



Designation: ~~D7671 – 10~~<sup>ε1</sup> D7671 – 10 (Reapproved 2015)

# Standard Test Method for Corrosiveness to Silver by Automotive Spark-Ignition Engine Fuel–Silver Strip Method<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D7671; 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 ( $\epsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

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<sup>ε1</sup> NOTE—Corrected unit in 9.2.1 editorially in July 2012.

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## 1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers the determination of the corrosiveness to silver by automotive spark-ignition engine fuel, as defined by Specification **D4814**, or similar specifications in other jurisdictions, having a vapor pressure no greater than 124 kPa (~~18 psi~~) at ~~37.8 °C (100 °F)~~, (18 psi) at 37.8 °C (100 °F), by one of two procedures. Procedure A involves the use of a pressure vessel, whereas Procedure B involves the use of a vented test tube.

1.2 The result of the test is based on a visual rating that is classified as an integer in the range from 0 to 4 as defined in **Table 1**.

1.3 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard. The values in parentheses are for information only.

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 warning statements, see **6.1** and Section **7**.

## 2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*<sup>2</sup>

**D130** Test Method for Corrosiveness to Copper from Petroleum Products by Copper Strip Test

**D3241** Test Method for Thermal Oxidation Stability of Aviation Turbine Fuels

**D4057** Practice for Manual Sampling of Petroleum and Petroleum Products

**D4177** Practice for Automatic Sampling of Petroleum and Petroleum Products

**D4814** Specification for Automotive Spark-Ignition Engine Fuel

**E1** Specification for ASTM Liquid-in-Glass Thermometers

2.2 *Energy Institute Standard:*

**IP 227** Determination of Corrosiveness to Silver of Aviation Turbine Fuels–Silver Strip Method<sup>3</sup>

2.3 *ASTM Adjuncts:*

Color Standard for Tube Deposit Rating<sup>4</sup>

## 3. Summary of Test Method

3.1 This test method covers two procedures. Procedure A involves the use of a pressure vessel (to prevent the loss of volatile components in the sample), whereas Procedure B involves the use of a vented test tube. In both procedures, a freshly polished silver strip is suspended in ~~30 mL~~ 30 mL of sample which is heated to ~~50 ± 1 °C~~ 50 ± 1 °C for a duration of ~~3 h ± 5 min~~ 3 h ± 5 min. At the end of the heating period, the silver strip is removed, washed and the color and tarnish level assessed against the requirements in **Table 1**.

<sup>1</sup> This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee **D02** on Petroleum Products, Liquid Fuels, and Lubricants and are the direct responsibility of Subcommittee **D02.05.0C** on Color and Reactivity.

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<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> Withdrawn without replacement in 2001. Copies of IP 227/99 can be obtained at The Publications Department, Energy Institute, 61 New Cavendish Street, London, W1G 7AR, United Kingdom.

<sup>4</sup> Available from ASTM International Headquarters. Order Adjunct No. **ADJD3241**. Original adjunct produced in 1986.

**TABLE 1 Silver Strip Classifications**

NOTE 1—Classifications provided by IP 227 Determination of Corrosiveness to Silver of Aviation Turbine Fuels—Silver Strip Method.

NOTE 2—Distinctions between Classifications 1 and 2 are made using The Color Standard for Tube Deposit Rating (referenced in Test Method [D3241](#)) in accordance with [11.1.1](#).

Classification	Designation	Description
0	No tarnish	Identical to a freshly polished strip, but may have some very light loss of luster
1	Slight tarnish	Faint brown or white discoloration of strip (see <a href="#">12.1</a> )
2	Moderate tarnish	Peacock colors such as blue or mauve or medium/dark straw or brown coloration (see <a href="#">12.1</a> )
3	Slight blackening	Spots and patches of black or gray on surface or uniform thin film of black deposit
4	Blackening	Uniform heavy blackening with or without scaling

#### 4. Significance and Use

4.1 Crude petroleum contains sulfur compounds, most of which are removed during refining. However, of the sulfur compounds remaining in the petroleum product, some can have a corroding action on various metals and this corrosivity is not related to the total sulfur content. In addition, fuels can become contaminated by corrosive sulfur compounds during storage and distribution. The corrosive effect can vary according to the chemical types of sulfur compounds present.

