



Designation: ~~D613-10~~ Designation: **D613 – 10a**



Designation: **41/2000**

Standard Test Method for Cetane Number of Diesel Fuel Oil¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D613; 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 test method covers the determination of the rating of diesel fuel oil in terms of an arbitrary scale of cetane numbers using a standard single cylinder, four-stroke cycle, variable compression ratio, indirect injected diesel engine.

1.2 The cetane number scale covers the range from zero (0) to 100, but typical testing is in the range of 30 to 65 cetane number.

1.3 The values for operating conditions are stated in SI units and are to be regarded as the standard. The values given in parentheses are the historical inch-pound units for information only. In addition, the engine measurements continue to be in inch-pound units because of the extensive and expensive tooling that has been created for these units.

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 more specific warning statements, see Annex A1.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

D975 [Specification for Diesel Fuel Oils](#)

D1193 [Specification for Reagent Water](#)

D2500 [Test Method for Cloud Point of Petroleum Products](#)

D4057 [Practice for Manual Sampling of Petroleum and Petroleum Products](#)

D4175 [Terminology Relating to Petroleum, Petroleum Products, and Lubricants](#)

D4177 [Practice for Automatic Sampling of Petroleum and Petroleum Products](#)

E456 [Terminology Relating to Quality and Statistics](#)

E542 [Practice for Calibration of Laboratory Volumetric Apparatus](#)

E832 [Specification for Laboratory Filter Papers](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions:*

3.1.1 *accepted reference value (ARV), n*—a value that serves as an agreed-upon reference for comparison, and which is derived as: (1) a theoretical or established value, based on scientific principles, or (2) an assigned or certified value, based on experimental work of some national or international organization, or (3) a consensus or certified value, based on collaborative experimental work under the auspices of a scientific or engineering group. **E456**

3.1.1.1 *Discussion*—In the context of this test method, accepted reference value is understood to apply to the cetane number of specific reference materials determined empirically under reproducibility conditions by the National Exchange Group or another recognized exchange testing organization.

3.1.2 *cetane number (CN), n*—a measure of the ignition performance of a diesel fuel oil obtained by comparing it to reference fuels in a standardized engine test. **D4175**

3.1.2.1 *Discussion*—In the context of this test method, ignition performance is understood to mean the ignition delay of the fuel

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D02 on Petroleum Products and Lubricants and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D02.01 on Combustion Characteristics.

Current edition approved March 1, 2010. Published April 2010. Originally approved in 1941. Last previous edition approved in 2008 as ~~D613-08~~ D613-10. DOI: 10.1520/D0613-10A.

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.

as determined in a standard test engine under controlled conditions of fuel flow rate, injection timing and compression ratio.

3.1.3 *compression ratio (CR), n*—the ratio of the volume of the combustion chamber including the precombustion chamber with the piston at bottom dead center to the comparable volume with the piston at top dead center.

3.1.4 *ignition delay, n*—that period of time, expressed in degrees of crank angle rotation, between the start of fuel injection and the start of combustion.

3.1.5 *injection timing (injection advance), n*—that time in the combustion cycle, measured in degrees of crank angle, at which fuel injection into the combustion chamber is initiated.

3.1.6 *repeatability conditions, n*—conditions where independent test results are obtained with the same method on identical test items in the same laboratory by the same operator using the same equipment within short intervals of time. **E456**

3.1.6.1 *Discussion*—In the context of this test method, a short time interval between two ratings on a sample fuel is understood to be not less than the time to obtain at least one rating on another sample fuel between them but not so long as to permit any significant change in the sample fuel, test equipment, or environment.

3.1.7 *reproducibility conditions, n*—conditions where test results are obtained with the same method on identical test items in different laboratories with different operators using different equipment. **E456**

3.2 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.2.1 *cetane meter (ignition delay meter), n*—the electronic instrument which displays injection advance and ignition delay derived from input pulses of multiple transducers (pickups).

3.2.2 *Check Fuels, n*—for quality control testing, a diesel fuel oil of selected characteristics having a cetane number accepted reference value determined by round-robin testing under reproducibility conditions.

3.2.3 *combustion pickup, n*—pressure transducer exposed to cylinder pressure to indicate the start of combustion.

3.2.4 *handwheel reading, n*—an arbitrary numerical value, related to compression ratio, obtained from a micrometer scale that indicates the position of the variable compression plug in the precombustion chamber of the engine.

