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Standard Test Method for Evaluation of Automotive Engine Oils in the Sequence IIF, Spark-Ignition Engine¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D6984; 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.

INTRODUCTION

~~This Portions of this test method described can be used by any properly equipped laboratory; it does not require the assistance of anyone outside that laboratory. However, theare written for use by laboratories that make use of ASTM Test Monitoring Center (TMC)² provides reference oils and an assessment of the test results obtained on those oils by the laboratory services (see Annex A1). By these means, the laboratory will know whether their use of the test method gives results statistically similar to those obtained by other laboratories. Furthermore, various agencies require that a laboratory utilize the TMC services in seeking qualification of oils against specifications. For example, the U.S. Army imposes such a requirement in connection with several Army engine lubricating oil specifications.~~

~~The TMC provides reference oils, and engineering and statistical services to laboratories that desire to produce test results that are statistically similar to those produced by laboratories previously calibrated by the TMC.~~

~~In general, the Test Purchaser decides if a calibrated test stand is to be used. Organizations such as the American Chemistry Council require that a laboratory utilize the TMC services as part of their test registration process. In addition, the American Petroleum Institute and the Gear Lubricant Review Committee of the Lubricant Review Institute (SAE International) require that a laboratory use the TMC services in seeking qualification of oils against their specifications.~~

~~The advantage of using the TMC services to calibrate test stands is that the test laboratory (and hence the Test Purchaser) has an assurance that the test stand was operating at the proper level of test severity. It should also be borne in mind that results obtained in a non-calibrated test stand may not be the same as those obtained in a test stand participating in the ASTM TMC services process.~~

~~Accordingly, this test method is written for use by laboratories that utilize the TMC services. Laboratories that choose not to use those the TMC services may simply ignore those portions of the test method that refer to the TMC; disregard these portions.~~

~~This test method may be modified by means of Information Letters issued by the TMC. In addition, the TMC may issue supplementary memoranda related to the test method (see A1.8).~~

1. Scope*

1.1 This test method covers an engine test procedure for evaluating automotive engine oils for certain high-temperature performance characteristics, including oil thickening, varnish deposition, oil consumption, as well as engine wear. Such oils include both single viscosity grade and multiviscosity grade oils that are used in both spark-ignition, gasoline-fueled engines, as well as in diesel engines.

NOTE 1—Companion test methods used to evaluate engine oil performance for specification requirements are discussed in SAE J304.

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 This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D02 on Petroleum Products, Liquid Fuels, and Lubricants and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D02.B0.01 on Passenger Car Engine Oils.

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² Until the next revision of this test method, the ASTM Test Monitoring Center will update changes in the test method by means of information letters. Information letters may be obtained from the ASTM Test Monitoring Center, 6555 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15206-4489. Attention: Administrator. www.astmtmc.cmu.edu. This edition incorporates revisions contained in all information letters through 14-2-15-1.

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

1.2.1 *Exceptions*—The values stated in inches for ring gap measurements are to be regarded as standard, and where there is no direct SI equivalent such as screw threads, National Pipe Threads/diameters, tubing size, or single source supply equipment specifications.

1.3 *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 requirements prior to use.*

1.4 This test method is arranged as follows:

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2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:³

- [D86 Test Method for Distillation of Petroleum Products at Atmospheric Pressure](#)
- [D130 Test Method for Corrosiveness to Copper from Petroleum Products by Copper Strip Test](#)
- [D235 Specification for Mineral Spirits \(Petroleum Spirits\) \(Hydrocarbon Dry Cleaning Solvent\)](#)
- [D240 Test Method for Heat of Combustion of Liquid Hydrocarbon Fuels by Bomb Calorimeter](#)
- [D323 Test Method for Vapor Pressure of Petroleum Products \(Reid Method\)](#)
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- [D445 Test Method for Kinematic Viscosity of Transparent and Opaque Liquids \(and Calculation of Dynamic Viscosity\)](#)
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- [D1319 Test Method for Hydrocarbon Types in Liquid Petroleum Products by Fluorescent Indicator Adsorption](#)
- [D2699 Test Method for Research Octane Number of Spark-Ignition Engine Fuel](#)
- [D2700 Test Method for Motor Octane Number of Spark-Ignition Engine Fuel](#)
- [D3231 Test Method for Phosphorus in Gasoline](#)
- [D3237 Test Method for Lead in Gasoline by Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy](#)
- [D3338 Test Method for Estimation of Net Heat of Combustion of Aviation Fuels](#)
- [D3343 Test Method for Estimation of Hydrogen Content of Aviation Fuels](#)
- [D4052 Test Method for Density, Relative Density, and API Gravity of Liquids by Digital Density Meter](#)
- [D4175 Terminology Relating to Petroleum, Petroleum Products, and Lubricants](#)
- [D4485 Specification for Performance of Active API Service Category Engine Oils](#)
- [D4684 Test Method for Determination of Yield Stress and Apparent Viscosity of Engine Oils at Low Temperature](#)
- [D4815 Test Method for Determination of MTBE, ETBE, TAME, DIPE, tertiary-Amyl Alcohol and C₁ to C₄ Alcohols in Gasoline by Gas Chromatography](#)

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.

