



Designation: D3306 – 10

Standard Specification for Glycol Base Engine Coolant for Automobile and Light-Duty Service¹

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1. Scope*

1.1 This specification covers the requirements for ethylene glycol or propylene glycol base engine coolants used in automobiles or other light duty service cooling systems. When concentrates are used at 40 to 70 % concentration by volume in water, or when prediluted glycol base engine coolants (50 volume % minimum) are used without further dilution, they will function effectively to provide protection against freezing, boiling, and corrosion.

1.2 The coolants governed by this specification are categorized as follows:

Coolant Type	Description
I	Ethylene glycol base concentrate
II	Propylene glycol base concentrate
III	Ethylene glycol predilute (50 vol %)
IV	Propylene glycol predilute (50 vol %)

NOTE 1—This specification is based on the knowledge of the performance of engine coolants prepared from new or virgin ingredients. This specification shall also apply to engine coolants prepared using glycol generated from recycled or reprocessed used coolant or reprocessed industrial-source glycol, provided that said glycol meets the requirements of Specification E1177. Separate specifications (D6471 and D6472) exist for engine coolants prepared from recycled or reprocessed used coolant or reprocessed industrial-source glycol that does not meet the requirements established in Specification E1177.

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

1.4 *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.*

NOTE 2—This specification applies to glycol base engine coolant for automobiles and light duty service. Specifications D4985 and D6210 exist for heavy duty engine service.

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D15 on Engine Coolants and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D15.07 on Specifications. Current edition approved April 1, 2010. Published May 2010. Originally approved in 1974. Last previous edition approved in 2009 as D3306 – 09. DOI: 10.1520/D3306-10.

TABLE 1 General Requirements

Property	Specified Values	ASTM Test Method
Color	Distinctive	...
Effect on nonmetals	No adverse effect	under consideration

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

- D512 Test Methods for Chloride Ion In Water
- D516 Test Method for Sulfate Ion in Water
- D1119 Test Method for Percent Ash Content of Engine Coolants
- D1120 Test Method for Boiling Point of Engine Coolants
- D1121 Test Method for Reserve Alkalinity of Engine Coolants and Antirusts
- D1122 Test Method for Density or Relative Density of Engine Coolant Concentrates and Engine Coolants By The Hydrometer
- D1123 Test Methods for Water in Engine Coolant Concentrate by the Karl Fischer Reagent Method
- D1126 Test Method for Hardness in Water
- D1177 Test Method for Freezing Point of Aqueous Engine Coolants
- D1287 Test Method for pH of Engine Coolants and Antirusts
- D1293 Test Methods for pH of Water
- D1384 Test Method for Corrosion Test for Engine Coolants in Glassware
- D1881 Test Method for Foaming Tendencies of Engine Coolants in Glassware
- D1882 Test Method for Effect of Cooling System Chemical Solutions on Organic Finishes for Automotive Vehicles
- D2570 Test Method for Simulated Service Corrosion Testing of Engine Coolants
- D2809 Test Method for Cavitation Corrosion and Erosion-Corrosion Characteristics of Aluminum Pumps With Engine Coolants

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.

*A Summary of Changes section appears at the end of this standard.

TABLE 2 Physical and Chemical Requirements

Property	Type I	Type II	Type III	Type IV	ASTM Test Method
Relative density 15.5/15.5°C (60/60°F)	1.110 to 1.145	1.030 to 1.065	1.065 min	1.025 min	D1122, D5931
Freezing point, ^A °C (°F): 50 vol % in DI water Undiluted	-36.4 (-33.5) max	-31.0 (-23.8) max	-36.4 (-33.5) max	-31.0 (-23.8) max	D1177, D6660
Boiling point, ^{A,B} °C (°F): 50 vol % in DI water Undiluted	108 (226) min 163 (325) min	104 (219) min 152 (305) min	108 (226) min	104 (219) min	D1120
Ash content, mass %	5 max	5 max	2.5 max	2.5 max	D1119
pH: 50 vol % in DI water Undiluted	7.5 to 11	7.5 to 11	7.5 to 11	7.5 to 11	D1287
Chloride, µg/g	25 max	25 max	25 max	25 max	D3634, D5827 ^C
Water, mass %	5 max	5 max	not applicable	not applicable	D1123
Reserve alkalinity, mL	report ^D	report ^D	report ^D	report ^D	D1121
Effect on automotive finish (use clear coat thermoset urethane or acrylic urethane finish)	no effect	no effect	no effect	no effect	D1882 ^E

^A For purposes of determining conformance with this specification, an observed value shall be rounded "to the nearest unit" in the last right-hand digit used in expressing the specification limit, in accordance with the rounding method of Practice E29.