3.2.5 *injector opening pressure, n*—the fuel pressure that overcomes the resistance of the spring which normally holds the nozzle pintle closed, and thus forces the pintle to lift and release an injection spray from the nozzle.

3.2.6 *injector pickup, n*—transducer to detect motion of the injector pintle, thereby indicating the beginning of injection.

3.2.7 *primary reference fuels (PRF), n*—*n*-cetane, heptamethyl nonane (HMN) and volumetrically proportioned mixtures of these materials which now define the cetane number scale by the relationship:

$$\text{Cetane Number} = \% n\text{-cetane} + 0.15 (\% \text{HMN}) \quad (1)$$

3.2.7.1 *Discussion*—In the context of this test method, the arbitrary cetane number scale was originally defined as the volume percent of *n*-cetane in a blend with alpha-methylnaphthalene (AMN) where *n*-cetane had an assigned value of 100 and AMN an assigned value of zero (0). A change from alpha-methylnaphthalene to heptamethylnonane as the low cetane ingredient was made in 1962 to utilize a material of better storage stability and availability. Heptamethylnonane was determined to have a cetane number accepted reference value (CN_{ARV}) of 15 based on engine testing by the ASTM Diesel National Exchange Group, using blends of *n*-cetane and AMN as primary reference fuels.

3.2.7.2 *Discussion*—In the context of this test method, the Diesel National Exchange Group of Subcommittee D02.01³ is composed of petroleum industry, governmental, and independent laboratories. It conducts regular monthly exchange sample analyses to generate precision data for this engine test standard and determines the CN_{ARV} of reference materials used by all laboratories.

3.2.8 *reference pickups, n*—transducer(s) mounted over the flywheel of the engine, triggered by a flywheel indicator, used to establish a top-dead-center (tdc) reference and a time base for calibration of the ignition delay meter.

3.2.9 *secondary reference fuels (SRF), n*—volumetrically proportioned blends of two selected, numbered, and paired hydrocarbon mixtures designated *T Fuel* (high cetane) and *U Fuel* (low cetane) that have been rated by the ASTM Diesel National Exchange Group using primary reference fuels to determine a cetane number accepted reference value for each individually and for various combinations of the two.

3.3 Abbreviations:

3.3.1 *ABDC*—after bottom dead center

3.3.2 *AMN*—alpha-methylnaphthalene

3.3.3 *ARV*—accepted reference value

3.3.4 *ATDC*—after top dead center

3.3.5 *BBDC*—before bottom dead center

3.3.6 *BTDC*—before top dead center

3.3.7 *CN*—cetane number

3.3.8 *CR*—compression ratio

3.3.9 *HMN*—heptamethyl nonane

3.3.10 *HRF*—high reference fuel

3.3.11 *HW*—hand wheel

³ Bylaws governing ASTM Subcommittee D02.01 on Combustion Characteristics are available from the subcommittee or from ASTM International.

- 3.3.12 *IAT*—intake air temperature
- 3.3.13 *LRF*—low reference fuel
- 3.3.14 *NEG*—National Exchange Group
- 3.3.15 *PRF*—primary reference fuels
- 3.3.16 *SRF*—secondary reference fuels
- 3.3.17 *TDC*—top dead center
- 3.3.18 *UV*—ultraviolet

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 The cetane number of a diesel fuel oil is determined by comparing its combustion characteristics in a test engine with those for blends of reference fuels of known cetane number under standard operating conditions. This is accomplished using the bracketing handwheel procedure which varies the compression ratio (handwheel reading) for the sample and each of two bracketing reference fuels to obtain a specific ignition delay permitting interpolation of cetane number in terms of handwheel reading.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 The cetane number provides a measure of the ignition characteristics of diesel fuel oil in compression ignition engines.

5.2 This test method is used by engine manufacturers, petroleum refiners and marketers, and in commerce as a primary specification measurement related to matching of fuels and engines.

5.3 Cetane number is determined at constant speed in a precombustion chamber type compression ignition test engine. The relationship of test engine performance to full scale, variable speed, variable load engines is not completely understood.

5.4 This test method may be used for unconventional fuels such as synthetics, vegetable oils, and the like. However, the relationship to the performance of such materials in full scale engines is not completely understood.

6. Interferences

6.1 (**Warning**—Avoid exposure of sample fuels and reference fuels to sunlight or fluorescent lamp UV emissions to minimize induced chemical reactions that can affect cetane number ratings.)⁴

6.1.1 Exposure of these fuels to UV wavelengths shorter than 550 nm for a short period of time may significantly affect cetane number ratings.