- D5185 Test Method for Multielement Determination of Used and Unused Lubricating Oils and Base Oils by Inductively Coupled Plasma Atomic Emission Spectrometry (ICP-AES)
- D5191 Test Method for Vapor Pressure of Petroleum Products (Mini Method)
- D5293 Test Method for Apparent Viscosity of Engine Oils and Base Stocks Between –10 °C and –35 °C Using Cold-Cranking Simulator
- D5452 Test Method for Particulate Contamination in Aviation Fuels by Laboratory Filtration
- D5453 Test Method for Determination of Total Sulfur in Light Hydrocarbons, Spark Ignition Engine Fuel, Diesel Engine Fuel, and Engine Oil by Ultraviolet Fluorescence
- D5862 Test Method for Evaluation of Engine Oils in Two-Stroke Cycle Turbo-Supercharged 6V92TA Diesel Engine (Withdrawn 2009)⁴
- D6557 Test Method for Evaluation of Rust Preventive Characteristics of Automotive Engine Oils
- D6593 Test Method for Evaluation of Automotive Engine Oils for Inhibition of Deposit Formation in a Spark-Ignition Internal Combustion Engine Fueled with Gasoline and Operated Under Low-Temperature, Light-Duty Conditions
- D6750 Test Methods for Evaluation of Engine Oils in a High-Speed, Single-Cylinder Diesel Engine—1K Procedure (0.4 % Fuel Sulfur) and 1N Procedure (0.04 % Fuel Sulfur)
- D7320 Test Method for Evaluation of Automotive Engine Oils in the Sequence IIIG, Spark-Ignition Engine
- D7422 Test Method for Evaluation of Diesel Engine Oils in T-12 Exhaust Gas Recirculation Diesel Engine
- E29 Practice for Using Significant Digits in Test Data to Determine Conformance with Specifications
- E191 Specification for Apparatus For Microdetermination of Carbon and Hydrogen in Organic and Organo-Metallic Compounds
- E608/E608M Specification for Mineral-Insulated, Metal-Sheathed Base Metal Thermocouples
- E1119 Specification for Industrial Grade Ethylene Glycol
- G40 Terminology Relating to Wear and Erosion
- IEEE/ASTM SI-10 Standard for Use of the International System of Units (SI): The Modern Metric System
- 2.2 *Military Specification*:⁵
- MIL-PRF-2104 Lubricating Oil, Internal Combustion Engine, Tactical Service
- 2.3 *SAE Standards*:⁶
- J183 Engine Oil Performance and Engine Service Classification (Other Than “Energy-Conserving”)
- J300 Engine Oil Viscosity Classification *HS-23/00*
- J304 Engine Oil Tests
- 2.4 *Other ASTM Document*:⁷
- ASTM Deposit Rating Manual 20 (Formerly CRC Manual 20)

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

- 3.1.1 *blowby, n*—in internal combustion engines, that portion of the combustion products and unburned air/fuel mixture that leaks past piston rings into the engine crankcase during operation.
- 3.1.2 *BTDC (before top dead center), n*—used with the degree symbol to indicate the angular position of the crankshaft relative to its position at the point of uppermost travel of the piston in the cylinder.
- 3.1.3 *calibrate, v*—to determine the indication or output of a device (e.g., thermometer, manometer, engine) with respect to that of a standard.
- 3.1.4 *clogging, n*—the restriction of a flow path due to the accumulation of material along the flow path boundaries. **D4175**
- 3.1.5 *cold-stuck piston ring, n*—in internal combustion engines, a piston ring that is stuck when the piston and ring are at room temperature, but inspection shows that it was free during engine operation.

⁴ The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on www.astm.org.

⁵ Available from Standardization Documents Order Desk, DODSSP, Bldg. 4, Section D, 700 Robbins Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19111-5098.

⁶ Available from Society of Automotive Engineers, 400 Commonwealth Dr., Warrendale, PA 15096-0001. These standards are not available separately. Order either SAE Handbook Vol. 3, or SAE Fuels and Lubricants Standards Manual HS-23.

⁷ For Stock #TMCML20, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org.

3.1.5.1 Discussion—

A cold-stuck piston ring cannot be moved with moderate finger pressure. It is characterized by a polished face over its entire circumference, indicating essentially no blowby passed over the ring face during engine operation. **D4175**

3.1.6 *correction factor, n*—a mathematical adjustment to a test result to compensate for industry-wide shifts in severity. **D4175**

3.1.7 *corrosion, n*—the chemical or electrochemical reaction between a material, usually a metal surface, and its environment that can produce a deterioration of the material and its properties. **D6557**

3.1.8 *debris*, *n*—in internal combustion engines, solid contaminant materials unintentionally introduced into the engine or resulting from wear. **D5862**

3.1.9 *engine oil*, *n*—a liquid that reduces friction or wear, or both, between the moving parts within an engine; removes heat, particularly from the underside of pistons; and serves as a combustion gas sealant for piston rings.

3.1.9.1 *Discussion*—

It may contain additives to enhance certain properties. Inhibition of engine rusting, deposit formation, valve train wear, oil oxidation, and foaming are examples. **D6750**

3.1.10 *EWMA*, *n*—abbreviation for exponentially-weighted moving average. **D4175**

3.1.11 *free piston ring*, *n*—in internal combustion engines, a piston ring that will fall in its groove under the force of its own weight when the piston, with the ring in a horizontal plane, is turned 90° (putting the ring in a vertical plane). **D5862**

3.1.11.1 *Discussion*—

In the determination of this condition, the ring may be touched slightly to overcome static friction.

3.1.12 *hot-stuck piston ring*, *n*—in internal combustion engines, a piston ring that is stuck when the piston and ring are at room temperature, and inspection shows that it was stuck during engine operation.