^B Some precipitate may be observed at the end of the test. This should not be cause for rejection.

^C In case of dispute, D3634 shall be the preferred test method.

^D Value as agreed upon between the supplier and the customer.

^E Currently, many vehicle manufacturers prepare test panels using the specific paint finishes employed on their actual products. Coolant suppliers and vehicle manufacturers should agree on the exact test procedures and acceptance criteria on an individual basis.

TABLE 3 Performance Requirements^A

Property	Specific Values	ASTM Test Method	Test Solution Concentration, vol % Glycol
Corrosion in glassware		D1384 ^B	33
Weight loss, mg/specimen			
copper	10 max		
solder	30 max		
brass	10 max		
steel	10 max		
cast iron	10 max		
aluminum	30 max		
Simulated service test		D2570 ^C	44
Weight loss, mg/specimen			
copper	20 max		
solder	60 max		
brass	20 max		
steel	20 max		
cast iron	20 max		
aluminum	60 max		
Corrosion of Cast Aluminum Alloys at Heat-Rejecting Surfaces, mg/cm ² /week	1.0 max	D4340 ^D D1881 ^E	25 33
Foaming			
Volume, mL	150 max		
Break time, s	5 max		
Cavitation-Erosion	8 min	D2809 ^F	17
Rating for pitting, cavitation, and erosion of the water pump			

^A For engine coolant concentrates, test solutions shall be prepared in accordance with the directions provided in the individual ASTM test methods noted. For prediluted engine coolants, prepare test solutions using the directions provided in Footnotes B through F.

^B For prediluted coolants, prepare the test solution by mixing 67 volume % of the adjusted (see 5.6) prediluted product with 33 volume % ASTM Type IV reagent water. Add 99 mg of sodium sulfate, 110 mg of sodium chloride, and 92 mg of sodium bicarbonate per litre of test solution.

^C For prediluted coolants, prepare the test solution by mixing 88 volume % of the adjusted (see 5.6) prediluted product with 12 volume % ASTM Type IV reagent water. Add 83 mg of sodium sulfate, 92 mg of sodium chloride, and 77 mg of sodium bicarbonate per litre of test solution.

^D For prediluted coolants, prepare the test solution by mixing 50 volume % of the adjusted (see 5.6) prediluted product with 50 volume % ASTM Type IV reagent water. Add 165 mg of sodium chloride per litre of test solution.

^E For prediluted coolants, prepare the test solution by mixing 67 volume % of the adjusted (see 5.6) prediluted product with 33 volume % ASTM Type II reagent water.

^F For prediluted coolants, prepare the test solution by mixing 33 volume % of the adjusted (see 5.6) prediluted product with 67 volume % ASTM Type IV reagent water. Add 123 mg of sodium sulfate, 137 mg of sodium chloride, and 115 mg of sodium bicarbonate per litre of test solution.

- [D3321 Test Method for Use of the Refractometer for Field Test Determination of the Freezing Point of Aqueous Engine Coolants](#)
- [D3634 Test Method for Trace Chloride Ion in Engine Coolants](#)
- [D4327 Test Method for Anions in Water by Chemically Suppressed Ion Chromatography](#)
- [D4340 Test Method for Corrosion of Cast Aluminum Alloys in Engine Coolants Under Heat-Rejecting Conditions](#)
- [D4725 Terminology for Engine Coolants](#)
- [D4985 Specification for Low Silicate Ethylene Glycol Base Engine Coolant for Heavy Duty Engines Requiring a Pre-Charge of Supplemental Coolant Additive \(SCA\)](#)
- [D5827 Test Method for Analysis of Engine Coolant for Chloride and Other Anions by Ion Chromatography](#)
- [D5931 Test Method for Density and Relative Density of Engine Coolant Concentrates and Aqueous Engine Coolants by Digital Density Meter](#)
- [D6130 Test Method for Determination of Silicon and Other Elements in Engine Coolant by Inductively Coupled Plasma-Atomic Emission Spectroscopy](#)
- [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](#)
- [D6660 Test Method for Freezing Point of Aqueous Ethylene Glycol Base Engine Coolants by Automatic Phase Transition Method](#)
- [E29 Practice for Using Significant Digits in Test Data to Determine Conformance with Specifications](#)
- [E394 Test Method for Iron in Trace Quantities Using the 1,10-Phenanthroline Method](#)
- [E1177 Specification for Engine Coolant Grade Glycol](#)

