



Designation: D3437 – 11

Standard Practice for Sampling and Handling Liquid Cyclic Products¹

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1. Scope*

1.1 This practice covers procedures for sampling and handling several liquid cyclic products. These specifically cover liquids at ambient temperature and include benzene, toluene, xylenes, cyclohexane, styrene, pyridine, ethylbenzene, isopropylbenzene, and alpha-methylstyrene.

1.2 Any person sampling and handling these products should have specific first aid instructions and equipment available for use in the event of personal contact or exposure.

1.3 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are mathematical conversions to SI units that are provided for information only and are not considered standard.

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 Sections 5, 6 and 7.

2. Referenced Documents

- 2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²
[D56 Test Method for Flash Point by Tag Closed Cup Tester](#)
[D850 Test Method for Distillation of Industrial Aromatic Hydrocarbons and Related Materials](#)
[D3505 Test Method for Density or Relative Density of Pure Liquid Chemicals](#)
[E300 Practice for Sampling Industrial Chemicals](#)

- 2.2 *American National Standards Institute Standard:*
[Z 288.1 Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code](#)³

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D16 on Aromatic Hydrocarbons and Related Chemicals and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D16.08 on Handling and Sampling Aromatic and Cyclic Hydrocarbons.

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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.

³ Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036, <http://www.ansi.org>.

- 2.3 *API Document:*⁴

[RP-500A Classification of Locations for Electrical Installations in Petroleum Refineries](#)⁴

- 2.4 *Other Documents:*

[OSHA Regulations, 29 CFR paragraphs 1910.1000 and 1910.2000](#)⁵

[OSHA Benzene Standard, 29 CFR 1910.1028](#)⁵

[U.S. DOT Regulations, 49 CFR Transportation Subchapter C, Parts 171-180](#)⁵

[DOT/USCG 46 CFR Subchapter O, Part 171](#)⁵

3. Significance and Use

3.1 This practice is issued to provide information useful in establishing sampling and handling procedures. It is expected that this information will only be utilized in conjunction with an existing health and safety program and consultation with an appropriate MSDS. The information provided herein cannot be used as a substitute for expert safety and medical advice as provided in appropriate MSDS, but rather as a supplement to such advice.

4. Description of Products (See Table 1)

4.1 These liquids are marketed in different grades of purity so the physical properties may vary slightly.

4.2 The products listed in Table 1 are classified by the Department of Transportation as flammable liquids, and containers must bear flammable liquid labels. Trucks and tank cars must have flammable liquid placards.

4.2.1 These products are ordinarily transported in steel drums, tank cars, tank trucks, barges and ships.

4.2.2 While these products are dangerous when handled improperly, their unloading need not be hazardous providing the hazards are recognized and handling instructions are rigidly observed.

4.3 Products shipped by air must be packaged to meet IATA and ICAO requirements.

⁴ Available from American Petroleum Institute (API), 1220 L. St., NW, Washington, DC 20005-4070, <http://www.api.org>.

⁵ Available from U.S. Government Printing Office Superintendent of Documents, 732 N. Capitol St., NW, Mail Stop: SDE, Washington, DC 20401, <http://www.access.gpo.gov>.

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

TABLE 1 Physical Properties

Product	Boiling Point, ^A °C	Solidification Point, ^B °C	Flash Point ^C Closed Cup, °C	Reid Vapor Pressure Characteristics, ^B Psia (kPa)	Relative Density, ^D 15.56/15.56°C	Odor Threshold, ^B mg/kg	Explosion Limit ^B Lower (volume %)	Explosion Limit ^B Higher	Autoignition Temperature ^B °F (°C)
Benzene	80	5.5	-11	3.22 (22.20)	0.88	4.7	1.3	7.9	1097 (592)
Cyclohexane	80	6.6	-17	3.3 (22.75)	0.78	2.5	1.3	8.4	518 (270)
Ethylbenzene	136	-95	15	0.4 (2.76)	0.87	140	1.0	6.7	860 (460)
Isopropylbenzene	152	-96	46	0.5 (3.45)	0.87	1.2	0.9	6.5	797 (425)
Pyridine	115	-42	20	0.77 (5.31)	0.99	0.02	1.8	12.4	900 (482)
Styrene	145	-30	31	0.27 (1.86)	0.91	0.15	1.1	6.1	914 (490)
Toluene	110	-95	4	1.1 (7.58)	0.87	0.17	1.3	7.0	997 (536)
Xylene (mixed)	137 to 144	-65	27	0.4 (2.76)	0.87	0.05	1.0	7.0	977 (525)
o-Xylene	144	-25	17	0.28 (1.93)	0.88	0.05	1.1	7.0	869 (465)
p-Xylene	138	13	27	0.34 (2.34)	0.87	0.05	1.1	6.6	870 (466)
alpha-Methyl Styrene	165	-23	45	0.23 (1.59)	0.91	<10	1.9	6.1	1066 (574)

