Designation: D3487 – 09

StandardSpecification for Mineral Insulating Oil Used in Electrical Apparatus[1]

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D3487; 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.

1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers new mineral insulating oil of petroleum origin for use as an insulating and cooling medium in new and existing power and distribution electrical apparatus, such as transformers, regulators, reactors, circuit breakers, switchgear, and attendant equipment.

1.2 This specification is intended to define a mineral insulating oil that is functionally interchangeable and miscible with existing oils, is compatible with existing apparatus and with appropriate field maintenance,[2] and will satisfactorily maintain its functional characteristics in its application in electrical equipment. This specification applies only to new insulating oil as received prior to any processing.

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

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*[3]

D88 Test Method for Saybolt Viscosity
D92 Test Method for Flash and Fire Points by Cleveland Open Cup Tester
D97 Test Method for Pour Point of Petroleum Products
D445 Test Method for Kinematic Viscosity of Transparent and Opaque Liquids (and Calculation of Dynamic Viscosity)
D611 Test Methods for Aniline Point and Mixed Aniline Point of Petroleum Products and Hydrocarbon Solvents
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
D971 Test Method for Interfacial Tension of Oil Against Water by the Ring Method
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 (Specific Gravity), 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 Oils of Petroleum Origin Using VDE Electrodes
D1903 Practice for Determining the Coefficient of Thermal Expansion of Electrical Insulating Liquids of Petroleum Origin, and Askarels
D2112 Test Method for Oxidation Stability of Inhibited Mineral Insulating Oil by Pressure Vessel
D2300 Test Method for Gassing of Electrical Insulating Liquids Under Electrical Stress and Ionization (Modified Pirelli Method)
D2440 Test Method for Oxidation Stability of Mineral Insulating Oil
D2668 Test Method for 2,6-*di-tert*-Butyl- *p*-Cresol and 2,6-*di-tert*-Butyl Phenol in Electrical Insulating Oil by Infrared Absorption
D2717 Test Method for Thermal Conductivity of Liquids
D2766 Test Method for Specific Heat of Liquids and Solids
D3300 Test Method for Dielectric Breakdown Voltage of Insulating Oils of Petroleum Origin Under Impulse Conditions
D4059 Test Method for Analysis of Polychlorinated Biphenyls in Insulating Liquids by Gas Chromatography

[1] This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D27 on Electrical Insulating Liquids and Gasesand is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D27.01 on Mineral.

Current edition approved Dec. 1, 2009. Published December 2009. Originally approved in 1976. Last previous edition approved in 2008 as D3487 – 08. DOI:10.1520/D3487-09.

[2] Refer to American National Standard C 57.106. Guide for Acceptance and Maintenance of Insulating Oil in Equipment (IEEE Standard 64). Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036, http://www.ansi.org.

[3] 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.

D4768 Test Method for Analysis of 2,6-Ditertiary-Butyl Para-Cresol and 2,6-Ditertiary-Butyl Phenol in Insulating Liquids by Gas Chromatography

D5837 Test Method for Furanic Compounds in Electrical Insulating Liquids by High-Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC)

3. Terminology

3.1 *Type I Mineral Oil*—an oil for apparatus where normal oxidation resistance is required. Some oils may require the addition of a suitable oxidation inhibitor to achieve this.

3.2 *Type II Mineral Oil*—an oil for apparatus where greater oxidation resistance is required. This is usually achieved with the addition of a suitable oxidation inhibitor.

NOTE 1—During processing of inhibited mineral oil under vacuum and elevated temperatures, partial loss of inhibitor and volatile portions of mineral oil may occur. The common inhibitors, 2,6-ditertiary-butyl para-cresol (DBPC/BHT) and 2,6-ditertiary-butyl phenol (DPB), are more volatile than transformer oil. If processing conditions are too severe, oxidation stability of the oil may be decreased due to loss of inhibitor. The selectivity for removal of moisture and air in preference to loss of inhibitor and oil is improved by use of a low processing temperature.

Conditions that have been found satisfactory for most inhibited mineral oil processing are:

	Minimum Pressure	
Temperature, °C	Pa	Torr, Approximate
40	5	0.04
50	10	0.075
60	20	0.15
70	40	0.3
80	100	0.75
90	400	3.0
100	1000	7.5

If temperatures higher than those recommended for the operating pressure are used, the oil should be tested for inhibitor content and inhibitor added as necessary to return inhibitor content to its initial value. Attempts to dry apparatus containing appreciable amounts of free water may result in a significant loss of inhibitor even at the conditions recommended above.