6.2 Certain gases and fumes present in the area where the cetane test engine is located may have a measurable effect on the cetane number test result.

6.3 This test method is not suitable for rating diesel fuel oils with fluid properties that interfere with unimpeded gravity flow of fuel to the fuel pump or delivery through the injector nozzle.

7. Apparatus

7.1 *Engine Equipment*^{5,6}—This test method uses a single cylinder engine which consists of a standard crankcase with fuel pump assembly, a cylinder with separate head assembly of the precombustion type, thermal syphon recirculating jacket coolant system, multiple fuel tank system with selector valving, injector assembly with specific injector nozzle, electrical controls, and a suitable exhaust pipe. The engine is belt connected to a special electric power-absorption motor which acts as a motor driver to start the engine and as a means to absorb power at constant speed when combustion is occurring (engine firing). See Fig. 1 and Table 1.

7.2 *Instrumentation*^{5,6}—This test method uses an electronic instrument to measure injection and ignition delay timing as well as conventional thermometry, gages and general purpose meters.

7.2.1 *Cetane Meter*, (Ignition Delay Meter) is critical and shall be used for this test method.

7.3 *Reference Fuel Dispensing Equipment*—This test method requires repeated blending of two secondary reference fuel materials in volumetric proportions on an as-needed basis. Measurement shall be performed accurately because rating error is proportional to blending error.

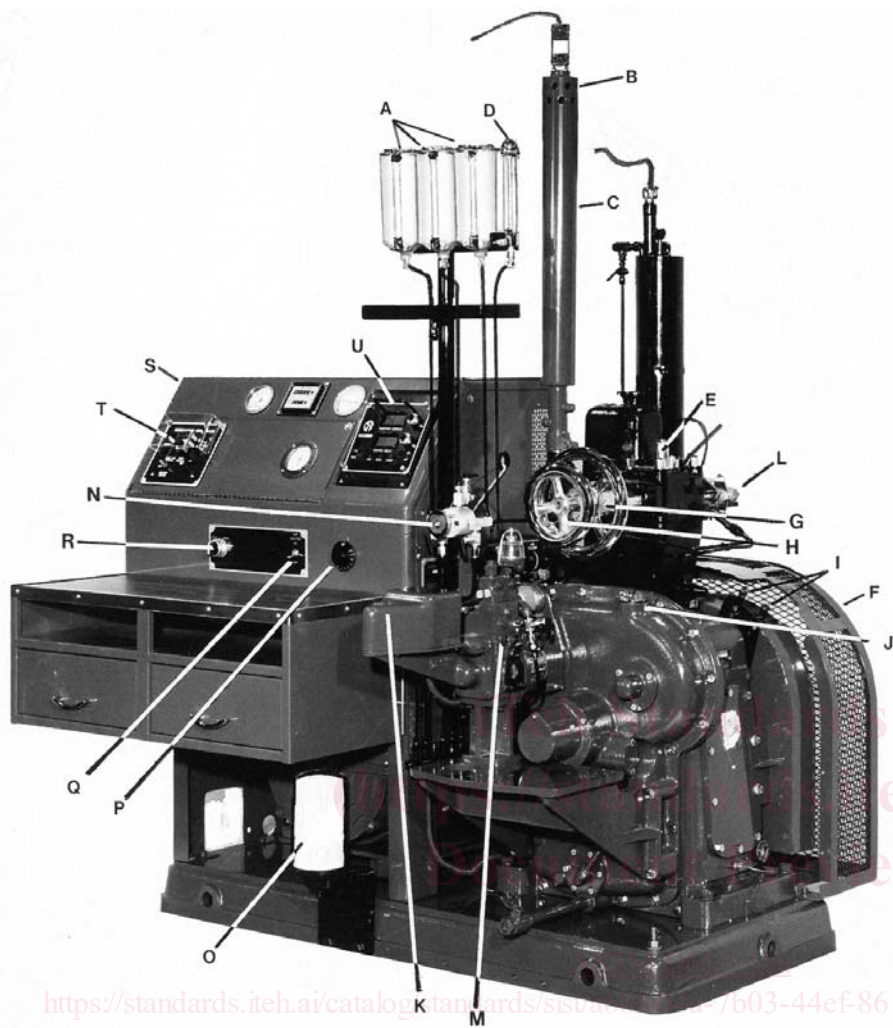
7.3.1 *Volumetric Blending of Reference Fuels*—Volumetric blending has historically been employed to prepare the required blends of reference fuels. For volumetric blending, a set of two burets or accurate volumetric ware shall be used and the desired batch quantity shall be collected in an appropriate container and thoroughly mixed before being introduced to the engine fuel system.