3.1.12.1 *Discussion*—

The portion of the ring that is stuck cannot be moved with moderate finger pressure. A hot-stuck piston ring is characterized by varnish or carbon across some portion of its face, indicating that portion of the ring was not contacting the cylinder wall during engine operation. **D4175**

3.1.13 *lubricant test monitoring system (LTMS)*, *n*—an analytical system in which ASTM calibration test data are used to manage lubricant test precision and severity (bias). **D4175**

3.1.14 *LTMS date*, *n*—the date the test was completed unless a different date is assigned by the TMC. **D4175**

3.1.15 *LTMS time*, *n*—the time the test was completed unless a different time is assigned by the TMC. **D4175**

3.1.16 *lubricant*, *n*—any material interposed between two surfaces that reduces the friction or wear, or both, between them. **D5862**

3.1.17 *lubricating oil*, *n*—a liquid lubricant, usually comprising several ingredients, including a major portion of base oil and minor portions of various additives. **D4175**

3.1.18 *material safety data sheet, (MSDS)*, *n*—a fact sheet summarizing information about material identification; hazardous ingredients; health, physical, and fire hazards; first aid; chemical reactivities and incompatibilities; spill, leak, and disposal procedures; and protective measures required for safe handling and storage. **http://www.msdssearch.com**

3.1.19 *non-compounded engine oil*, *n*—a lubricating oil having a viscosity within the range of viscosities of oils normally used in engines, and that may contain anti-foam agents or pour depressants, or both, but not other additives.

3.1.19.1 *Discussion*—

In this test method non-compounded oil is also known as build-up oil. **D4175**

3.1.20 *non-reference oil*, *n*—any oil, other than a reference oil; such as a research formulation, commercial oil, or candidate oil. **D4175**

3.1.21 *oxidation*, *n*—of engine oil, the reaction of the oil with an electron acceptor, generally oxygen, that can produce deleterious acidic or resinous materials often manifested as sludge formation, varnish formation, viscosity increase, or corrosion, or a combination thereof.

3.1.22 *quality index (QI)*, *n*—a mathematical formula that uses data from controlled parameters to calculate a value indicative of control performance. **D4175**

3.1.23 *reference oil*, *n*—an oil of known performance characteristics, used as a basis for comparison.

3.1.23.1 *Discussion*—

Reference oils are used to calibrate testing facilities, to compare the performance of other oils, or to evaluate other materials (such as seals) that interact with oils. **D4175**

3.1.24 *rust (coatings)*, *n*—of iron or its alloys, a corrosion product consisting of hydrated iron oxides, usually reddish in color but can also be brown-to-black.

3.1.25 *SA*, *n*—abbreviation for severity adjustment.

3.1.26 *scoring*, *n*—in tribology, a severe form of wear characterized by the formation of extensive grooves and scratches in the direction of sliding. **G40**

3.1.27 *scuffing*, *n*—in lubrication, damage caused by instantaneous localized welding between surfaces in relative motion that does not result in immobilization of the parts. **D6593**

3.1.28 *test oil*, *n*—any oil subjected to evaluation in an established procedure. **D6557**

3.1.28.1 *Discussion*—

It can be any oil selected by the laboratory conducting the test. It could be an experimental product or a commercially available oil. Often, it is an oil that is a candidate for approval against engine oil specifications (such as manufacturers' or military specifications, and so forth).

3.1.29 *test procedure*, *n*—one where test parameters, apparatus, apparatus preparation, and measurements are principal items specified.

3.1.30 *used oil*, *n*—any oil that has been in a piece of equipment (for example, an engine, gearbox, transformer, or turbine), whether operated or not. **D4175**

3.1.31 *varnish*, *n*—in internal combustion engines, a hard, dry, generally lustrous deposit that can be removed by solvents, but not by wiping with a cloth. **D4175**

3.1.32 *wear*, *n*—the loss of material from a surface, generally occurring between two surfaces in relative motion, and resulting from mechanical or chemical action or a combination of both. **D7422**

3.2 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.2.1 *build-up oil*, *n*—EF-411, non-compounded, ISO VG 32 (SAE 10) oil used in lubricating some of the Sequence IIIF parts during engine assembly.

3.2.2 *calibrated test stand*, *n*—a test stand on which Sequence IIIF engine oil tests are conducted within the lubricant test monitoring system as administered by the TMC. (See 10.1).

3.2.3 *central parts distributor (CPD)*, *n*—the manufacturer and supplier of many of the parts and fixtures used in this test method. <https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/9d405dd3-5ab7-4796-abdd-a174e018a4e5/astm-d6984-15a>

3.2.3.1 *Discussion*—

Because of the need for rigorous inspection and control of many of the parts used in this test method, and because of the need for careful manufacture of special parts and fixtures used, companies having the capabilities to provide the needed services have been selected as the official suppliers for the Sequence IIIF test method. These companies work closely with the original parts suppliers, with the Test Procedure Developer,⁸ and with the ASTM groups associated with the test method to help ensure that the equipment and materials used in the method function satisfactorily.

3.2.4 *critical parts (CP)*, *n*—those components used in the test which are known to affect test severity.

⁸ General Motors Corp., Research and Developmental Ctr., Mail Code 480-106-160, Sequence IIIF Test Coordinator, 30500 Mound Rd., Box 9055, Warren, MI 48090-9055.

3.2.4.1 *Discussion*—

Critical parts shall be obtained from the Central Parts Distributor or Special Parts Supplier, who will identify them with either a serial number or a batch/lot control number.

3.2.5 *EOT time (end of test time)*, *n*—Twenty minutes after the engine reaches 80 test h of operation, which allows 90 s for ramp-down, a 15-min wait for oil to drain into the sump, and allows the operator 3.5 min to measure oil level.

3.2.6 *non-production parts (NP)*, *n*—components used in the test, which are available only through the Central Parts Distributor, Special Parts Supplier, or the Test Procedure Developer.

3.2.7 *participating laboratory, n*—a laboratory equipped to conduct Sequence IIIF tests, which conducts reference oil tests in cooperation with the TMC, in order to have calibrated test stands available for non-reference oil testing.

3.2.8 *pinched piston ring, n*—an installed piston ring which will not move in its groove under moderate finger pressure, but which has a polished face over its entire circumference indicating that it was free during engine operation. The ring may be restricted over varying degrees of its circumference.

3.2.9 *reference oil test, n*—a standard Sequence IIIF engine oil test of a reference oil designated by the TMC.