2.2 Other Documents:

Federal Method 2540B Total Dissolved Solids Dried at 103–105°C³

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 *other glycols, n*—in ethylene glycol base engine coolant, diethylene glycol, triethylene glycol, tetraethylene glycol, propylene glycol, dipropylene glycol, tripropylene glycol, and 1,3-propanediol.

3.1.2 *other glycols, n*—in propylene glycol base engine coolant, ethylene glycol, diethylene glycol, triethylene glycol, tetraethylene glycol, dipropylene glycol, tripropylene glycol, and 1,3-propanediol.

3.1.3 For definitions of other terms used in this specification, refer to Terminology [D4725](#).

4. General Requirements

4.1 Engine coolant concentrates or prediluted glycol base engine coolants shall be formulated with either ethylene glycol or propylene glycol meeting Specification [E1177](#), water, and shall contain suitable corrosion inhibitors, dye, and a foam suppressor.

4.2 Ethylene glycol base engine coolant concentrates (Type I) may contain a maximum of 15 % other glycols, as long as the physical, chemical, and performance requirements of this specification can be met. Similarly, prediluted ethylene glycol base coolants (Type III) may contain a maximum of 7.5 % other glycols as long as all of the requirements of this specification can be met.

4.3 Propylene glycol base engine coolant concentrates (Type II) may contain a combined maximum of 1 % other glycols (less than 0.5 % for prediluted propylene glycol base coolants, Type IV) and all of the physical, chemical, and performance requirements of this specification must be met.

4.4 All engine coolant concentrates or prediluted glycol base engine coolants shall conform to the general requirements given in [Table 1](#).

4.5 Prediluted glycol base engine coolants shall be formulated using water that meets the following requirements:

Property	Specific Values	ASTM Test Method
Chlorides, µg/g (ppm (grains/gal))	25 (1.5) max	D5827 , D512 , D4327
Sulfate, µg/g (ppm (grains/gal))	50 (3.0) max	D5827 , D516 , D4327
Hardness, as CaCO ₃ , µg/g (ppm (grains/gal))	20 (1.2) max	D6130 , D1126
pH	5.5 to 8.5	D1287 , D1293
Iron, µg/g (ppm (grains/gal))	1.0 (0.06) max	D6130 , E394

NOTE 3—Prediluted coolants are intended for direct addition to an engine cooling system with no further dilution. However, if circumstances require addition and prediluted aqueous engine coolant is not available, use the appropriate engine coolant concentrate (Type I or II) diluted to 50 volume % with water of at least the quality outlined in [Table X1.1](#).

4.6 When diluting engine coolant concentrates for actual service, use deionized (demineralized) or distilled water, municipal (treated) water, or a low mineral content well water (see [Appendix X1](#), [Table X1.1](#)). This procedure will minimize the formation of hard water scale and avoid the introduction of mineral components, such as chlorides and sulfates, which can increase the corrosion rate of aluminum and iron.

4.7 When installed in accordance with the vehicle manufacturer's recommendations and those on the product label, engine coolant concentrates or prediluted glycol base engine coolants shall be suitable for use in a properly maintained cooling system ([Appendix X1](#)) in normal light-duty service for a minimum of one year without adversely affecting fluid flow and heat transfer.

5. Detailed Requirements

5.1 Glycol base coolant concentrates and prediluted coolants shall conform to the physical and chemical requirements prescribed in [Table 2](#) depending on coolant type (see [1.2](#)).

5.2 The requirements listed in [Table 2](#) for prediluted coolants (Types III and IV) are prescribed for the coolant as packaged, without further dilution or adjustment.

³ Standard Method for the Examination of Water and Wastewater. American Public Health Association, et al, 1015 15th Street, N.W. Washington, DC 20005.