
**Road vehicles — Specification of non-
petroleum-based brake fluids for
hydraulic systems**

*Véhicules routiers — Spécifications pour liquides de frein à base non
pétrolière pour systèmes hydrauliques*

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 22, *Road vehicles*, Subcommittee 33 *Chassis systems and components*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 4925:2005), which has been technically revised.

The main changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

- a terms and definitions clause was added ([Clause 3](#));
- an additional class 7 is introduced and added to the already existing classes 3, 4, 5-1 and 6;
- the reserve alkalinity is added upon request out of the automotive industry;
- the intended introducing of a stroking test into a future revision of this document is replaced by the intended introduction of a wear and noise test currently under development in the SAE and ISO TF lubrication.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Introduction

The specifications for fluids given in this document incorporate a range of performance standards in use throughout the world at the time of publication. To the already existing classes 3, 4, 5-1 and 6 an additional class 7 is added.

The major use of these fluids is in the hydraulic brake and clutch systems of road vehicles, but they can also be used in any suitable hydraulic system.

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Road vehicles — Specification of non-petroleum-based brake fluids for hydraulic systems

1 Scope

This document provides the specifications, requirements and test methods, for non-petroleum-based fluids used in road-vehicle hydraulic brake and clutch systems that are designed for use with such fluids and equipped with seals, cups or double-lipped type gland seals made of styrene-butadiene rubber (SBR) and ethylene-propylene elastomer (EPDM).

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 37, *Rubber, vulcanized or thermoplastic — Determination of tensile stress-strain properties*

ISO 48-2, *Rubber, vulcanized or thermoplastic — Determination of hardness (hardness between 10 IRHD and 100 IRHD)*

ISO 812, *Rubber, vulcanized or thermoplastic — Determination of low-temperature brittleness*

ISO 815 (all parts), *Rubber, vulcanized or thermoplastic — Determination of compression set*

ISO 3104, *Petroleum products — Transparent and opaque liquids — Determination of kinematic viscosity and calculation of dynamic viscosity*

ISO 4926, *Road vehicle — Hydraulic braking systems — Non petroleum base reference fluids*

ASTM D 91, *Standard test method for precipitation number of lubricating oils*

ASTM E 298, *Standard test methods for assay of organic peroxides*

ASTM D 395, *Standard test methods for rubber property — Compression set*

ASTM D 412, *Standard test methods for vulcanized rubber and thermoplastic elastomers — Tension*

ASTM D 746, *Standard test method for brittleness temperature of plastics and elastomers by impact*

ASTM D 865, *Standard test method for rubber — Deterioration by heating in air (test tube enclosure)*

ASTM D 1120, *Standard test method for boiling point of engine coolants*

ASTM D 1121, *Standard test method for reserve alkalinity of engine coolants and antirusts*

ASTM D 1123, *Standard test methods for water in engine coolant concentrate by the Karl Fisher reagent method*

ASTM D 1415, *Standard test method for rubber property — International hardness*

ASTM D 3182, *Standard practice for rubber — Materials, equipment and procedures for mixing standard compounds and preparing standard vulcanized sheets*

ASTM D 3185:2006, *Standard test methods for rubber—Evaluation of SBR (Styrene-Butadiene Rubber) including mixtures with oil*

3 Terms and definitions

No terms and definitions are listed in this document.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>

4 Materials

On visual inspection, the fluid shall be clear and free of suspended matter, dirt and sediment. The quality of the materials used shall be such that the resulting product conforms to the requirements of this document and that uniformity of performance is ensured. Fluids may be dyed, provided no confusion is possible between them and other types of fluids.

5 Specifications

The product shall meet the requirements for the appropriate class in accordance with [Table 1](#), using the test methods according to [Clause 6](#).

