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Standard Test Method for Solubility of Fixed Gases in Liquids¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers the determination of the solubility of fixed gases in liquids. It is suitable for gases and liquids that do not react with each other and are compatible with borosilicate glass, mercury, stainless steel, PTFE (polytetrafluoroethylene), and FPM (vinylidene fluoride-hexafluoro propylene copolymer) under the conditions of the test. This test method also covers the determination of the concentration of fixed gases in solutions which are not saturated with the gas.

1.2 *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 6.1, 6.2, 8.3, 8.4.2, and 9.3.

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

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

D831 Test Method for Gas Content of Cable and Capacitor Oils

D2883 Test Method for Reaction Threshold Temperature of Liquid and Solid Materials

D4057 Practice for Manual Sampling of Petroleum and Petroleum Products

E260 Practice for Packed Column Gas Chromatography

3. Summary of Test Method

3.1 A specimen of the test liquid is saturated with a fixed gas under specified conditions of temperature and pressure. The saturation step may be eliminated if it is desired to determine the concentration of fixed gas in a liquid sample suitably

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D02 on Petroleum Products and Lubricants and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D02.11 on Engineering Sciences of High Performance Fluids and Solids.

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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.

presented for analysis. A portion of the solution of gas in liquid is transferred to a gas extraction apparatus in which the fixed gas is quantitatively removed from the liquid. The separated gas is transferred to a gas buret in which its volume is determined.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 The solubility of fixed gases in liquids is an important engineering parameter in the design of hydraulic systems. It is a measure of the amount of gas which can be released from solution when a system undergoes changes in pressure and temperature. Theoretical considerations permit approximate values of gas solubility to be computed with reasonable accuracy. In this test method, dissolved gases are separated physically from a liquid and measured volumetrically. The test method permits subsequent analysis of separated gases by any appropriate method.

5. Apparatus

5.1 *Ambient Pressure Saturator*, suitable for the saturation of liquids with fixed gases at various temperatures at ambient pressure is shown in Fig. 1. The system comprises four parts:

5.1.1 *Gas Supply and Pressure Regulator*,

5.1.2 *Gas Dispersion Element*,

5.1.3 *Heating Mantle*, to fit 1000-mL separatory funnel (Fig. 1), and

5.1.4 *Temperature Measurement and Control Devices*.

NOTE 1—In the event that it is desired to saturate a liquid with a toxic or flammable gas, the use of this system is not recommended, unless suitable means are provided for the collection and disposal of the escaping gas.

5.2 *Elevated Pressure Saturator*, used to saturate liquids with gases at pressures other than ambient. A suitable vessel, usable at pressures up to 608 kPa (6 atm), is illustrated in Fig. 2. The vessel consists of a 2.5 L stainless steel bomb with a thermostatic control jacket. A valve at one end is connected to a pressure gage and gas supply. A valve at the other end is provided with a fitting that connects directly to the gas extraction apparatus.

5.2.1 *Thermostatic Control*, for jacket of saturator.

5.2.2 *Shaker*, reciprocating, horizontal.

5.2.3 *Vacuum Pump*, rotary.

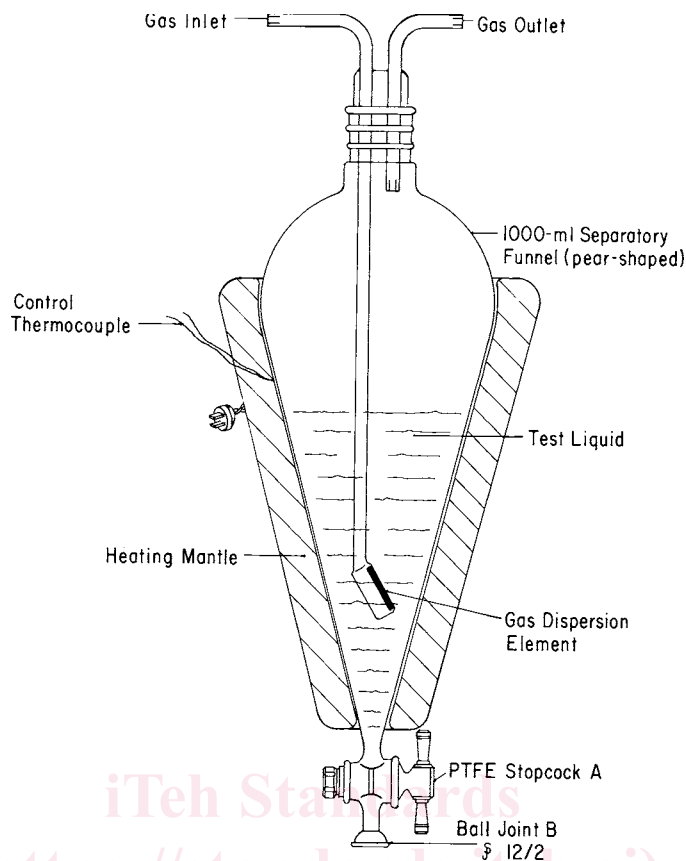


FIG. 1 Ambient Pressure Saturator

5.2.4 *Transfer Line*, with two male socket joint 12/2 fittings.

