



Standard Test Method for Density and Relative Density (Specific Gravity) of Liquids by Bingham Pycnometer¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D1217; 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 measurement of the density of pure hydrocarbons or petroleum distillates boiling between 90 °C and 110 °C that can be handled in a normal fashion as a liquid at the specified test temperatures of 20 °C and 25 °C.

1.2 This test method provides a calculation procedure for the conversion of density to relative density (specific gravity).

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 in your state or country may be prohibited by law.

1.4 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. No other units of measurement are included in this standard.

1.5 *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. Specific warning statements are given in Section 7.*

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 D02.04.0D on Physical and Chemical Methods.

Current edition approved Dec. 1, 2015. Published February 2016. Originally approved in 1952. Last previous edition approved in 2012 as D1217 – 12. DOI: 10.1520/D1217-15.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

- D4052 Test Method for Density, Relative Density, and API Gravity of Liquids by Digital Density Meter
- E1 Specification for ASTM Liquid-in-Glass Thermometers

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 *density, n* —mass per unit volume at a specified temperature. **D4052**

3.1.2 *relative density, n* —the ratio of the density of a material at a stated temperature to the density of water at a stated temperature. **D4052**

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 The liquid sample is introduced into a pycnometer, equilibrated to the desired temperature, and weighed. The relative density (specific gravity) or density is then calculated from this weight and the previously determined weight of water that is required to fill the pycnometer at the same temperature, both weights being corrected for the buoyancy of air.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 Density is a fundamental physical property which can be used in conjunction with other properties to characterize pure hydrocarbons and their mixtures.

5.2 This test method was originally developed for the determination of the density of the ASTM Knock Test Reference Fuels *n*-heptane and *isooctane*, with an accuracy of

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.