



Standard Test Method for Oil Separation from Lubricating Grease During Storage¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D1742; 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 the tendency of a lubricating grease to separate oil during storage in both normally filled and partially filled containers.

1.2 This test method is not suitable for greases softer than NLGI No. 1 grade.

1.3 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard, except for the dimensions in Fig. 2 and Fig. 5, where inch-pound units are standard.

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 a specific hazard statement, see 7.1.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

E11 Specification for Woven Wire Test Sieve Cloth and Test Sieves

2.2 *Other Standard:*

NLGI Grease Consistency Classification³

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions:*

3.1.1 *lubricating grease, n*—a semi-fluid to solid product of a thickener in a liquid lubricant.

3.1.1.1 *Discussion*—The dispersion of the thickener forms a two-phase system and immobilizes the liquid lubricant by surface tension and other physical forces. Other ingredients are commonly included to impart special properties.

3.1.2 *thickener, n*—in lubricating grease, a substance composed of finely-divided particles dispersed in a liquid lubricant to form the product's structure.

3.1.2.1 *Discussion*—The thickeners can be fibers (such as various metallic soaps) or plates or spheres (such as certain non-soap thickeners), which are insoluble or, at most, only very slightly soluble in the liquid lubricant. The general requirements are that the solid particles be extremely small, uniformly dispersed, and capable of forming a relatively stable, gel-like structure with the liquid lubricant.

3.1.3 *oil separation, n*—the appearance of a liquid fraction from an otherwise homogeneous lubricating composition.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 The sample of grease, supported on a 75- μ m (No. 200) sieve, is subjected to 1.72 kPa (0.25 psi) air pressure for 24 h at 25°C (77°F). Any oil seepage that occurs drains into a beaker and is weighed.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 When a lubricating grease separates oil, the remaining composition increases in consistency. This can affect the ability of the product to function as designed.

5.2 It has been found that the results of this test correlate directly with the oil separation that occurs in 35-lb pails of grease during storage.

5.3 This test method is not intended to predict oil separation tendencies of the grease under dynamic conditions.

6. Apparatus

6.1 *Test Apparatus*^{4,6}—The assembled apparatus consists of a tightly fitting cup and cover which contains a 75- μ m (No.

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of the ASTM Committee D02 on Petroleum Products, Liquid Fuels, and Lubricants and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D02.G0.03 on Physical Tests.

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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.

³ Available from NLGI, 4635 Wyandotte St., Kansas City, MO 64112.

⁴ The sole source of supply of Pressure Bleeding Test Cell A known to the committee at this time is Koehler Instrument Company, Inc. 1595 Sycamore Avenue, Bohemia, NY 11716. 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.

⁵ The sole source of supply of the Pressure Bleeding Test Cell B known to the committee at this time is Stanhope-Seta, London Street, Chertsey, Surrey, KT16 8AP, UK. 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.