^A See Test Method **D850**.

^B Weiss, G., *Hazardous Chemicals Data Book*, Second Edition, Noyes Publications, Park Ridge, NJ, 1986.

^C See Test Method **D56**.

^D See Test Method **D3505**.

5. Hazards

5.1 *Health*—Consult current OSHA regulations, supplier's Material Safety Data Sheets, and local regulations for all materials used in this practice.

5.2 Fire:

5.2.1 All of these liquids introduce a potential fire hazard where they are stored, handled, or used.

5.2.2 Vapors of all of these materials can form explosive mixtures with air.

5.2.3 Foam, carbon dioxide, dry chemical, or water fog can be used in fighting fires of these products. Special alcohol-type foam is required to extinguish effectively a fire involving pyridine.

6. Protection Equipment

6.1 Employees who work with the chemicals listed in **Table 1** should be trained and should maintain safe working conditions. Persons working with these chemicals require eye, face, body protection, and, for benzene, various types of respiratory protection that is dictated by the amount of exposure. Consult MSDS for more specific recommendations.

6.2 Personal protective equipment is not an adequate substitute for good safe working conditions, proper ventilation, and intelligent conduct. Correct usage of protection equipment requires education in proper use.

7. Safety Precautions

7.1 Unloading, loading and sampling operations must be conducted by carefully instructed employees and only when adequate lighting is provided.

7.2 Be sure that the storage tank is safely vented before connecting the unloading line.

7.3 Take extreme care to prevent spills and leaks. In case material is spilled, wash contaminated areas thoroughly with large quantities of water and collect the liquid in the plant chemical waste system. All spill-related activities should comply with applicable EPA, OSHA and local regulations and laws.

7.4 Because of the flammability of vapors, do not permit sparks or open flames in the vicinity of barges, ships, tank cars, tank trucks, drums, or storage tanks. All electrical equipment and wiring shall be of a type specified by and shall be installed in accordance with the National Electrical Code after determining whether or not the operation is carried out in a classified or unclassified area for electrical installations. Electrically bond tank cars, tank trucks, and drums by an approved method. Smoking is absolutely prohibited.

NOTE 1—See API RP-500A and ANSI Z 288.1, Chapters VI and VIII, on electric installations.

7.5 Do not permit workmen to enter an empty storage vessel, barge, ship, tank car, or tank truck until it has been thoroughly washed out with warm water, followed by a thorough steaming, and the tank atmosphere analyzed for oxygen as well as flammables. Entry should not be made without respiratory protection if the vapor space is not in compliance with OSHA TWA values. SUPERVISOR'S APPROVAL FOR ENTRY IS REQUIRED IN EVERY CASE.

7.6 Employees handling benzene must be trained annually to meet the requirements of OSHA Benzene Standard (29 CFR 1910.1028) and wear the respiratory protection listed.

7.7 Employees shall:

7.7.1 Know the hazards connected with the handling of specific products;

7.7.2 Be completely acquainted with the purpose, use, and maintenance of personal protective equipment;

7.7.3 Be trained to report promptly to supervision all suspected leaks or equipment failures;

7.7.4 Be trained to recognize and report any symptoms of systemic poisoning or skin contact; be thoroughly trained in the proper procedures for administering first aid and for obtaining professional medical help;

7.7.5 Know and routinely practice the accepted methods of sampling and handling these materials in order to avoid spilling or splashing, leaks, skin contact, vapor or mist inhalation, or ingestion;