP-8), NATO F-35, and JP-8+100

2.3 Directorate of Standardization, Ministry of Defence:⁵

DEF STAN 91-86 Aviation Turbine Fuel, High Flash Kerosene Type with Fuel System Icing Inhibitor

DEF STAN 91-87 Aviation Turbine Fuel, Kerosene Type with Fuel System Icing Inhibitor

DEF STAN 91-88 Aviation Turbine Fuel, Wide Cut Type with Fuel System Icing Inhibitor

DEF STAN 91-90 Aviation Gasoline

DEF STAN 91-91 Aviation Turbine Fuel, Kerosene Type, Jet A-1

2.4 NATO Codes:⁵

F-18 Aviation Gasoline

F-34 Aviation Turbine Fuel, Grade JP-8

F-35 Aviation Turbine Fuel, Jet A Type

F-40 Aviation Turbine Fuel, Grade JP-4

F-44 Aviation Turbine Fuel, Grade JP-5

3. Summary of Test Method

3.1 The aniline point, density, and sulfur content of the sample are determined by experimental test methods and the net heat of combustion is calculated using the values obtained by these test methods based on reported correlations.^{6,7,8}

⁴ Available from Department of Defense Single Stock Point, 700 Robbins Ave., Building 4D, Philadelphia, PA 19111-5098.

⁵ Available from Directorate of Standardization, Stan Ops 1, Room 1138, Kentigern House, 65 Brown Street, Glasgow, G2 8EX, U.K.

⁶ Armstrong, G. T., Fano, L., Jessup, R. S., Maraatz, S., Mears, T. W., and Walker, J. A., "Net Heat of Combustion and Other Properties of Kerosene and Related Fuels," *Journal of Chemical and Engineering Data*, National Institute for Standards and Technology, Washington, DC, Vol 7, No. 1, January 1962, pp. 107–117.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This test method is intended for use as a guide in cases where an experimental determination of heat of combustion is not available and cannot be made conveniently, and where an estimate is considered satisfactory. It is not intended as a substitute for experimental measurements of heat of combustion (**Note 2**).

NOTE 2—The procedures for the experimental determination of the gross and net heats of combustion are described in Test Methods **D240** and **D4809**.

4.2 The net heat of combustion is a factor in the performance of all aviation fuels. Because the exhaust of aircraft engines contains uncondensed water vapors, the energy released by fuel in vaporizing water cannot be recovered and must be subtracted from gross heat of combustion determinations to calculate net heat of combustion. For high performance weight-limited aircraft, the net heat of combustion per unit mass and the mass of fuel loaded determine the total safe range. The proper operation of the aircraft engine also requires a certain minimum net energy of combustion per unit volume of fuel delivered.

4.3 Because the heat of combustion of hydrocarbon fuel-mixtures are slowly varying functions of the physical properties of the mixtures, the heat of combustion of the mixtures can often be estimated with adequate accuracy from simple field tests of density and aniline point temperature, without the elaborate apparatus needed for calorimetry.

4.4 The empirical quadratic equation for the net heat of combustion of a sulfur-free fuel was derived by the method of least squares from accurate measurements on fuels, most of which conformed to specifications for fuels found in **Note 1** and were chosen to cover a range of values of properties. Those fuels not meeting specifications were chosen to extend the range of densities and aniline-point temperatures above and below the specification limits to avoid end effects. The sulfur correction was found by a simultaneous least-squares regression analysis of sulfur-containing fuels among those tested.

5. Procedure

5.1 Determine the aniline point temperature of the sample to the nearest 0.05°C as described in Test Methods **D611**.

5.2 Determine the density at 15°C of the sample to the nearest 0.5 kg/m³ as described in Test Methods **D941**, **D1217**, **D1298**, or **D4052** or Guide **D1250**.

5.3 Determine the sulfur content of the sample to the nearest 0.02 mass % sulfur as described in Test Methods **D129**, **D1266**, **D2622**, **D3120**, **D4294**, or **D5453**.

⁷ Coglianze, J. A., and Jessup, R. S., "Relation Between Net Heat of Combustion and Aniline-Gravity Product of Aircraft Fuels," *ASTM Bulletin*, ASTBA, No. 201, October 1954, p. 55 (TP 217); also the National Institute for Standards and Technology findings as reported by Armstrong, G. T., Jessup, R. S., and Mears, T. W., "Net Heat of Combustion of Aviation Gasoline and its Correlation with Other Properties," *Journal of Chemical and Engineering Data*, Vol 3, 1958, pp. 20–28.

⁸ Nuttall, R. L., and Armstrong, G. T., "Estimation of Net Enthalpies of Some Aviation Fuels Expressed in the International System of Units (SI)," NIST Technical Note 937, April 1977.