4.2 The silver strip corrosion test is designed to assess the relative degree of corrosivity of a petroleum product towards silver and silver alloys.

4.3 Reactive sulfur compounds present in automotive spark-ignition engine fuels under some circumstances can corrode or tarnish silver alloy fuel gauge in-tank sender units (and silver-plated bearings in some 2-stroke cycle engines). To minimize or prevent the failure of silver alloy in-tank sender units by corrosion or tarnish, Specification [D4814](#) requires that fuels shall pass the silver strip corrosion test.

#### 5. Apparatus

5.1 *Silver Strip Corrosion Pressure Vessel (Procedure A)*, constructed from stainless steel or similar strong and non-corroding metallurgy according to the dimensions as given in [Fig. 1](#), that is the apparatus described in Test Method [D130](#). The vessel shall be capable of withstanding a test pressure of ~~700 kPa gauge (100 psi)~~ 700 kPa gauge (100 psi).

5.1.1 Alternative designs for the vessel's cap and synthetic rubber gasket may be used provided that the internal dimensions of the vessel are the same as those shown in [Fig. 1](#). The internal dimensions of the pressure vessel are such that a nominal ~~25-mm~~ 25 mm by ~~150-mm~~ 150 mm test tube can be placed inside the pressure vessel.

5.2 *Test Tubes*, of borosilicate glass of nominal ~~25-mm~~ 25 mm by ~~150-mm~~ 150 mm dimensions. The internal dimensions shall be checked as acceptable by use of a silver strip (see [6.3](#)). When ~~30 mL~~ 30 mL of liquid is added to the test tube with the silver strip in it, a minimum of ~~5-mm~~ 5 mm of liquid shall be above the top surface of the strip.

5.3 *Stoppers (Procedure B)*, such as cork, to accompany test tubes in [5.2](#). Each stopper shall have a vent hole to equilibrate pressure that may build up in the test. The stoppers should be drilled through the center and fitted with a length of ~~3.2 mm~~ 3.2 mm ( $\frac{1}{8}$  in.) OD glass or Nalgene vent tube.

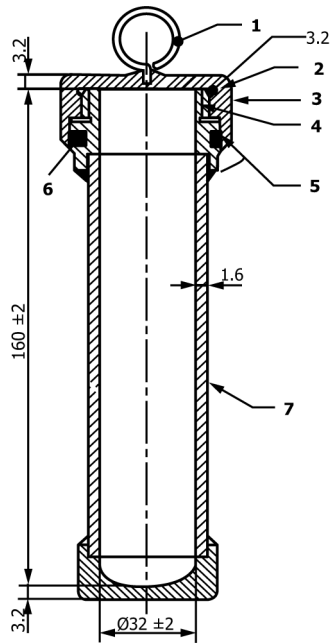
5.4 *Silver Strip Suspension Assembly*, such as examples shown in [Fig. 2](#) (Procedure A) or [Fig. 3](#) (Procedure B), capable of suspending the silver strip in approximately the center of the sample-filled test tube during the test, such that the strip is kept in an upright and vertical position.

5.4.1 For Procedure A, a cradle of glass, polytetrafluoroethylene or other inert material connected to a holder of sufficient length and width as shown in [Fig. 2](#) has been found suitable to use.

5.4.2 For Procedure B, a cable tie (see [6.2](#)) wrapped around the edges of the strip and inserted through the stopper has been found suitable to use for this purpose as shown in [Fig. 3](#).