7.3.1.1 Calibrated burets or volumetric ware having a capacity of 400 or 500 mL and a maximum volumetric tolerance of $\pm 0.2\%$ shall be used. Calibration shall be verified in accordance with Practice E542.

⁴ Supporting data have been filed at ASTM International Headquarters and may be obtained by requesting Research Report RR:D02-1502.

⁵ The sole source of supply of the engine equipment and instrumentation known to the committee at this time is Waukesha Engine, Dresser Inc., 1101 West St. Paul Avenue, Waukesha, WI 53188. Waukesha Engine also has CFR engine authorized sales and service organizations in selected geographical areas.

⁶ If you are aware of alternative suppliers, please provide this information to ASTM International Headquarters. Your comments will receive careful consideration at a meeting of the responsible technical committee, which you may attend.



- A—Fuel Tanks
- B—Air Heater Housing
- C—Air Intake Silencer
- D—Fuel Flow Rate Buret
- E—Combustion Pickup
- F—Safety Guard
- G—Variable Compression Plug Handwheel
- H—V.C.P. Locking Handwheel
- I—Flywheel Pickups
- J—Oil Filler Cap
- K—Injection Pump Safety Shut-Off Solenoid
- L—Injector Assembly
- M—Fuel Injection Pump
- N—Fuel Selector-Valve
- O—Oil Filter
- P—Crankcase Oil Heater Control
- Q—Air Heater Switch
- R—Engine Start-Stop Switch
- S—Instrument Panel
- T—Intake Air Temperature Controller
- U—Dual Digital Cetane Meter

FIG. 1 Cetane Method Test Engine Assembly

7.3.1.2 Calibrated burets shall be outfitted with a dispensing valve and delivery tip to accurately control dispensed volume. The delivery tip shall be of such size and design that shutoff tip discharge does not exceed 0.5 mL.

7.3.1.3 The rate of delivery from the dispensing system shall not exceed 500 mL per 60 s.

7.3.1.4 The set of burets for the reference and standardization fuels shall be installed in such a manner and be supplied with fluids such that all components of each batch or blend are dispensed at the same temperature.

7.3.1.5 See Appendix X1, Volumetric Reference Fuel Blending Apparatus and Procedures, for typical dispensing system information.

7.3.2 *Gravimetric Blending of Reference Fuels*—Use of blending systems that allow preparation of the volumetrically-defined blends by gravimetric (mass) measurements based on the density of the individual components is also permitted, provided the system meets the requirement for maximum 0.2 % blending tolerance limits.

7.3.2.1 Calculate the mass equivalents of the volumetrically-defined blend components from the densities of the individual components at 15.56°C (60°F).

7.4 Auxiliary Apparatus:

7.4.1 *Injector Nozzle Tester*—The injector nozzle assembly shall be checked whenever the injector nozzle is removed and reassembled to ensure the initial pressure at which fuel is discharged from the nozzle is properly set. It is also important to inspect the type of spray pattern. Commercial injector nozzle testers which include a lever-operated pressure cylinder, fuel reservoir and pressure gauge are available from several sources as common diesel engine maintenance equipment.

7.4.2 *Special Maintenance Tools*—A number of specialty tools and measuring instruments should be utilized for easy, convenient and effective maintenance of the engine and testing equipment. Lists and descriptions of these tools and instruments

TABLE 1 General Engine Characteristics and Information

Item	Description
Crankcase	Model CFR-48 (Preferred), High or Low Speed Models (Optional)
Cylinder Type	Single bore cast iron with integral coolant jacket
Cylinder Head Type	Cast Iron with turbulence precombustion chamber, variable compression plug passage, integral coolant passages, and in-head valve assembly
Compression Ratio	Adjustable 8:1 to 36:1 by external handwheel assembly
Cylinder Bore (Diameter), in.	3.250 (Standard), Reboring to 0.010, 0.020, 0.030 over is acceptable
Stroke, in.	4.50
Displacement, cu in.	37.33
Valve Mechanism	In-head with enclosure
Intake and Exhaust Valves	Stellite faced, plain type without shroud
Piston	Cast iron, flat top
Piston Rings:	
Compression Type	4, Ferrous, straight sided (Top may be chrome plated—Optional)
Oil Control	1, Cast iron, one piece, slotted (Type 85)
Camshaft Over lap, degree	5
Fuel System	Injection pump with variable timing device and injector
Injector	Holder with bypass pressure release valve
Spray Nozzle	Closed, differential-needle, hydraulically-operated, pintle type
Weight of Engine	Approximately 400 kg (880 lb)
Weight of Complete Test Unit	Approximately 1250 kg (2750 lb)

