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Standard Test Method for Oxidation Stability of Gasoline (Induction Period Method)¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D525; 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 stability of gasoline in finished form only, under accelerated oxidation conditions. (**Warning**—This test method² is not intended for determining the stability of gasoline components, particularly those with a high percentage of low boiling unsaturated compounds, as these may cause explosive conditions within the apparatus. However, because of the unknown nature of certain samples, the pressure vessel assembly shall include a safety burst-disc in order to safeguard the operator.)

NOTE 1—For measurement of oxidation stability of gasoline by measurement of potential gum, refer to Test Method D873, or IP Test Method 138.

NOTE 2—The precision data were developed with gasolines derived from hydrocarbon sources only without oxygenates.

1.2 The accepted SI unit of pressure is the kilo Pascal (kPa), and of temperature is °C.

1.3

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.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*³

D873 Test Method for Oxidation Stability of Aviation Fuels (Potential Residue Method)

D4057 Practice for Manual Sampling of Petroleum and Petroleum Products

E1 Specification for ASTM Liquid-in-Glass Thermometers

2.2 *Energy Institute Standards:*⁴

IP-138 Test Method for Oxidation Stability, Aviation Gasoline

Part IV—Petroleum and its Products

Part IV— Petroleum and its Products⁵

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D02 on Petroleum Products and Lubricants and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D02.14 on Stability and Cleanliness of Liquid Fuels.

This test method has been approved by the sponsoring committees and accepted by the Cooperating Societies in accordance with established procedures.

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² Further information can be found in the June 1978, January 1979, and June 1986 editions of the *Institute of Petroleum Review*.

³ 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.

⁴ Available from Energy Institute, 61 New Cavendish St., London W1M, 8AR U.K.

⁵ A convenient template for measuring the breakpoint is described in the paper by Korb, E. L., "Induction Period Calculator," *ASTM Bulletin*, No. 153, August 1948, pp. 99-102.

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

3.1.1 ~~break point~~ **break point, *n***—the point in the pressure-time curve that is preceded by a pressure drop of exactly 14 kPa within 15 min and succeeded by a drop of not less than 14 kPa in 15 min.

3.1.2 ~~induction period~~ **induction period, *n***—the time elapsed between the placing of the pressure vessel in the bath and the break point at 100°C.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 The sample is oxidized in a pressure vessel initially filled at 15 to 25°C with oxygen pressure at 690 to 705 kPa and heated at a temperature between 98 and 102°C. The pressure is recorded continuously or read at stated intervals until the breakpoint is reached. The time required for the sample to reach this point is the observed induction period at the temperature of test, from which the induction period at 100°C can be calculated. (**Warning**—In addition to other precautions, to provide protection against the possibility of explosive rupture of the pressure vessel, the pressure vessel should be operated behind an appropriate safety shield.)

5. Significance and Use

5.1 The induction period may be used as an indication of the tendency of motor gasoline to form gum in storage. It should be recognized, however, that its correlation with the formation of gum in storage may vary markedly under different storage conditions and with different gasolines.

6. Apparatus

6.1 *Oxidation Pressure Vessel, Glass Sample Container and Cover, Accessories, Pressure Gage, and Oxidation Bath*, as described in Annex A1.

6.2 *Thermometer*, having a range as shown as follows and conforming to the requirements as prescribed in Specification E1 or in the specifications for IP thermometers:

NOTE 3—Other temperature sensing devices that cover the temperature range of interest, such as thermocouples or platinum resistance thermometers, that can provide equivalent or better accuracy and precision, may be used in place of thermometers specified in 6.2.

Temperature Range	ASTM	Thermometer Number	IP
95 to 103°C	22C		24C

7. Reagents and Materials

7.1 *Gum Solvent*—Mixture of equal volumes of toluene and acetone, both of which shall be of 99 % minimum purity.

7.2 *Oxygen*—Commercially-available extra-dry oxygen of not less than 99.6 % purity.

8. Sampling

8.1 Sample in accordance with the procedure for oxidation stability as described in Practice D4057.

9. Preparation of Apparatus

9.1 Wash the glass sample container with gum solvent until free from gum. Rinse thoroughly with water and immerse the sample container and cover in detergent cleaning solution. The type of detergent and conditions for its use shall match the cleanliness obtained by the use of a strongly oxidizing agent such as chromosulfuric acid, ammonium peroxydisulfate in concentrated sulfuric acid at approximately 8 G./L, or sulfuric acid itself, soaking for at least 12 h, followed by rinses in tap water, distilled water and then acetone. For comparison, visual appearance and weight loss on heating the glassware under test conditions may be used. Glassware needs to show no signs of discoloration or particulates on the surface. The weight of glassware must not change by more than ± 0.5 mg between cleaning and heating/cooling cycles. Detergent cleaning avoids the potential hazards and inconveniences related to handling corrosive chromic acid solutions; this procedure remains the reference cleaning practice and as such may function as an alternate to the preferred procedure, cleaning with detergent solutions.

9.2 Remove container and cover from the cleaning solution by means of corrosion-resistant steel forceps and handle only with forceps thereafter. Wash thoroughly, first with tap water, then with distilled water, and dry in an oven at 100 to 150°C for at least 1 h.