3.2.10 *service parts operations parts (SPO), n*—these test components are obtained from Service Parts Operations, a division of General Motors Corp.

3.2.11 *sluggish piston ring, n*—an installed piston ring which offers resistance to movement in its groove, but can be pressed into or out of the groove under moderate finger pressure; when so moved, it does not spring back (one that is neither free nor stuck).

3.2.12 *special parts supplier (SPS), n*—the manufacturer and supplier of many of the parts and fixtures used in this test method.

3.2.13 *special test parts (stp), n*—parts that do not meet all the definitions of critical parts, non-production parts, or SPO parts, but shall be obtained from the Special Parts Supplier.

3.2.14 *standard test, (valid test), n*—an operationally valid, full-length Sequence IIIF test conducted on a calibrated test stand in accordance with the conditions listed in this test method.

3.2.15 *stuck piston ring, n*—one that is either partially or completely bound in its groove and cannot be readily moved with moderate finger pressure.

3.2.16 *test full mark, n*—the oil level established after the 10-min initial run-in.

3.2.17 *test procedure developer, n*—the group or agency which developed the Sequence IIIF test procedure before its standardization by ASTM, and which continues to be involved with the test in respect to modifications in the test method, development of Information Letters, supply of test parts, and so forth.

3.2.17.1 Discussion—

In the case of the Sequence IIIF test, the Test Procedure Developer is General Motors Research and Development Center.

3.2.18 *test stand, n*—a suitable foundation (such as a bedplate) to which is mounted a dynamometer, and which is equipped with a suitable data acquisition system, fluids process control system, supplies of electricity, compressed air, and so forth, to provide a means for mounting and operating an engine in order to conduct a Sequence IIIF engine oil test.

3.2.19 *test start, n*—introduction of test oil into the engine after the final assembly and mounting in the test stand.

3.2.20 *test start time, n*—the time that test oil was introduced into the engine on the test stand.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 A 3800 Series II V-6 test engine block, with a displacement of 3.8 L, is solvent-cleaned, measured, and rebuilt using new parts installed as specified in this test method.

4.2 The engine is installed on a test stand equipped with an appropriate data acquisition system, the required fluids process control system, and all necessary accessories for controlling speed, torque, and various other operating parameters.

4.3 The engine is charged with the test oil.

4.4 The engine is operated for an initial run-in period of 10 min to check all test stand operating systems and to establish a zero hour oil level reading and initial oil viscosity sample.

4.5 Following the initial run-in of 10 min and oil level determination, the engine is operated under non-cyclic, moderately high speed, torque, and temperature conditions for 80 h, in 10 h segments.

4.6 The initial oil level in the oil pan is determined after the initial run-in of 10 min, and subsequent oil level calculations are determined during the oil leveling period at the end of each 10 h segment.

4.7 Used oil samples are taken after the initial run-in of 10 min and after each 10 h test segment; kinematic viscosity at 40 °C is determined for each of the ten samples; the percentage change in viscosity of the nine latter samples is determined relative to the viscosity of the first used oil sample (10 min initial run-in).

4.8 At the conclusion of the test, the engine is disassembled and the parts are visually rated to determine the extent of deposits formed. In addition, wear measurements are obtained.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 This test method was developed to evaluate automotive engine oils for protection against oil thickening and engine wear during moderately high-speed, high-temperature service.

5.2 The increase in oil viscosity obtained in this test method indicates the tendency of an oil to thicken because of oxidation. In automotive service, such thickening can cause oil pump starvation and resultant catastrophic engine failures.

5.3 The deposit ratings for an oil indicate the tendency for the formation of deposits throughout the engine, including those that can cause sticking of the piston rings in their grooves. This can be involved in the loss of compression pressures in the engine.

5.4 The camshaft and lifter wear values obtained in this test method provide a measure of the anti-wear quality of an oil under conditions of high unit pressure mechanical contact.

5.5 The test method was developed to correlate with oils of known good and poor protection against oil thickening and engine wear. Specially formulated oils that produce less than desirable results with unleaded fuels were also used during the development of this test method.

5.6 The Sequence IIIF engine oil test has replaced the Sequence IIIE test and can be used in specifications and classifications of engine lubricating oils, such as:

5.6.1 Specification [D4485](#),

5.6.2 Military Specification MIL-PRF-2104, and

5.6.3 SAE Classification J183.

6. Apparatus

6.1 *Laboratory*—Observe the following laboratory conditions to ensure good control of test operations and good repeatability:

6.1.1 Maintain the ambient laboratory atmosphere relatively free of dirt, dust, and other contaminants.

6.1.2 Control the temperature of the room in which parts measurements are made so that the temperature for after-test measurements is within a range of ± 3 °C relative to the temperature for the before-test measurements. If difficulties with parts fits are encountered, consider the effects of temperature coefficient of expansion. (See [6.2](#).)

6.1.3 Filter the air in the engine build-up area, and control its temperature and humidity to prevent accumulation of dirt or rust on engine parts.

6.1.4 If an engine is assembled in an area of controlled environment and moved to a non-controlled area, provide suitable protection of the engine so that moist air cannot enter the engine and promote rusting before the test.

6.1.5 Do not permit air from fans or ventilation systems to blow directly on an engine mounted on a test stand during test operation.

6.2 *Drawings*—Obtain the equipment drawings referenced in [Annex A13A16](#) of this test method from the TMC. Because the drawings may not be to scale or may not contain dimensions when using them to fabricate special parts, do not use a dimensionless drawing as a pattern. Drawings supplied with dimensions are considered to be correct when the temperature of the equipment is 22 °C ± 3 °C, unless otherwise specified.

6.3 *Specified Equipment*—Use the equipment specified in the procedure whenever possible. Substitution of equivalent equipment is allowed, but only after equivalency has been proven to the satisfaction of the TMC, the Test Procedure Developer, and the ASTM Sequence IIIF Surveillance Panel.