are available from the manufacturers of the engine equipment and those organizations offering engineering and service support for this test method.

8. Reagents and Reference Materials

8.1 *Cylinder Jacket Coolant*—Water shall be used in the cylinder jacket for laboratory locations where the resultant boiling temperature shall be $100 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ ($212 \pm 3^\circ\text{F}$). Water with commercial glycol-based antifreeze added in sufficient quantity to meet the boiling temperature requirement shall be used when laboratory altitude dictates. A commercial multifunctional water treatment material should be used in the coolant to minimize corrosion and mineral scale that can alter heat transfer and rating results.

8.1.1 Water shall be understood to mean reagent water conforming to Type IV of Specification D1193.

8.2 *Engine Crankcase Lubricating Oil*—An SAE 30 viscosity grade oil meeting service classification SF/CD or SG/CE shall be used. It shall contain a detergent additive and have a kinematic viscosity of 9.3 to 12.5 cSt (mm^2 per s) at 100°C (212°F) and a viscosity index of not less than 85. Oils containing viscosity index improvers shall not be used. Multigraded oils shall not be used. (**Warning**—Lubricating oil is combustible, and its vapor is harmful. See Annex A1.)

8.3 *Primary Reference Fuels*—(**Warning**—Primary Reference Fuel—Combustible. Vapor harmful. See Annex A1.)^{6,7}

8.3.1 *n-Cetane (n-hexadecane)*—With a minimum purity of 99.0 % as determined by chromatographic analysis shall be used as the designated 100 cetane number component.

8.3.2 *Heptamethylnonane (2,2,4,4,6,8,8-heptamethyl-nonane)* —With a minimum purity of 98 % as determined by chromatographic analysis shall be used as the designated 15 cetane number component.

8.4 *Secondary Reference Fuels*^{6,8}—(**Warning**—Secondary Reference Fuel—Combustible. Vapor harmful. See Annex A1.)

8.4.1 *T Fuel*—Diesel fuel with a CN_{ARV} typically in the range of 73 to 75.

8.4.2 *U Fuel*—Diesel fuel with a CN_{ARV} typically in the range of 20 to 22.

8.4.3 Storage and use of *T Fuel* and *U Fuel* should be at temperatures above 0°C (32°F) to avoid potential solidification, particularly of *T Fuel*. Before a container that has been stored at low temperature is placed in service, it should be warmed to a temperature of at least 14°C (26°F) above its Cloud Point. (See Test Method D2500.) It should be held at this temperature for a period of at least 30 min and then the container should be thoroughly remixed.

8.5 *Check Fuels*⁹—Diesel fuel oils typical of Specification D975 grade No. 2-D distillate fuel oil. (**Warning** —Check Fuel—Combustible. Vapor harmful. See Annex A1.)

⁷ The sole source of supply of primary reference fuels known to the committee at this time is Humphrey Chemical Co., Devine Street, North Haven, CT 06473.

⁸ The sole source of supply of the secondary reference and check fuels known to the committee at this time is Chevron Phillips Chemical Company LP, 1301 McKinney, Suite 2130, Houston, TX 77010-3030.

⁹ Blend Tables for batches of *T Fuel* and *U Fuel* can be obtained from the fuel supplier or by requesting Research Report RR:D02-1302 from ASTM International.

8.5.1 *Low Cetane Check Fuel*—With a CN_{ARV} typically in the range of 38 to 42.

8.5.2 *High Cetane Check Fuel*—With a CN_{ARV} typically in the range of 50 to 55.

9. Sampling

9.1 Collect samples in accordance with Practice D4057 or D4177.

9.1.1 *Protection from Light*—Collect and store sample fuels in an opaque container such as a dark brown glass bottle, metal can, or a minimally reactive plastic container to minimize exposure to UV emissions from sources such as sunlight or fluorescent lamps.