9.3 Drain any gasoline from the pressure vessel and wipe the inside of the pressure vessel and pressure vessel closure, first with a clean cloth moistened with gum solvent and then with a clean dry cloth. Remove the filler rod from the stem and carefully clean any gum or gasoline from the stem, rod, and needle valve with gum solvent. The pressure vessel, the valve, and all connecting lines shall be thoroughly dry before each test is started. (**Warning**—Volatile peroxides which may have formed during a previous test may accumulate in the equipment, producing a potentially explosive environment. Special care in cleaning after each test is needed to ensure the filler rod, stem, and needle valve are free of these peroxides.)

10. Procedure

10.1 Bring the pressure vessel and the gasoline to be tested to a temperature of 15 to 25°C. Place the glass sample container in the pressure vessel and add 50 ± 1 mL of test specimen. Alternatively, transfer 50 ± 1 mL of test specimen into the glass sample container first, before placing the glass sample container into the pressure vessel. Cover the sample container, close the pressure

vessel, and using a quick release air coupling introduce oxygen until a pressure of 690 to 705 kPa is attained. Allow the gas in the bomb to escape slowly in order to flush out the air originally present (*Release the pressure at a slow uniform rate through the needle valve at a rate not to exceed 345 kPa per min*). Introduce oxygen again until a pressure of 690 to 705 kPa is attained and observe for leaks, ignoring an initial rapid drop in pressure (generally not over 40 kPa) which may be observed because of the solution of oxygen in the sample. When the rate of pressure drop does not exceed 7 kPa in 10 min, assume the absence of leaks and proceed with the test without repressuring.

10.2 Place the charged pressure vessel in the vigorously boiling water bath, or appropriate liquid bath equipped with mechanical stirring, being careful to avoid shaking, and record the time of immersion as the starting time. Maintain the temperature of the liquid bath between 98 and 102°C. Observe the temperature to the nearest 0.1°C at intervals during the test, and record the average temperature to the nearest 0.1°C as the temperature of the test. Make a continuous record of the pressures in the pressure vessel, or if an indicating pressure gage is used, take pressure readings at 15-min intervals or less. If, during the initial 30 min of the test, a leak develops (as indicated by a steady drop in pressure considerably in excess of 14 kPa in 15 min) discard the test. Continue the test until reaching a point preceded by a pressure drop of exactly 14 kPa in 15 min and succeeded by a drop of not less than 14 kPa in 15 min or until the induction period exceeds the product specification. If no breakpoint is observed at the termination of the test, refer to Section 12 for reporting the result. (**Warning**—If a boiling water bath is used and the test is made in a region where the atmospheric pressure is consistently below normal (101.3 kPa), it is permissible to add a liquid with higher boiling point, such as ethylene glycol, to the water in order to maintain the operating temperature of the bath in the neighborhood of 100°C. If a liquid other than water is used, be sure the liquid is compatible with the seals in the pressure vessel.)

10.3 Record the number of minutes from the time the pressure vessel is placed in the bath until the breakpoint has been reached as the observed induction period at the temperature of the test.

10.4 Cool the pressure vessel to approximately room temperature within 30 min after removal from the bath, using ambient air or water $\leq 35^\circ\text{C}$, before releasing the pressure slowly from the pressure vessel through the needle valve at a rate not exceeding 345 kPa per minute. Wash the pressure vessel and sample container in preparation for the next test.

11. Calculation

11.1 The number of minutes from the time the pressure vessel is placed in the bath until the breakpoint has been reached is the observed induction period at the temperature of the test.

11.2 *Method of Calculation*—Calculate the induction period at 100°C from one of the following equations: When the test temperature is above 100°C:

$$\text{Induction period at } 100^\circ\text{C} = (IP_t)(1 + 0.101(t_a - 100)) \quad (1)$$

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When the test temperature is below 100°C:

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where:

IP_t = induction period, min, at the temperature of the test,

t_a = test temperature when above 100°C, °C, and

t_b = test temperature when below 100°C, °C.

12. Report

12.1 Report the Induction period at 100°C, calculated as in 11.2 to the nearest 1 min.

12.2 If the test was stopped prior to observing the pressure drop required in 10.2, but after the product specification was exceeded, then report the result as being greater than N min, where N is the product specification in min.

12.3 If a slow oxidation of the sample is occurring rather than a breakpoint as defined in 10.2, then report the sample as a slow oxidizing fuel with the total time for the test and the overall pressure drop from the start of the test. A precision and bias statement has not been determined for this case.

13. Precision and Bias

13.1 The precision of the test method as determined by statistical examination of interlaboratory test results is as follows:

13.1.1 *Repeatability*—The difference between two test results, obtained by the same operator with the same apparatus under constant operating conditions on identical test material, would in the long run, in the normal and correct operation of the test method, exceed the following values only in one case in twenty: 5 %.

13.1.2 *Reproducibility*—The difference between two single and independent results obtained by different operators working in different laboratories on identical test material would, in the long run, in the normal and correct operation of the test method, exceed the following values only in one case in twenty: 10 %.

13.2 *Bias*—There being no criteria for measuring bias in these test-product combinations, no statement of bias can be made.

NOTE 4—The precision values given above for induction period were obtained using a boiling water bath only as the heat source. Therefore, these precision values are not necessarily applicable to induction period results obtained using other heat sources.