



Designation: D721 – 17



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Standard Test Method for Oil Content of Petroleum Waxes¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D721; 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 covers the determination of oil in petroleum waxes having a congealing point of 30 °C (86 °F) or higher as determined in accordance with Test Method D938, and containing not more than 15 % of oil.²

NOTE 1—With some types of waxes, of oil contents greater than 5 %, there may be an incompatibility with MEK resulting in the formation of two liquid phases. If this occurs, the test method is not applicable to the material under test.

1.2 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are mathematical conversions to SI units that are provided for information only and are not considered standard.

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 limitations prior to use.*

1.4 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

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 D02.10.0A on Physical/Chemical Properties.

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In the IP, this test method is under the jurisdiction of the Standardization Committee. This test method was issued as a joint ASTM-IP tentative in 1964.

This test method was prepared jointly by the Technical Association of Pulp and Paper Industry and ASTM International.

This test method has been adopted for use by government agencies to replace Method 5431 of Federal Test Method Standard No. 791b.

² This test method is being used by some laboratories for products of higher oil content.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:³

D938 Test Method for Congealing Point of Petroleum Waxes, Including Petrolatum

E1 Specification for ASTM Liquid-in-Glass Thermometers

E128 Test Method for Maximum Pore Diameter and Permeability of Rigid Porous Filters for Laboratory Use

E2251 Specification for Liquid-in-Glass ASTM Thermometers with Low-Hazard Precision Liquids

2.2 Energy Institute Standards:

Specification for IP Standard Thermometers⁴

3. Summary of Test Method

3.1 The sample is dissolved in methyl ethyl ketone, the solution cooled to –32 °C (–25 °F) to precipitate the wax, and filtered. The oil content of the filtrate is determined by evaporating the methyl ethyl ketone and weighing the residue.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 The oil content of a wax may have significant effects on several of its properties, such as strength, hardness, flexibility, scuff resistance, coefficient of friction, coefficient of expansion, melting point, and oil straining. The importance of these effects may be dependent upon the ultimate use of the wax.

5. Apparatus

5.1 *Filter Stick and Assembly*, consisting of a 10 mm diameter sintered glass filter stick of 10 µm to 15 µm maximum pore diameter as determined by the method in Appendix X1, provided with an air pressure inlet tube and delivery nozzle. It is provided with a ground-glass joint to fit a 25 mm by 170 mm test tube. The dimensions for a suitable filtration assembly are shown in Fig. 1.

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, WIG 7AR, U.K.

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