



Standard Test Method for Calculation of True Vapor Pressures of Petroleum Distillate Fuels¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This test method describes the calculation of true vapor pressures of petroleum distillate fuels for which distillation data may be obtained in accordance with Test Method D 86 without reaching a decomposition point prior to obtaining 90 volume % distilled.

1.2 The test method may be used to calculate vapor pressures at temperatures between the 0 % equilibrium flash temperature and the critical temperature of the fuel. Provision is included for obtaining a calculated critical temperature for fuels for which it is not known.

1.3 Critical pressure-temperature data are usually not available for petroleum fuels. However, if both the critical pressure and critical temperature are known, the values shall be used as the coordinates in Fig. 1 to establish a critical point to be used instead of the focal point established as described in 6.5.4; and the calculations described in 6.5 through 6.5.4 are not required. If either a determined true boiling point or determined equilibrium flash vaporization temperature at 0 % distilled at atmospheric pressure is known, the determined value shall be used to establish the lower limit of the bubble-point line referred to in 6.4.

1.4 The method is not reliable for distillate fuels having a boiling range of less than 100°F (38°C) between the Test Method D 86 10 and 90 volume % distilled temperatures.

1.5 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as the standard. The values given in parentheses are for information only.

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:

¹ This test method is under jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D02 on Petroleum Products and Lubricants and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D02.04 on Hydrocarbon Analysis.

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D 86 Test Method for Distillation of Petroleum Product at Atmospheric Pressure²

D 287 Test Method for API Gravity of Crude Petroleum and Petroleum Products (Hydrometer Method)²

3. Summary of Test Method

3.1 Equilibrium flash vaporization (EFV) temperatures are calculated from distillation data (Test Method D 86) determined on the sample. The distillation data, calculated EFV data, and API gravity of the sample are used with a graphical correlation procedure to obtain two pairs of temperature-pressure coordinates through which the bubble-point line of the phase diagram for the sample may be drawn. The calculated true vapor pressure at a specified temperature is obtained by reading the pressure at the intersection of the bubble-point line and specified temperature.

NOTE 1—Details of the procedure and data substantiating its validity for establishing equilibrium flash vaporization temperatures have been published.³

4. Significance and Use

4.1 The true vapor pressure of a distillate fuel is a relative measurement, both of the tendency of the most volatile portion of the fuel to gasify, and of the restraining pressure required to prevent gasification of the most volatile portion. Thus the measurement is of importance when a fuel is to be utilized in applications where no gasification may be tolerated, and temperature-pressure conditions are expected to be near the true vapor pressure of the fuel.

5. Data Requirements

5.1 Distillation temperatures at the initial boiling point (IBP) and 10, 30, 50, 70, and 90 volume % distilled obtained in accordance with Test Method D 86.

5.2 API gravity determined in accordance with Test Method D 287, or a method of equivalent accuracy.

² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 05.01.

³ Edmister, W. C., and Okamoto, K. K., "Applied Hydrocarbon Thermodynamics, Part 12: Equilibrium Flash Vaporization Correlations for Petroleum Fractions," *Petroleum Refiner*, PEREA, Vol 38, No. 8, 1959, p. 117.