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# Standard Specification for Natural (Vegetable Oil) Ester Fluids Used in Electrical Apparatus<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D6871; 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 ( $\epsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

## 1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers a high fire point natural vegetable oil ester insulating fluid for use as a dielectric and cooling medium in new and existing power and distribution electrical apparatus such as transformers and attendant equipment.

1.2 Natural vegetable oil ester insulating fluid differs from conventional mineral oil and other high fire point (or “less-flammable”) fluids in that it is an agricultural product derived from vegetable oils rather than refined from petroleum base stocks or synthesized from organic precursors.

1.3 This specification is intended to define a natural vegetable oil ester electrical insulating fluid that is compatible with typical materials of construction of existing apparatus and will satisfactorily maintain its functional characteristic in this application. The material described in this specification may not be miscible with some synthetic electrical insulating liquids. The user should contact the manufacturer of the natural ester insulating fluid for guidance in this respect.

1.4 This specification applies only to new insulating fluid as received prior to any processing. The user should contact the manufacturer of the equipment or fluid if questions of recommended characteristics or maintenance procedures arise.

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 requirements prior to use.*

## 2. Referenced Documents

### 2.1 ASTM Standards:<sup>2</sup>

D88 Test Method for Saybolt Viscosity

<sup>1</sup> This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D27 on Electrical Insulating Liquids and Gases and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D27.02 on Gases and Non-Mineral Oil Liquids.

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<sup>2</sup> For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org), or contact ASTM Customer Service at [service@astm.org](mailto:service@astm.org). For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard’s Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

- D92 Test Method for Flash and Fire Points by Cleveland Open Cup Tester
- D97 Test Method for Pour Point of Petroleum Products
- D117 Guide for Sampling, Test Methods, and Specifications for Electrical Insulating Oils of Petroleum Origin
- D445 Test Method for Kinematic Viscosity of Transparent and Opaque Liquids (and Calculation of Dynamic Viscosity)
- D877 Test Method for Dielectric Breakdown Voltage of Insulating Liquids Using Disk Electrodes
- D923 Practices for Sampling Electrical Insulating Liquids
- D924 Test Method for Dissipation Factor (or Power Factor) and Relative Permittivity (Dielectric Constant) of Electrical Insulating Liquids
- D974 Test Method for Acid and Base Number by Color-Indicator Titration
- D1275 Test Method for Corrosive Sulfur in Electrical Insulating Oils
- D1298 Test Method for Density, Relative Density, or API Gravity of Crude Petroleum and Liquid Petroleum Products by Hydrometer Method
- D1500 Test Method for ASTM Color of Petroleum Products (ASTM Color Scale)
- D1524 Test Method for Visual Examination of Used Electrical Insulating Oils of Petroleum Origin in the Field
- D1533 Test Method for Water in Insulating Liquids by Coulometric Karl Fischer Titration
- D1816 Test Method for Dielectric Breakdown Voltage of Insulating Liquids Using VDE Electrodes
- D1903 Practice for Determining the Coefficient of Thermal Expansion of Electrical Insulating Liquids of Petroleum Origin, and Askarels
- D2300 Test Method for Gassing of Electrical Insulating Liquids Under Electrical Stress and Ionization (Modified Pirelli Method)
- D2717 Test Method for Thermal Conductivity of Liquids
- D2766 Test Method for Specific Heat of Liquids and Solids
- D2864 Terminology Relating to Electrical Insulating Liquids and Gases
- D3300 Test Method for Dielectric Breakdown Voltage of Insulating Oils of Petroleum Origin Under Impulse Conditions

**TABLE 1 As-Received New Fluid Property Requirements**

Property	Limit	ASTM Test Method
<i>Physical:</i>		
Color, max	1.0	D1500
Fire point, min, °C	300	D92
Flash point, min, °C	275	D92
Pour point, max, °C	-10	D97
Relative density (specific gravity) 15°C/15°C, max	0.96	D1298
Viscosity, max, cSt at:		D445 or D88
100°C (212°F)	15	
40°C (104°F)	50	
0°C (32°F)	500	
Visual Examination	Bright and Clear	D1524
<i>Electrical:</i>		
Dielectric breakdown voltage at 60 Hz		
Disk electrodes, min, kV	30	D877
VDE electrodes, min, kV at:		D1816
1 mm (0.04 in.) gap	20	
2 mm (0.08 in.) gap	35	
Dielectric breakdown voltage, impulse conditions	130	D3300
25°C, min, kV, needle negative to sphere grounded,		
1 in. (25.4 mm) gap		
Dissipation factor (or power factor) at 60 Hz, max, %		D924
25°C	0.20	
100°C	4.0	
Gassing tendency, max, µl/min	0	D2300
<i>Chemical:</i>		
Corrosive sulfur	not corrosive	D1275
Neutralization number, total acid number, max, mg KOH/g	0.06	D974
PCB content, ppm	not detectable	D4059
Water, max, mg/kg	200	D1533 <sup>A</sup>

<sup>A</sup> As stated in Test Methods D1533 Annex A1 "Alternative Solvent Systems," alternate reagents may be needed for certain natural ester formulations. Consult the manufacturer for recommendations. Reagents for aldehydes and ketones (such as Coulomat AK and CG-K) should be used if the additives are unknown. When alternate reagents are needed, using the Test Methods D1533 reagents may yield elevated and erratic water content results.

### D4059 Test Method for Analysis of Polychlorinated Biphenyls in Insulating Liquids by Gas Chromatography

#### 2.2 National Fire Protection Association Standard:

#### National Electrical Code Article 450-23<sup>3</sup>

4.2 Perform each test in accordance with the ASTM test method specified in Table 1.

## 5. Property Requirements

5.1 Natural ester insulating fluid, as received, shall conform to the requirements of Table 1. The significance of these properties is covered in Guide D117 and Appendixes X2.1-X2.3.

## 6. Keywords

6.1 electrical insulating fluid; fire point; flammability; insulating fluid; natural ester

## 3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—Definitions of terms related to this specification are given in Terminology D2864. Vegetable oil natural ester: vegetable oil containing ester linkages, typically triglycerides. Most often obtained from seed crops (a "natural" source of esters, as opposed to synthesized esters).

## 4. Sampling and Testing

4.1 Take all fluid samples in accordance with Test Methods D923.

<sup>3</sup> National Electrical Code, NFPA 70, National Fire Protection Association Inc.