9.2 *Fuel Temperature*—Samples shall be brought to room temperature typically 18 to 32°C (65 to 90°F) before engine testing.

9.2.1 The fuel temperature should be raised at least 14°C (26°F) above the fuel’s cloud point. The fuel sample should be homogeneous before engine testing or filtration (9.3).

NOTE 1—Give consideration to the fuel’s composition related to sample temperature to avoid the loss of any lower boiling components that may affect the cetane rating.

9.3 *Filtration*—Samples may be filtered through a Type I, Class A filter paper at room temperature and pressure before engine testing. See Specification E832.

10. Basic Engine and Instrument Settings and Standard Operating Conditions

10.1 *Installation of Engine Equipment and Instrumentation*—Installation of the engine and instrumentation requires placement of the engine on a suitable foundation and hookup of all utilities. Engineering and technical support for this function is required, and the user shall be responsible to comply with all local and national codes and installation requirements.

10.1.1 Proper operation of the test engine requires assembly of a number of engine components and adjustment of a series of engine variables to prescribed specifications. Some of these settings are established by component specifications, others are established at the time of engine assembly or after overhaul and still others are engine running conditions that must be observed or determined by operator adjustment, or both, during the testing process.

10.2 *Conditions Based on Component Specifications:*

10.2.1 *Engine Speed*— 900 ± 9 rpm, when the engine is operating with combustion with a maximum variation of 9 rpm occurring during a rating. Engine speed when combustion is occurring shall not be more than 3 rpm greater than that for motoring without combustion.

10.2.2 *Valve Timing*—The engine uses a four-stroke cycle with two crankshaft revolutions for each complete combustion cycle. The two critical valve events are those that occur near TDC; intake valve opening and exhaust valve closing.

10.2.2.1 Intake valve opening shall occur $10.0 \pm 2.5^\circ$ ATDC with closing at 34° ABDC on one revolution of the crankshaft and flywheel.

10.2.2.2 Exhaust valve opening shall occur 40° BBDC on the second revolution of the crankshaft or flywheel with closing at $15.0 \pm 2.5^\circ$ ATDC on the next revolution of the crankshaft or flywheel.

10.2.3 *Valve Lift*—Intake and exhaust cam lobe contours, while different in shape, shall have a contour rise of 6.223 to 6.350 mm (0.245 to 0.250 in.) from the base circle to the top of the lobe so that the resulting valve lift shall be 6.045 ± 0.05 mm (0.238 ± 0.002 in.).

10.2.4 *Fuel Pump Timing*—Closure of the pump plunger inlet port shall occur at a flywheel crank angle between 300 and 306° on the engine compression stroke when the fuel flow-rate-micrometer is set to a typical operating position and the variable timing device lever is at full advance (nearest to operator).

10.2.5 *Fuel Pump Inlet Pressure*—A minimum fuel head established by assembly of the fuel tanks (storage reservoirs) and flow rate measuring buret so that the discharge from them is 635 ± 25 mm (25 ± 1 in.) above the centerline of the fuel injection pump inlet.

10.3 *Assembly Settings and Operating Conditions:*

10.3.1 *Direction of Engine Rotation*—Clockwise rotation of the crankshaft when observed from the front of the engine.

10.3.2 *Injection Timing*— 13.0° BTDC, for the sample and reference fuels.

10.3.3 *Injector Nozzle Opening Pressure*— 10.3 ± 0.34 MPa (1500 ± 50 psi).

10.3.4 *Injection Flow Rate*— 13.0 ± 0.2 mL/min (60 ± 1 s per 13.0 mL).

10.3.5 *Injector Coolant Passage Temperature*— $38 \pm 3^\circ$ C ($100 \pm 5^\circ$ F).

10.3.6 *Valve Clearances:*

10.3.6.1 *Engine Stopped and Cold*—Clearance between the valve stem and valve rocker half-ball set to the following approximate measurements upon assembly before the engine is operated will typically provide the controlling engine running and hot clearance:

Intake Valve	0.075 mm (0.004 in.)
Exhaust Valve	0.330 mm (0.014 in.)

These clearances should ensure that both valves have sufficient clearance to cause valve seating during engine warm-up. The adjustable-length valve push-rods shall be set so that the valve rocker adjusting screws have adequate travel to permit the final clearance setting.

10.3.6.2 *Engine Running and Hot*—The clearance for both intake and exhaust valves shall be set to 0.20 ± 0.025 mm (0.008