Table 1 — Brake fluid specifications — Tests and requirements

Test method (subclause)	Test description	Unit	Requirement(s)					
			Class 3	Class 4	Class 5-1	Class 6	Class 7	
6.1	Viscosity	at -40 °C	≤1,500	≤900	≤750	≤750		
		at 100 °C		≥1,5				
6.2	Equilibrium reflux boiling point (ERBP)	°C	≥205	≥230	≥260	≥250	≥260	
6.2.6	Wet ERBP	°C	≥140	≥155	≥180	≥165	≥180	
6.3	pH	—	7 to 11,5					
6.4	Fluid stability							
6.4.1	High-temperature stability	°C	±5 °C					
6.4.2	Chemical stability	°C	±5 °C					
6.5	Corrosion	Metal strip characteristics after testing						
		Mass change						
		Tinned iron	mg/cm ²	-0,2 to 0,2				
		Steel	mg/cm ²	-0,2 to 0,2				
		Aluminium	mg/cm ²	-0,1 to 0,1				
		Cast iron	mg/cm ²	-0,2 to 0,2				
		Brass	mg/cm ²	-0,4 to 0,4				
		Copper	mg/cm ²	-0,4 to 0,4				
	Aspect	—	No pitting or roughness outside contact area					
	Staining/discoloration	—	Permitted					
	Liquid characteristics after testing							
NOTE It is intended that a “wear” and “noise” lubrication test, currently under development in the SAE and ISO TF lubrication, will be added to a future revision of this document.								
NOTE Reserve alkalinity is requested by many customers.								

Table 1 (continued)

Test method (subclause)	Test description	Unit	Requirement(s)				
			Class 3	Class 4	Class 5-1	Class 6	Class 7
	Aspect	—	No gel, none adhering crystals				
	pH	—	7 to 11,5				
	Sediment	% vol.	≤0,1				
	Rubber cup characteristics after testing						
	Blister or carbon black separation at surface	—	None				
	Hardness decrease	IRHD	≤15				
	Base diameter increase	mm	≤1,4				
	Volume increase	%	≤16				
6.6	Fluidity and appearance at low temperatures						
6.6.1	at -40 °C for 144 h						
	Aspect	—	Clear and homogeneous				
	Bubble flow time	s	≤10				
	Sediments	—	Absence				
6.6.2	at -50 °C for 6 h						
	Aspect	—	Clear and homogeneous				
	Bubble flow time	s	≤35				
	Sediments	—	Absence				
6.7	Water tolerance						
6.7.1	at -40 °C for 22 h						
	Aspect	—	Clear and homogeneous				
	Bubble flow time	s	≤10				
	Sediments	—	Absence				
6.7.2	at 60 °C for 22 h						
	Aspect	—	Clear and homogeneous				
	Sediments	% vol.	≤0,05				
6.8	Compatibility/miscibility with ISO 4926 fluid						
6.8.1	at -40 °C for 22 h						
	Aspect	—	Clear and homogeneous				
	Sediments	—	Absence				
6.8.2	at 60 °C for 22 h						
	Aspect	—	Clear and homogeneous				
	Sediments	% vol.	≤0,05				
6.9	Resistance to oxidation						
	Metal strip aspect	—	No pitting or roughness no more than a trace of gum				
	Staining/discoloration	—	Permitted				
	Mass change of aluminium strip	mg/cm ²	-0,05 to +0,05				
	Mass change of cast iron strip	mg/cm ²	-0,3 to +0,3				
6.10	Effect on rubber						
NOTE It is intended that a “wear” and “noise” lubrication test, currently under development in the SAE and ISO TF lubrication, will be added to a future revision of this document.							
NOTE Reserve alkalinity is requested by many customers.							

Table 1 (continued)

Test method (subclause)	Test description	Unit	Requirement(s)				
			Class 3	Class 4	Class 5-1	Class 6	Class 7
6.10.1.1	Styrene butadiene rubber (SBR)						
	at 120 °C						
	Cup diameter increase	mm	0,15 to 1,4				
	Hardness change	IRHD	-15 to 0				
	Volume increase	%	1 to 16				
6.10.1.2	Blisters or carbon black separation at surface		None				
	Ethylene propylene diene monomer (EPDM)						
	at 120 °C						
	Hardness change	IRHD	-15 to 0				
	Volume change	%	0 to 10				
6.11	Blisters or carbon black separation at surface		None				
	Reserve alkalinity according to ASTM D 1121		mL	to be reported			
NOTE It is intended that a “wear” and “noise” lubrication test, currently under development in the SAE and ISO TF lubrication, will be added to a future revision of this document.							
NOTE Reserve alkalinity is requested by many customers.							

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6 Test methods

6.1 Viscosity

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6.1.1 General

Determine the kinematic viscosity of the fluid in accordance with ISO 3104.

Report the viscosity to the nearest 1 mm²/s at -40 °C and to the nearest 0,01 mm²/s at +100 °C. Duplicate runs that agree within 1,2 % relative are acceptable for averaging (95 % confidence level).