6.3.1 Do not use heat lamps or fans directed at the engine, and do not use insulation on the engine for oil or coolant temperature control.

NOTE 2—For operator safety and the protection of test components, the use of shielding and insulation on the exhaust system may be incorporated downstream of the oxygen sensor elbow.

6.4 *Test Engine*—The test engine is based on a 1996-97 L36 3800 Series II V-6 engine with a displacement of 3.8 L and a 9.0:1 compression ratio, equipped with a production fuel injection system, a retrofit flat-tappet valvetrain, and a special Powertrain control module (PCM) for test specific dynamometer operation. Rebuild the engine as specified in this test method.

NOTE 3—Complete test engines are not available for purchase. Test engines can be rebuilt using parts and test kits. See Sequence IIIF Engine Assembly Manual²; see [Annex A2A5](#) and [Annex A13A16](#) for listings of parts and related equipment.

6.4.1 *Engine Parts*—Use the engine parts specified in the Sequence IIIF Engine Assembly Manual.

6.4.1.1 Use all engine parts as received from the supplier, Central Parts Distributor, Special Parts Supplier, or original equipment manufacturer, unless modifications are specified in this test method or the Sequence IIIF Engine Assembly Manual.

6.4.1.2 Do not divert any parts obtained for use in Sequence IIIF testing to other applications.

6.4.1.3 Before disposing of any Sequence IIIF engine parts, destroy or otherwise render them useless for automotive engine applications.

6.4.1.4 Use the components listed in [Annex A16A19](#) on a first in - first out basis. Specific guidelines are also listed in [Annex A16A19](#).

6.5 *Engine Speed and Torque Control*—Use dynamometer speed and torque control systems that are capable of controlling the speed and torque as specified in Section [11](#) of this procedure.

6.6 *Sequence III Fluid Conditioning Module*—Use the Kundinger Fluid Conditioning Module⁹ to control the following parameters: engine coolant, condenser coolant, oil cooler coolant, exhaust manifold coolant, and the test fuel supply. The system incorporates the following features: pumps, flow meters, flow control and three-way control valves, external heating and cooling systems, pressure regulator, and low-point drains. The system integrates with the test stand data acquisition and control computer for process control. If a laboratory wishes to build its own Fluid Conditioning Module, a list of suitable equipment can be found in [Annex A14A17](#).

6.6.1 *Engine Cooling System*—The fluid conditioning module system supplies non-pressurized coolant at a flow rate of 160 L/min and controls temperature at 122 °C at the engine coolant outlet. The system incorporates the following features: pump, vortex-type flow meter, flow control and three-way control valves, external heating and cooling systems, and low-point drains. The system integrates with the test stand data acquisition and control computer for process control and maintains the specified engine coolant temperature and flow. The system should be flushed with clean water at least once each reference period.

6.7 *Flushing Tank*—Use a flushing tank such as that shown in drawings RX-116924-C, RX-117230-E, and RX-117231-C² to circulate the cleaning agents. Use plumbing materials that are impervious to the acidic cleaning agents (stainless steel is satisfactory).

6.8 *Coolant Mixing Tank*—Use a mixing tank such as that shown in drawing RX-117350-D² to premix the engine coolant.

6.9 *Condenser Cooling System*—Contained in the fluid conditioning module, supplies non-pressurized coolant at a flow rate of 10 L/min \pm 2 L/min and temperature controlled at 40 °C (see [Annex A8A11](#)) at the condenser outlet. The system incorporates the following features: condenser heat exchanger, BX-212-1 or OHT3F-075-1^{11,10} condenser adapter fitting, pump, magnetic-type flow meter, flow control and three-way control valves, external heating and cooling systems, and low-point drains. The system integrates with the test stand data acquisition and control computer for process control and maintains the specified coolant temperature and flow.

6.10 *Engine Oil-Cooling System*—The system consists of an oil filter adapter, engine-mounted oil cooler, gaskets as specified in the Engine Assembly Manual, Section 8-Sheet 3 and 3a and a shell-and-tube heat exchanger. The engine oil-cooling system uses engine coolant pumped from the Fluid Conditioning Module through a three-way control valve to the oil cooler circuit which contains a heat exchanger prior to the engine-mounted oil cooler. To maintain the specified oil temperature of 155 °C at the oil filter adapter, the three-way control valve varies the coolant flow as necessary through the oil cooler circuit. The heat exchanger in the oil cooler coolant circuit is a tube-and-shell style and uses process water as the cooling media (see [Fig. A15-A18.1](#)). When testing high oxidation-sensitive oils, the oil cooling system may go into a bypass mode, causing the engine-mounted oil cooler to be by-passed. In this condition, the TMC may allow engineering judgment for the oil temperature Quality Index on reference oil tests.

6.10.1 Replace the oil cooler after every test.

6.10.2 Do not use cuprous lines or fittings in the oil system.

6.10.3 Do not use magnetic plugs in the oil system.

6.10.4 Use suitable hose and fittings when plumbing the oil-cooling system.

6.10.5 The oil cooler, oil filter, or both can be replaced once each test if the oil filter pressure differential during test operations is greater than 100 kPa, if bypass operation is detected or if the oil pressure delta slowly climbs as test hours are accumulated and decreases by more than 10 kPa in less than 1 min.

6.10.5.1 Replacement of the oil cooler, oil filter, or both may be performed only once per test (that is, if a filter is replaced at 30 h, the cooler cannot be replaced at 50 h).

6.10.5.2 If the oil filter is replaced during the test, drain any oil contained in the old oil filter into the new oil filter before installing it on the test engine.