5.4.3 Other assemblies or designs capable of meeting the functional requirement may also be used in Procedures A or B.

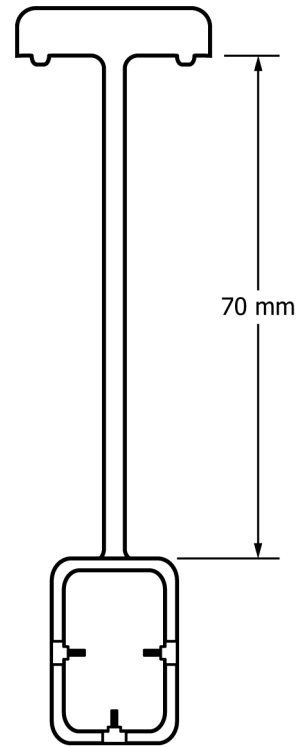
5.5 *Test Bath:*



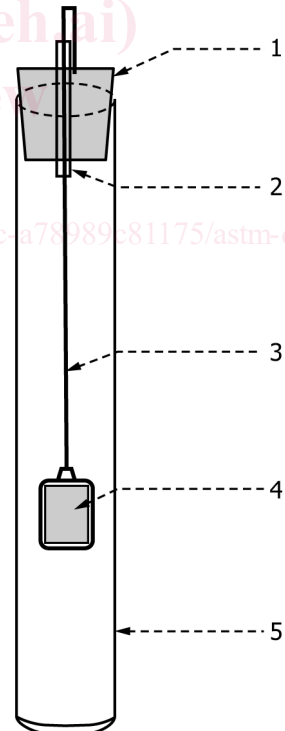
- Key:
1. Lifting eye
  2. Wide groove for pressure relief
  3. Knurled cap
  4. Twelve threads per inch NF thread or equivalent
  5. Camber inside cap to protect "O" ring when closing pressure vessel
  6. Synthetic rubber "O" ring without free sulfur
  7. Seamless tube
- Material: stainless steel  
Welded construction  
Maximum test gauge pressure: 700 kPa

NOTE 1—Dimensions in millimetres.  
NOTE 2—All dimensions without tolerance limits are nominal values.

**FIG. 1 Pressure Vessel for Silver Strip Corrosion Test (Procedure A)**



**FIG. 2 Silver Strip Suspension Assembly (Procedure A)**



- Key:
1. Stopper
  2. Vent tube
  3. Cable tie
  4. Silver strip
  5. Test tube

**FIG. 3 Silver Strip Suspension Assembly (Procedure B)**

5.5.1 *General*—The test baths shall be able to maintain the test temperature to within  $\pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $2^{\circ}\text{F}$ )  $\pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $2^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) of the required test temperature (normally  $50^{\circ}\text{C}$ ;  $50^{\circ}\text{C}$ ).

5.5.2 *Liquid Bath Used for Submerging Pressure Vessel(s) (Procedure A)*—The bath shall be deep enough to submerge one or more pressure vessels (see 5.1) completely during the test. As the bath medium, use water or any liquid that can be satisfactorily controlled to the sample test temperature. The bath shall be fitted with suitable supports to hold each pressure vessel in a vertical position when submerged. The use of a solid block bath has been found as a suitable alternative to the liquid bath.

5.5.3 *Liquid Bath Used for Vented Test Tube Method (Procedure B)*—The bath liquid level shall be at a level that is higher than the liquid level in the test tube at the test temperature. It is recommended that the bath be placed inside an exhaust hood.

5.5.4 The use of a solid block bath has been found to be a suitable alternative to the liquid bath.

5.6 *Temperature Sensing Device (TSD)*, capable of monitoring the desired test temperature in the bath to within accuracy of  $\pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $2^{\circ}\text{F}$ );  $\pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $2^{\circ}\text{F}$ ), measured in the middle of the liquid bath. The ASTM 12C (12F) (see Specification E1) or ASTM E2251 (see Specification E1) or IP 64C (64F) total immersion thermometers have been found suitable for use in the test. If used, no more than ~~10 mm (0.4 in.)~~ 10 mm (0.4 in.) of the mercury should extend above the surface of the bath at the test temperature.

5.7 *Polishing Vise*, for holding the silver strip firmly without marring the edges while polishing. Any convenient type of holder (see Appendix X1) may be used provided that the strip is held tightly and that the surface of the strip being polished is supported above the surface of the holder.