6.1.2 Repeatability (single analyst)

The coefficient of variation of results (each the average of duplicates) obtained by the same analyst on different days shall not be greater than 0,4 % at 47 degrees of freedom. Two such values shall be considered unacceptable (95 % confidence level) if they differ by more than 1,2 %.

6.1.3 Reproducibility (multi-laboratory)

The coefficient of variation of results (each the average of duplicates) obtained by analysts in different laboratories shall not be greater than 1,0 % at 15 degrees of freedom. Two such values shall be considered unacceptable (95 % confidence level) if they differ by more than 3,0 %.

6.2 Equilibrium reflux boiling point (ERBP)

6.2.1 General

Determine the ERBP of the fluid in accordance with ASTM D 1120¹⁾, but with the following changes to the procedure and to the apparatus (see [Figures 1](#) and [2](#)).

- Thermometer: immersion shall be 76 mm and the thermometer shall be calibrated.
- Heat source: use either a suitable variac-controlled heating mantle designed to fit the flask, or an electric heater with rheostat heat control.

6.2.2 Preparation of apparatus

Thoroughly clean and dry all glassware before use. Attach the flask to the condenser. When using a heating mantle, place the mantle under the flask and support it with a suitable ring clamp and laboratory-type stand, holding the whole assembly in place by a clamp. When using a rheostat-controlled heater, centre a standard porcelain or other suitable refractory having a diameter opening of 32 mm to 38 mm over the heating element of the electric heater and mount the flask on the refractory so that direct heat is applied to the flask only through the opening in the refractory. Place the whole assembly in an area free from draughts or other causes of sudden temperature changes.

6.2.3 Test procedure

Turn on the condenser water and apply heat to the flask at such a rate that the fluid is refluxing within (10 ± 2) min at a rate higher than one drop per second. The reflux rate shall not exceed five drops per second. Immediately adjust the heat input to obtain a specified equilibrium reflux rate of one drop per second to two drops per second over the next (5 ± 2) min period. Maintain a timed and constant equilibrium reflux rate of one drop per second to two drops per second for an additional 2 min; record the average value of four temperature readings taken at 30 s intervals at the equilibrium reflux boiling point.

Report the boiling point to the nearest degree Celsius. Duplicate results that agree within 3 °C are acceptable for averages (95 % confidence level).

6.2.4 Repeatability (single analyst)

The standard deviation of results (each the average of duplicates), obtained by the same analyst on different days shall not be greater than 1,3 °C at 34 degrees of freedom. Two such values shall be considered unacceptable (95 % confidence level) if they differ by more than 4 °C.

6.2.5 Reproducibility (multi-laboratory)

The standard deviation of results (each the average of duplicates), obtained by analysts in different laboratories, shall be not greater than 3,5 °C at 15 degrees of freedom. Two such values shall be considered unacceptable (95 % confidence level) if they differ by more than 10,5 °C.

1) Boiling chips for use with ASTM D 1120 can be obtained from Electro Minerals Co. (US) Inc, PO Box 423, Niagara Falls, NY 14302, USA, or from the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE), 400 Commonwealth Drive, Warrendale Pa 15096, USA (RM-75). Boiling chip is an example of a suitable product available commercially. This information is given for the convenience of users of this document and does not constitute an endorsement by ISO of this product.

6.2.6 Wet ERBP test

6.2.6.1 Apparatus

5.2.6.1.1 Two corrosion test jars or equivalent screw-top, straight-sided, round glass jars each having a capacity of about 475 ml and approximate inner dimensions of 100 mm height by 75 mm diameter, with matching lids having new, clean inserts providing water-proof and vapour-proof seals²⁾.

5.2.6.1.2 Desiccator and cover: bowl-form glass desiccator with 250 mm inside diameter, having a matching tubulated cover fitted with a No. eight rubber stopper (see [Figure 3](#)).

5.2.6.1.3 Desiccator plate of 230 mm diameter, perforated porcelain desiccator plate, without feet, glazed on one side (No.18 or equivalent)³⁾.

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2) Suitable corrosion test jars (RM-49) and tinned steel lids (RM-63) can be obtained from the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE), 400 Commonwealth Drive, Warrendale, Pa 15096, USA.

3) Desiccator plates (No. 08-641C) can be obtained from Fischer Scientific, Springfield, New Jersey, USA or CeramTec AG (No. 602786), Glaswerk Wertheim KG (No. 911743431) or equivalents, according to DIN/ISO 12911, diameter 235 mm.