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## Standard Test Method for Determination of Low Temperature Fluidity and Appearance of Hydraulic Fluids<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D6351; 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 test method covers the fluidity and appearance of hydraulic fluids after storage at low temperature.

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

1.2.1 *Exception*—In 6.1.1, the material is designated in cSt as this is the common name used for this type of oil.

1.3 **WARNING**—Mercury has been designated by many regulatory agencies as a hazardous material that can cause central nervous system, kidney and liver damage. Mercury, or its vapor, may be hazardous to health and corrosive to materials. Caution should be taken when handling mercury and mercury containing products. See the applicable product Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for details and EPA's website—<http://www.epa.gov/mercury/faq.htm>—for additional information. Users should be aware that selling mercury and/or mercury containing products into your state or country may be prohibited by law.

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.* For specific hazard statements, see Section 6. For specific warning statements, see 1.3 and Section 6.

### 2. Referenced Documents

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

D97 Test Method for Pour Point of Petroleum Products

D2500 Test Method for Cloud Point of Petroleum Products

D6080 Practice for Defining the Viscosity Characteristics of Hydraulic Fluids

E1 Specification for ASTM Liquid-in-Glass Thermometers

### 3. Summary of Test Method

3.1 After preliminary drying to remove trace amounts of water, the sample is cooled to a specified temperature. After seven consecutive days, the sample is examined for its ability to flow and observed for homogeneity.

### 4. Significance and Use

4.1 The temperature at which a lubricant remains fluid and homogeneous after seven days is an index of its ability to withstand prolonged exposure to cold temperature. With vegetable oils and some synthetic esters, it is necessary to do extended cold storage testing. Quick cool, short-term tests, such as Test Methods D97 and D2500, do not adequately predict the tendency to solidify over longer time spans at cold temperatures.

4.2 This test method is not intended to indicate cold temperature pumpability performance. A separate assessment of viscometric performance should be made in order to assess cold flow properties, which are important in order to avoid system damage in cold temperature applications. Suitable guidelines for such testing and test temperatures for various viscosity grades can be found in Practice D6080.

4.3 No specific temperature of measurement is given in this test method because fluids with different viscosity grades have different cold temperature performance expectations. For guidance on temperature selection relative to an intended low temperature viscosity grade or ISO VG, consult Practice D6080. As an example of using Practice D6080, a L22 viscosity grade would be evaluated at the lowest temperature for that grade, namely  $-22.9^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Alternatively, a fluid can be evaluated at the lowest temperature expected for field service.

<sup>1</sup> This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D02 on Petroleum Products and Lubricants and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D02.N0 on Hydraulic Fluids.

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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.