3.3 *additives*—chemical substances that are added to mineral insulating oil to achieve required functional properties.

3.4 *properties*—those properties of the mineral insulating oil which are required for the design, manufacture, and operation of the apparatus. These properties are listed in Section 5.

4. Sampling and Testing

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

4.2 Make each test in accordance with the latest revision of the ASTM test method specified in Section 5.

4.3 The oil shall meet the requirements of Section 5 at the unloading point.

NOTE 2—Because of the different needs of the various users, items relating to packaging, labeling, and inspection are considered to be subject to buyer-seller agreement.

NOTE 3—In addition to all other tests listed herein, it is sound engineering practice for the apparatus manufacturer to perform an evaluation of new types of insulating oils in insulation systems, prototype structures, or full-scale apparatus, or any combination thereof, to assure suitable service life.

4.4 Make known to the user the generic type and amount of any additive used, for assessing any potential detrimental reaction with other materials in contact with the oil.

5. Property Requirements

5.1 Mineral insulating oil conforming to this specification shall meet the property limits given in Table 1. The significance of these properties is discussed in Appendix X2.

TABLE 1 Property Requirements

Property	Limit		ASTM Test Method
	Type I	Type II	
Physical:			
Aniline point, °C, min	63[A]	63[A]	D611
Color, max	0.5	0.5	D1500
Flash point, min, °C	145	145	D92
Interfacial tension at 25°C, min, dynes/cm	40	40	D971
Pour point, max, °C	–40[B]	–40[B]	D97
Relative Density (Specific gravity), 15°C/15°C max	0.91	0.91	D1298
Viscosity, max, cSt (SUS) at:			
100°C	3.0 (36)	3.0 (36)	D445 or D88
40°C	12.0 (66)	12.0 (66)	
0°C	76.0 (350)	76.0 (350)	
Visual examination	clear and bright	clear and bright	D1524
Electrical:			
Dielectric breakdown voltage at 60 Hz:			
Disk electrodes, min, kV	30	30	D877
VDE electrodes, min, kV 0.040-in. (1.02-mm) gap	20[C]	20[C]	D1816
0.080-in. (2.03-mm) gap	35[C]	35[C]	
Dielectric breakdown voltage, impulse conditions			D3300
25°C, min, kV, needle negative to sphere grounded, 1-in. (25.4-mm) gap	145[D]	145[D]	
Gassing tendency, max, µL/min	+30	+30	D2300
Dissipation factor (or power factor), at 60 Hz max, %:			D924
25°C	0.05	0.05	
100°C	0.30	0.30	
Chemical:[E]			
Oxidation stability (acid-sludge test)			D2440
72 h:			
% sludge, max, by mass	0.15	0.1	
Total acid number, max, mg KOH/g	0.5	0.3	
164 h:			
% sludge, max, by mass	0.3	0.2	
Total acid number, max, mg KOH/g	0.6	0.4	
Oxidation stability (rotating bomb test), min, minutes	—	195	D2112
Oxidation inhibitor content, max, % by mass	0.08[F]	0.3	D4768 or D2668[G]
Corrosive sulfur	noncorrosive		D1275
Water, max, ppm	35	35	D1533
Neutralization number, total acid number, max, mg KOH/g	0.03	0.03	D974
PCB content, ppm	not detectable	not detectable	D4059

[A] The value shown represents current knowledge.

[B] It is common practice to specify a lower or higher pour point, depending upon climatic conditions.

[C] These limits by Test Method D1816 are applicable only to as received new oil (see Appendix X2.2.1.2). A new processed oil should have minimum breakdown strengths of 28 kV and 56 kV for a 0.04 in. (1.02 mm) or 0.08 in. (2.03 mm) gap respectively.

[D] Currently available oils vary in impulse strength. Some users prefer oil of a 145 kV minimum for certain applications, while others accept oil with impulse strength as low as 130 kV for other applications.

[E] Furanic compounds, as determined by Test Method D5837, are useful for assessing the level of cellulose degradation that has occurred in oil impregnated paper systems. Specifying maximum allowable furan levels in new oils for this purpose should be by agreement between user and supplier.

[F] Provisions to purchase totally uninhibited oil shall be negotiated between producer and user.

[G] Both 2,6-ditertiary-butyl para-cresol (DBPC/BHT) and 2,6-ditertiary butylphenol (DBP) have been found to be suitable oxidation inhibitors for use in oils meeting this specification.

Preliminary studies indicate both Test Methods D2668 and D4768 are suitable for determining concentration of either inhibitor or their mixture.