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Standard Terminology for Engine Coolants¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This document covers terminology relating to engine coolants. It is intended to provide a reference for anyone seeking information on engine coolants, and also to provide a uniform set of definitions for use in preparing ASTM specifications, test methods and other standard documents.

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.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

- D1193 Specification for Reagent Water
- D3306 Specification for Glycol Base Engine Coolant for Automobile and Light-Duty Service
- D3585 Specification for ASTM Reference Fluid for Coolant Tests
- D4985 Specification for Low Silicate Ethylene Glycol Base Engine Coolant for Heavy Duty Engines Requiring a Pre-Charge of Supplemental Coolant Additive (SCA)
- D6210 Specification for Fully-Formulated Glycol Base Engine Coolant for Heavy-Duty Engines
- D6471 Specification for Recycled Prediluted Aqueous Glycol Base Engine Coolant (50 Volume % Minimum) for Automobile and Light-Duty Service
- D6472 Specification for Recycled Glycol Base Engine Coolant Concentrate for Automobile and Light-Duty Service
- E1177 Specification for Engine Coolant Grade Glycol

3. Terminology

antifoam, *n*—a substance added to engine coolant concentrate, corrosion inhibitor packages, or supplemental coolant addi-

tives to prevent or suppress foam.

DISCUSSION—Eliminating foam improves heat transfer.

antifreeze, *n*—a term frequently used in the marketplace for engine coolant concentrate. (See **engine coolant concentrate**.)

antirust, *n*—an inhibitor package, solid or liquid, intended to be diluted with water or glycol for use in an engine cooling system to mitigate rust and corrosion.

ash content, *n*—the residue from an engine coolant concentrate, antirust, or engine coolant that remains after evaporation, charring, and ignition at strong heat.

boiling point, *n*—the temperature at which the vapor pressure of an engine coolant reaches atmospheric pressure under equilibrium boiling conditions.

cavitation corrosion, *n*—a form of localized, accelerated corrosion characterized by deep pitting and caused by high mechanical forces resulting from coolant vapor bubble collapse at the surface of the metal.

cavitation erosion corrosion, *n*—the mechanical removal of protective films on metal by the formation and collapse of vapor bubbles in a liquid, and the abrasive action of a liquid, which may contain suspended solids, moving at high velocity.

DISCUSSION—The mechanical removal of the protective films exposes fresh metal to corrosive attack.

coolant additive package, *n*—the combination of inhibitors added to an engine coolant to mitigate cooling system degradation, corrosion, scaling, and foaming, or to provide other desirable properties.

corrosion inhibitor package, *n*—the combination of inhibitors added to an engine coolant to mitigate cooling system corrosion.

corrosive water, *n*—a standard solution containing 100 ppm each of sulfate, chloride, and bicarbonate ions introduced as the sodium salts to distilled water.

dye, *n*—a colorant added to an engine coolant to give it a distinctive color.

engine coolant, *n*—a fluid used to transfer heat from an engine to the radiator, usually containing specific amounts of glycols, water, corrosion inhibitors, and a foam suppressor.

DISCUSSION—Engine coolants may also contain supplemental coolant additives.

¹ This terminology is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D15 on Engine Coolants and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D15.92 on Terminology. Current edition approved June 1, 2008. Published June 2008. Originally approved in 1987. Last previous edition approved in 2006 as D4725 – 06. DOI: 10.1520/D4725-08A.

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.