6.10.5.3 No new test oil may be added to the engine as a result of oil filter or oil cooler replacement. Consider as oil consumption any oil lost as a result of oil filter or oil cooler replacement.

6.10.5.4 If the oil cooler, oil filter, or both are replaced during a test, place a note in the test report detailing what components were replaced and when they were replaced.

6.11 *Fuel System*—Contained in the Fluid Conditioning Module is a pressurized, recirculating fuel system, including a pressure regulator to provide 377.5 kPa \pm 12.5 kPa fuel pressure. The system should be switched off so no fuel pressure is present at the injector rail during engine shutdowns.

6.12 *Induction Air Supply Humidity, Temperature, and Pressure*—Maintain the throttle body intake air at a moisture content of 11.4 g/kg \pm 0.7 g/kg of dry air, a dry bulb temperature of 27 °C \pm 2 °C, and a static pressure of 0.050 kPa (see [Annex A7A10](#)). Measure temperature and pressure at the inlet air adapter.

⁹ A suitable Fluid Conditioning Module is available from Kundinger Fluid Controls, 171 Harmon Rd., Auburn Hills, MI 48326.

¹¹ The sole source of supply of the apparatus known to the committee at this time is OH Technologies Inc. P.O. Box 5039, Mentor, OH 44061-5039.

¹⁰ 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, ¹ which you may attend.

6.13 *Temperature Measurement*—Use 1.6 mm or 3.2 mm metal-sheathed, Specification **E608/E608M**, iron-constantan (Type J) thermocouples for temperature measurements. Use the shortest possible thermocouples to meet the insertion depth requirements listed in this test method and minimize exposed thermocouple sheathing.

6.13.1 *Thermocouple Location*—Locate the sensing tip of all thermocouples in the center of the stream of the medium involved, unless otherwise specified.

6.13.1.1 *Oil Filter Adapter*—Install the thermocouple in the tapped hole in the oil filter adapter as shown in the Sequence IIIF Engine Assembly Manual, Section 8-Sheet 3.

6.13.1.2 *Oil Pan (Sump)*—Install the thermocouple in the oil sump drain plug OHT3F-063-1 with the tip extending 19 mm to 25 mm beyond the end of the sump drain plug.

6.13.1.3 *Engine Coolant In*—Install the thermocouple in the coolant inlet adapter OHT3F-031-1 with the sensing tip centered in the coolant flow.

6.13.1.4 *Engine Coolant Out*—Install the thermocouple for the coolant outlet OHT3F-034-1 with the sensing tip centered in the coolant flow.

6.13.1.5 *Condenser Coolant Out*—Locate the thermocouple in the coolant-out fitting in the condenser with the sensing tip centered in the coolant flow.

6.13.1.6 *Blowby Gas*—Install the thermocouple at the outlet of the condenser with the sensing tip centered in the blowby gas flow.

6.13.1.7 *Fuel*—Install the thermocouple in the fuel rail fittings on the inlet side of the fuel rail.

6.13.1.8 *Inlet Air*—Install the thermocouple in the inlet air adapter, as shown in the Sequence IIIF Engine Assembly Manual, Section 8-Sheet 4.

6.14 *Air-to-Fuel Ratio Determination*—Determine the engine air-to-fuel ratio (AFR) by measuring the CO, CO₂, and O₂ components of the exhaust gas sample with electronic exhaust gas analysis equipment. When using electronic exhaust gas analyzers, exercise particular care to dry the exhaust gas sample prior to introducing it into the analyzer. Take the exhaust gas samples from the exhaust manifold exit flanges. (See [Annex A6A9](#) and Sequence IIIF Engine Assembly Manual, Section 8-Sheet 1.)

6.14.1 *Injector Flow Testing*—Flow test the fuel injectors before each test according to the following procedure:

6.14.1.1 Use aliphatic naphtha as the calibration fluid.

6.14.1.2 Apply 276 kPa to the fuel rail.

6.14.1.3 Continuously apply 13 V to the injector solenoid.

6.14.1.4 Allow the injector to spray into a graduated cylinder capable of holding at least 250 mL.

6.14.1.5 Volume-check all injectors for 60 s and note the volume produced by each injector.

6.14.1.6 Observe the spray pattern that each injector produces; if the injector has a straight stream or dribbles, it should be discarded.

6.14.1.7 The six injectors that are to be installed on an engine fuel rail shall produce volumes that are within 5 mL of each other.

6.14.2 Remove the solvent that is remaining in the injector from the flow check using compressed air.

6.15 *Exhaust and Exhaust Back Pressure Systems:*

6.15.1 *Exhaust Manifolds and Pipes*—Install water-cooled exhaust manifolds and stainless runners as shown in the Sequence IIIF Engine Assembly Manual, Section 8-Sheet 2.

6.15.2 *Water-Jacketed Exhaust Pipes*—For safety, water-jacketed exhaust pipes or external water spray systems are allowed only when introduced beyond the Y pipe and after the system drops below the bedplate or enters the overhead loft.

6.15.3 *Exhaust Sample Lines*—Install exhaust sample lines in the two exhaust manifold exit flanges. Both left and right banks should use the same sample line location (inboard or outboard), as shown in the Sequence IIIF Engine Assembly Manual, Section 8-Sheet 1. Use good laboratory practice to ensure that water does not accumulate in the lines during engine operation.

6.15.4 *Back-Pressure Lines*—Install exhaust-backpressure lines in the two exhaust manifold exit flanges. Both left and right banks should use the same backpressure measurement location (inboard or outboard), as shown in the Sequence IIIF Engine Assembly Manual, Section 8-Sheet 1. Use good laboratory practice to ensure that water does not accumulate in the lines during engine operation.

6.16 *Blowby Flow Rate Measurement*—Use the sharp-edge orifice meter, part number RX-116169-A1, revision N, to measure engine blowby flow rates. (See [11.11](#).)