5.3 *Gas Extraction System*,³ as shown schematically in Fig.

3. A detailed drawing of the extraction chamber is shown in Fig. 4. The apparatus provides for the separation of dissolved gases from a liquid by repeatedly forcing the liquid containing gas to pass through a narrow annular passage under reduced pressure. Gas removed in this manner is stored and measured in a gas buret. Provision is made for heating the extraction chamber by means of a condensing vapor bath. The gas buret is jacketed. Cooling water may be circulated through the jacket if it is necessary to reduce the temperature of the contents of the buret. A manometer is attached to the manifold connecting the saturation system, gas extractor, and gas buret. Grease-free stopcocks and ball joints are used throughout the system (Note 2). All tubing and connections are 1 mm inside diameter.

NOTE 2—PTFE stopcocks are satisfactory for most purposes. However, for greatest precision construct the apparatus with stopcocks and joints which are fitted with O-ring seals.

6. Reagents and Materials

6.1 *Mercury*, triple-distilled, instrument-grade, sufficient amount to fill extraction apparatus, gas buret, and leveling bulbs. (Warning—Poison can be harmful if inhaled or swallowed. Vapor harmful, emits toxic fumes when heated. Vapor

pressure at normal room temperature exceeds threshold limit value for occupational exposure. See A1.1.)

6.2 *Compressed Gases*, as required for saturating liquids to be studied. (Warning—Compressed gas under high pressure. Gas reduces oxygen available for breathing. See A1.2.)

7. Sampling

7.1 To obtain specimens for total gas solubility measurements, collect samples in accordance with Practice D4057. For the determination of the concentration of fixed gases in solutions which are not saturated with the gas, take samples in accordance with the procedure described in Section 3 of Test Method D831.

8. Procedure A

8.1 Procedure A covers the determination of the solubility of fixed gases in liquids at ambient pressure.

8.2 Add to the ambient pressure saturator (Fig. 1) a sufficient amount of the liquid to cover the gas dispersion element with at least 50 to 80 mm of liquid. Bring the cell to temperature equilibrium at whatever temperature is desired for the determination.

8.3 Saturate the liquid with the test gas (Warning—See 6.2) by bubbling the gas through the liquid. Adjust the gas flow rate so that the gas stream causes thorough but not violent agitation of the liquid. If saturation is to be carried out at an elevated temperature, it may be necessary to reestablish temperature equilibrium after the start of gas flow. (Warning—Be certain

³ The gas extraction system is similar to that described by J. H. D. Hooper, API Proceedings, 1948.

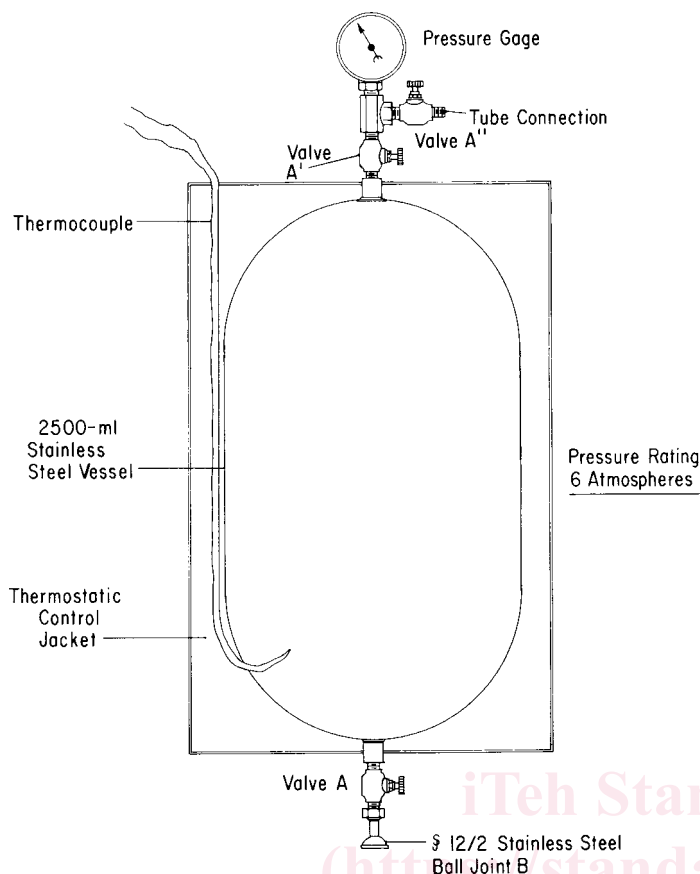


FIG. 2 Elevated Pressure Saturator

that the test gas does not react with the sample under the conditions of the test. For example, oxygen may react with certain unsaturated hydrocarbons even at room temperature.)