5.8 *Viewing Test Tubes*, (optional) flat glass test tubes, are convenient for protecting corroded silver strips for close inspection or storage (see Appendix X1 for the description of a flat-glass viewing tube). The viewing test tube shall be of such dimensions as to allow the introduction of a silver strip (see 6.3) and made of glass free of striae or similar defects.

5.9 *Forceps*, with either stainless steel or polytetrafluoroethylene tips, for use in handling the silver strips, have been found suitable to use.

5.10 *Timing Device*, electronic or manual, capable of accurately measuring the test duration within the allowable tolerance.

5.11 *ASTM Silver Strip Corrosion Standards*, consist of reproductions in color of typical test strips representing increasing degrees of tarnish and corrosion, the reproductions being encased for protection in plastic and made up in the form of a plaque. See Table 1.

5.11.1 Keep the plastic-encased ASTM Silver Strip Corrosion Standards protected from light to avoid the possibility of fading. Inspect for fading by comparing two different plaques, one of which has been carefully protected from light (for example, new plaque). Observe both sets in diffused daylight (or equivalent) first from a point directly above and then from an angle of  $45^{\circ}$ . If any evidence of fading is observed, particularly at the left-hand end of the plaque, it is suggested that the one that is the more faded with respect to the other be discarded.

5.11.1.1 Alternatively, place a suitably sized opaque strip (for example, ~~20 mm~~ 20 mm ( $\frac{3}{4}$  in.) in.) black electrical tape) across the top of the colored portion of the plaque when initially purchased. At intervals remove the opaque strip and observe. When there is any evidence of fading of the exposed portion, the standards shall be replaced.

5.11.2 The plaques are full-color reproductions of typical strips. They have been printed on aluminum sheets by a 4-color process and are encased in plastic for protection. Directions for their use are given on the reverse side of each plaque.

5.11.3 If the surface of the plastic cover shows excessive scratching, it is suggested that the plaque be replaced.

## 6. Reagents and Materials

6.1 *Ashless Filter Paper or Disposable Gloves*, for use in protecting the silver strip from coming in contact with the individual during final polishing.

6.2 *Cable Tie*—Inert ties such as nylon ties of approximate dimensions ~~2 mm~~  $2\text{ mm} \times 208\text{ mm}$ ; 2 mm  $\times 208\text{ mm}$ .

6.3 *Silver Strips*—Use strips ~~12.5 mm~~ to ~~12.7 mm~~ 12.5 mm to 12.7 mm wide, ~~2.5 mm~~ to ~~3.0 mm~~ 2.5 mm to 3.0 mm thick, and ~~17.0 mm~~ to ~~19.0 mm~~ 17.0 mm to 19.0 mm long assaying at 99.9 % (m/m) (m/m) Ag minimum, which are the same specification requirements described in IP 227. The strips may be used repeatedly but should be discarded when the strip's surface shows pitting or deep scratches that cannot be removed by the specified polishing procedure, or when the surface becomes deformed.

6.4 *Surface Preparation/Polishing Materials*, silicon carbide grit paper or cloth of varying degrees of fineness including ~~53~~  $53\text{ }\mu\text{m}$  to ~~65~~  $65\text{ }\mu\text{m}$  (~~240-grit~~) 65  $\mu\text{m}$  (240 grit) grade; also a supply of ~~105~~  $105\text{ }\mu\text{m}$  (~~150-mesh~~) 105  $\mu\text{m}$  (150 mesh) size silicon carbide grain or powder and absorbent cotton (cotton wool). A commercial grade of absorbent cotton is suitable, but pharmaceutical grade is most commonly available and is acceptable.

6.5 *Wash Solvent*—2,2,4-trimethylpentane (isooctane) of minimum 99.75 % purity. (**Warning**—Extremely flammable. See 7.1.)

## 7. Hazards

7.1 *Wash Solvent*—2,2,4-trimethylpentane (isooctane): Harmful if inhaled. Use with adequate ventilation. Keep away from heat, sparks, and open flame. Avoid prolonged or repeated skin contact. Consult MSDS for additional information.