6.17 *Pressure Measurement and Pressure Sensor Location*—Use electronic pressure transducers located as indicated in this test method.

6.17.1 *Intake Manifold Vacuum*—Use a transducer having a range of 0 kPa to 100 kPa. Connect the transducer to the vacuum outlet located on the intake plenum main vacuum port. Tee the transducer, manifold absolute pressure sensor, and fuel rail pressure regulator all together from the main port.

6.17.2 *Engine Oil Gallery Pressure*—Use a transducer having a range of 0 kPa to 700 kPa. Connect the transducer to the location shown in the Sequence IIIF Engine Assembly Manual, Section 8-Sheet 3 (OUT Port, oil to block).

6.17.3 *Oil Pump Outlet Pressure*—Use a transducer having a range of 0 kPa to 700 kPa. Connect the transducer to the location shown in the Sequence IIIF Engine Assembly Manual, Section 8-Sheet 3 (IN Port, oil to filter).

6.17.4 *Exhaust Back Pressure*—Use a transducer having a range of 0 kPa to 10 kPa. Attach the line to the exhaust end plate as shown in the Sequence IIIF Engine Assembly Manual, Section 8-Sheet 1.

6.17.5 *Inlet Air Pressure*—Use a transducer having a range of 125 Pa. Connect the transducer to the air inlet adapter as shown in the Sequence IIIF Engine Assembly Manual, Section 8-Sheet 4.

6.17.6 *Crankcase Pressure*—Use a transducer having a range of -125 Pa to +125 Pa. Connect the transducer to the front of the lower intake manifold as shown in the Sequence IIIF Engine Assembly Manual, Section 6-Sheet 7.

6.18 *PCV Plug*—Block off the positive crankcase ventilation system during testing using a dummy PCV valve, part number OHT3F-002-1, as shown in the Sequence IIIF Engine Assembly Manual, Section 6-Sheet 11.

6.19 *Parts Modifications*—Modify the following parts according to the instructions listed in the Sequence IIIF Engine Assembly Manual:

6.19.1 *Throttle Body*, Section 7-Sheet 5.

6.19.2 *Intake Manifold*, Section 6-Sheet 7.

6.19.3 *Engine Block*, Section 1-Sheet 2.

7. Reagents and Materials

7.1 *Test Fuel*—Use only EEE unleaded fuel^{12,10} (**Warning**—Flammable. Health hazard) (see [Annex A4A7, Fig. A4A7.1](#)), observing the following:

7.1.1 Make certain that all tanks used for transportation and storage are clean before filling with test fuel.

7.1.2 Verify that at least 2000 L of test fuel (**Warning**—Flammable. Health hazard) is available for use before initiating a test.

7.1.3 Analyze quarterly the contents of each storage tank that contains fuel used for qualified Sequence IIIF tests to ensure the fuel has not deteriorated or been contaminated in storage. Analyze the fuel for Distillation, Gravity, RVP, Sulfur, and Gums. Send the results from these analyses to the TMC for inclusion in the Sequence III Test Fuel database.

7.2 *Engine and Condenser Coolant*—Use ethylene glycol meeting Specification **E1119** for industrial grade ethylene glycol (**Warning**—Combustible. Health hazard).

7.3 *Coolant Additive*—Use Nacool 2000 or Pencool 2000 coolant additive^{13,10} for the engine and condenser coolant (**Warning**—Combustible. Health hazard. See appropriate MSDS).

7.4 *Coolant Preparation*—Prepare the coolant blend for the engine coolant system, and for the oil cooler and condenser coolant system, in the following manner:

7.4.1 Do not apply heat either during, or following, the coolant preparation.

7.4.2 Use a container of a size adequate to hold the entire coolant blend required by both systems. See drawing RX-117350-D² for an example of a suitable container.

7.4.3 Add the required amount of glycol (**Warning**—Combustible. Health hazard) to the container.

7.4.4 Add the required amount of additive concentrate to the container to achieve a concentration of 15.625 mL/L of coolant additive-to-glycol (**Warning**—See appropriate MSDS).

7.4.5 Mix the blend in the container for 30 min.

7.4.6 Add the blend to the engine coolant system and the condenser coolant system.

7.5 *Pre-Test Cleaning Materials*—Use the cleaning materials (**Warning**—See appropriate MSDS) specified in the following list for cleaning of parts to be used in the test. Do not use unapproved substitutes (See [Note 4](#)).

NOTE 4—Only these specific materials and sources have been found satisfactory. If chemicals other than these are proposed for use, equivalency shall be proven and approval obtained from the TMC.

7.5.1 Use Penmul L460 as the parts cleaning agent^{14,10} (**Warning**—Corrosive. Health hazard.).

7.5.2 *Solvent*—Use only mineral spirits meeting the requirements of Specification **D235**, Type II, Class C for Aromatic Content (0 vol % to 2 vol %), Flash Point (61 °C, min) and Color (not darker than +25 on Saybolt Scale or 25 on Pt-Co Scale). (**Warning**—Combustible. Health hazard.) Obtain a Certificate of Analysis for each batch of solvent from the supplier.

7.5.3 Sequence IIIF Test component cleaner, a mixture (by mass) of:

94 parts oxalic acid^{15,10} (**Warning**—Corrosive. Health hazard.), and

6 parts dispersant^{16,10} (**Warning**—Corrosive. Health hazard.).

¹² The sole source of supply of the apparatus known to the committee at this time is Haltermann Products, 3520 Okemos Rd., Suite 6-176, Okemos, MI.

¹³ The sole source of supply of the apparatus known to the committee at this time is Penray Companies, Inc., 1801 Estes Ave, Elk Grove, IL 60007.

¹⁴ The sole source of supply of Penmul L 460 known to the committee at this time is Penetone Corp. 74 Hudson Ave., Tenafly, NJ 07670.