NOTE 3—To saturate liquids at higher temperatures, it may be necessary to preheat the saturating gas to avoid cooling the liquid. It may also be necessary to provide the saturating cell with a reflux capability if it is desired to study volatile liquids at elevated temperatures.

8.4 Attach the saturator containing the saturated liquid to the assembled gas extraction system (Fig. 3). Maintain temperature equilibrium of the saturator continuously in order to prevent any change in gas content. Evacuate the system in the following manner:

8.4.1 With stopcock *A* closed, adjust stopcocks *L*, *M*, and *N* to vent the gas extraction chamber to the atmosphere through *S*.

8.4.2 Fill the gas extraction chamber with mercury by raising leveling bulb *H* until mercury level reaches stopcock *L*. (**Warning**—Poison can be harmful if inhaled or swallowed. Vapor harmful, emits toxic fumes when heated. Vapor pressure at normal room temperature exceeds threshold limit value for occupational exposure. See A1.1.)

8.4.3 Turn stopcock *L* to connect the saturator to manifold.

8.4.4 Adjust stopcock *M* to connect the gas buret *P* to the atmosphere through *S*.

8.4.5 Fill the gas buret with mercury by raising leveling bulb *Q* until mercury level reaches stopcock *M*.

8.4.6 Turn stopcock *M* to connect manifold to stopcocks *L* and *N*.

8.4.7 Adjust stopcock *N* to connect the manometer *R* to the atmosphere through *S*.

8.4.8 Attach the vacuum pump to *S* and evacuate the manometer.

8.4.9 Turn stopcock *N* to connect *S* with manifold and evacuate the manifold up to stopcock *A* on the gas saturator.

8.4.10 Close stopcock *N* and disconnect vacuum pump.

8.5 The following procedure is used to determine the volume of the dissolved gases present in a measured quantity of a liquid suitably presented for analysis (Note 3) or saturated in the manner prescribed in 8.3.

NOTE 4—An excellent procedure for presentation of such samples is given in Section 3 of Test Method D831.

8.5.1 Lower leveling bulb *H* until mercury level in the gas extraction chamber falls well below the glass umbrella *F*.

8.5.2 Adjust stopcock *L* to connect the gas extraction chamber to the saturator through ball joint *B* and stopcock *A*.

8.5.3 Open stopcock *A* and permit approximately 50 mL of the sample liquid to flow into the gas extraction chamber.

8.5.4 Close stopcock *A*.

8.5.5 As the liquid flows into the gas extraction chamber some dissolved gas immediately breaks out of solution. To transfer this gas to the buret turn stopcocks *L* and *M* so as to connect the gas extraction chamber to the buret, raise leveling bulb *H* and lower leveling bulb *Q*.

8.5.5.1 Care shall be taken during the gas transfer process to avoid mercury surges, which can force the sample liquid into manifold or gas buret *P*.

8.5.6 Close stopcock *L*. Lower leveling bulb *H* until the sample liquid is drawn in a thin film through the annular space *E* between the umbrella *F* and the wall *G* of the gas extraction chamber.

8.5.7 Raise the leveling bulb *H* to force the liquid upward through check valve *D*.

8.5.8 Repeat 8.5.6 and 8.5.7 several times, and then transfer the liberated gas to the gas buret as described in 8.5.5.

8.5.9 Measure the volume and pressure of the gas collected in the buret with stopcocks *M* and *N* turned to connect the buret to the manometer *R*. For this measurement it is convenient to adjust the pressure as read on manometer *R* in the buret to 1 atm with leveling bulb *Q*.

8.5.10 Repeat 8.5.5-8.5.9 until the volume of gas collected is constant.

8.5.11 Close stopcock *L* and disconnect the extraction chamber from the rest of the system at ball joint *C*. Allow the extraction chamber to cool if necessary.

NOTE 5—For studies of the solubility of gases in viscous liquids it may be necessary to heat the gas extraction chamber in order to achieve proper operating conditions. A condensing vapor jacket *J* together with boiler *I* and refluxing condenser *K* are provided for this purpose. Water is a suitable reflux liquid. In most cases, however, no additional heating is necessary.

8.5.12 Tilt the chamber slightly and carefully raise leveling bulb *H* to force the liquid sample out of the chamber into beaker.

8.5.13 Lower leveling bulb *H* and allow any excess sample to drain from the chamber walls.

8.5.14 Repeat 8.5.12.