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Standard Test Method for Kinematic Viscosity of Transparent and Opaque Liquids (and Calculation of Dynamic Viscosity)¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D445; 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 U.S. Department of Defense.

1. Scope*

1.1 This test method specifies a procedure for the determination of the kinematic viscosity, ν , of liquid petroleum products, both transparent and opaque, by measuring the time for a volume of liquid to flow under gravity through a calibrated glass capillary viscometer. The dynamic viscosity, η , can be obtained by multiplying the kinematic viscosity, ν , by the density, ρ , of the liquid.

NOTE 1—For the measurement of the kinematic viscosity and viscosity of bitumens, see also Test Methods [D2170](#) and [D2171](#).

NOTE 2—ISO 3104 corresponds to Test Method D445 – 03.

1.2 The result obtained from this test method is dependent upon the behavior of the sample and is intended for application to liquids for which primarily the shear stress and shear rates are proportional (Newtonian flow behavior). If, however, the viscosity varies significantly with the rate of shear, different results may be obtained from viscometers of different capillary diameters. The procedure and precision values for residual fuel oils, which under some conditions exhibit non-Newtonian behavior, have been included.

1.3 The range of kinematic viscosities covered by this test method is from 0.2 mm²/s to 300 000 mm²/s (see [Table A1.1](#)) at all temperatures (see [6.3](#) and [6.4](#)). The precision has only been determined for those materials, kinematic viscosity ranges and temperatures as shown in the footnotes to the precision section.

1.4 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. The SI unit used in this test method for kinematic viscosity is mm²/s, and the SI unit used in this test method for dynamic viscosity is mPa·s. For user reference, 1 mm²/s = 10⁻⁶ m²/s = 1 cSt and 1 mPa·s = 1 cP = 0.001 Pa·s.

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 [D02.07](#) on Flow Properties.

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In the IP, this test method is under the jurisdiction of the Standardization Committee.

1.5 **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.

1.6 *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:²

- [D446](#) Specifications and Operating Instructions for Glass Capillary Kinematic Viscometers
- [D1193](#) Specification for Reagent Water
- [D1217](#) Test Method for Density and Relative Density (Specific Gravity) of Liquids by Bingham Pycnometer
- [D1480](#) Test Method for Density and Relative Density (Specific Gravity) of Viscous Materials by Bingham Pycnometer
- [D1481](#) Test Method for Density and Relative Density (Specific Gravity) of Viscous Materials by Lipkin Bicapillary Pycnometer
- [D2162](#) Practice for Basic Calibration of Master Viscometers and Viscosity Oil Standards
- [D2170](#) Test Method for Kinematic Viscosity of Asphalts (Bitumens)

² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

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