¹⁵ The sole source of supply of the oxalic acid (~~55-lb~~(55 lb bags) and sodium carbonate (~~50-lb~~(50 lb bags) known to the committee at this time is Ashland Chemical Co., P.O. Box 391, Ashland, KY 41114.

¹⁶ The sole source of supply of Petro Dispersant No. 425 Powder (~~50-lb~~(50 lb bags) known to the committee at this time is Witco Corp., 3230 Brookfield, Houston, TX 77045.

NOTE 5—If permitted by the hazardous materials disposal practices in a laboratory, sodium carbonate can be used to neutralize the oxalic acid in used Sequence III F Test component cleaner.

7.5.4 Use NAT-50 or PDN-50 soap^{17,10} in automatic parts washers to clean Sequence III F engine parts or solution 7^{18,10} and solution B^{18,10} if using the ultrasonic cleaner. (See 9.5.)

7.6 *Sealing and Anti-seize Compounds*—Use the sealing compounds specified in the following list.

7.6.1 Use Permatex No. 2 non-hardening sealer as the sealing compound for cylinder head bolts.¹⁹

7.6.2 Use Perfect Seal Number 4 brush-type sealing compound as the sealing compound for front and rear cover gaskets.^{20,10}

7.6.3 Use only GM Autocare Assembly Adhesive,²¹ part number 12346141, Dow RTV Grade 3154 sealer,²² or Permatex Ultra Black Sealer,²³ part number 24105, on the oil pan gasket and intake manifold gasket only. (See Sequence III F Engine Assembly Manual, Section 4-Sheet 13 and Section 6-Sheet 6.)

7.6.4 Polytetrafluoroethylene tape may be used, provided it does not come into contact with engine oil.

8. Test Oil Sample Requirements

8.1 *Selection*—The supplier of the test oil sample shall determine that the test oil sample is representative of the lubricant formulation to be evaluated and that it is not contaminated.

8.2 *Quantity*—The supplier shall provide 15 L of the test oil sample.

NOTE 6—A Sequence III F test can be conducted with as little as 12 L of test oil, provided that no spillage or leakage occur during test preparation. The greater quantity is specified to accommodate minor spillage and leakage.

8.3 *Storage Prior to Test*—The test laboratory shall store the test oil sample in a covered building to prevent contamination by rainwater.

9. Preparation of Apparatus

9.1 *Condenser Cleaning*—Immediately after completing a Sequence III F test, remove the stainless steel condenser assembly, disassemble it, and soak it in parts cleaning agent. After the soaking, clean the inside of the tube with parts cleaning agent and a non-cuprous bristle brush. Rinse both the blowby gas and coolant sides of the condenser with clean solvent.

9.1.1 After ten tests, or more frequently if film is present, clean the coolant side of the condenser by flushing it for one-half hour with a water solution of 20 g/L of Sequence III F test component cleaner (see 7.4). Rinse it thoroughly with tap water at 60 °C.

9.2 After cleaning the coolant side of the condenser, pressure check it for leaks using air at 70 kPa.

9.3 *Intake Manifold Cleaning*—Clean the intake manifold with solvent.

9.4 *Cleaning of Engine Parts*—Clean all engine parts (other than the block and heads; see 9.5 and 9.6) thoroughly prior to engine assembly. Degrease them first, and then brush them with parts cleaning agent. Immediately remove the cleaner by spraying with hot tap water. Blow-dry the parts with clean, dry shop air and immediately coat them with a 50/50 mixture of build-up oil and solvent.

9.4.1 Clean the connecting rods by soaking in solvent for a minimum of 2 h. Spray the rods with a 50/50 mixture of solvent and EF-411.

9.5 *Engine Block Cleaning*—Clean the block according to the following:

9.5.1 Remove the debris in the head bolt and main bearing-cap bolt holes using class 2B bottoming taps of the appropriate sizes.

9.5.2 Physically remove from the water jacket all sand and slag deposits, and any other debris using a sharp-ended drill rod or a long straight slot screwdriver.

9.5.2.1 Check the camshaft tunnel for sharp edges on the front of each bore and along the cross-drilled oil gallery inside each bearing bore. Deburr as necessary. See the Sequence III F Engine Assembly Manual, Section 1-Sheet 2.

9.5.3 Thoroughly clean the block prior to honing as follows: In the case of a block used in a previous test, remove the crankshaft, main bearings, and bearing caps. In addition, remove all bushings, bearings, and oil gallery plugs prior to cleaning. With either a new or a used block, prevent cleaner or oil from entering the engine coolant passages. (See Sequence III F Engine Assembly Manual, Section 1-Sheet 5.)

9.5.3.1 Clean the block in a heated bath or temperature-controlled automated parts washer or ultrasonic cleaner before and after honing. Follow these suggested guidelines to ensure there is no rusting of the engine block after this process:

If Using a Heated Bath or an Automated Parts Washer:

¹⁷ The sole source of supply of the soap for the parts washing machine known to the committee at this time is Better Engineering Mfg., Inc., 8361 Town Center Ct., Baltimore, MD 21236.

¹⁸ The sole source of supply of the product known to the committee at this time is Purvis Industries, 10500 North Stemmons Freeway, Dallas, TX 75220.

¹⁹ Permatex No. 2 non-hardening sealer is available through local distributors of Permatex products.

²⁰ The sole source of supply of Perfect Seal No. 4 Brush-Type Sealing Compound, part GM3D (16 oz container) known to the committee at this time is P.O.B. Sealants Inc., 11102 Kenwood Rd. Cincinnati, OH 45242.

²¹ GM Autocare Assembly Adhesive is available from local GM dealers.

²² Dow RTV Grade 3154 sealer is available from commercial sources.

²³ Permatex Ultra Black Sealer is available from commercial sources.