



Standard Test Method for Dynamic Surface Tension by the Fast-Bubble Technique¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers the determination of the specific free energy of a liquid-gas surface a short time after formation of the surface.

1.2 It is applicable to liquids with vapor pressures up to 30.0 kPa (225 torr) and kinematic viscosities up to 4.0 mm/s (4.0 cSt) at the test temperature. Higher viscosities have not yet been investigated.²

1.3 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard. The values given in parentheses are for information only.

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 consult and establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.* For specific precautionary statements, see 7.3, 7.4, and 7.5.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

D 1193 Specification for Reagent Water³

D 1331 Test Methods for Surface and Interfacial Tension of Solutions of Surface-Active Agents⁴

E 1 Specification for ASTM Thermometers⁵

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 *surface tension* (γ)—the specific surface free energy of a liquid gas interface, millinewton per metre (ergs/cm²).

3.2 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.2.1 *bubble frequency* (S)—bubbling rate, s⁻¹.

3.2.2 *dead time* (t_o)—time required from start to completion of a bubble, ms.

3.2.3 *surface age* (t)—time required to start a new bubble, ms.

3.2.4 *dead time %*—fraction of a cycle ($t + t_o$) in the dead state, %.

3.2.5 *bubble pressure* (ΔP)—difference between maximum pressures for the wide capillary (P_1) and the narrow capillary (P_2), Pa.

3.3 Symbols:

γ = surface tension, millinewtons per metre (dynes/cm)

S = bubble frequency, s⁻¹

t_o = dead time, ms

t = surface age, ms

D = density, kg/m³

r = radius, mm

ΔP = difference between maximum pressures, Pa

P_1 = maximum pressure for the wide capillary, Pa

P_2 = maximum pressure for the narrow capillary, Pa

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 The pressure required for bubble formation at a capillary tip immersed in the liquid is measured at gas flow rates that provide a series of bubble frequencies. The pressure and a calibration constant are used to calculate the dynamic surface tension at various surface ages.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 While this test method can be applied to pure liquids, it is especially designed for use with mixtures in which one or more components migrate to the surface.

5.2 Data of this type are needed for the design of equipment for processing mixed liquids, such as in distillation towers.

6. Apparatus

6.1 *Bubbler Unit*, water-jacketed, as shown in Fig. 1.

6.2 *Thermostat*, circulating water, to hold bubbler at specified temperature.

6.3 *Oven*, adjustable to 378 K (105°C), explosion-proof.

6.4 *Pressure Transducer*, diaphragm-resistive unbonded strain gage, time constant 25 ms or less, 0 to 2000 Pa, accuracy $\pm 2\%$.^{6,7}

6.5 *Bridge Power Supply*, for the strain gage.

6.6 *Oscilloscope*, capable of sweep times down to 0.020 s.

6.7 *Filtered (5- μ m) Air Supply*, with pressure regulator capable of 0 to 724 kPa (0 to 105 psig) above ambient.

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D-2 on Petroleum Products and Lubricants and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D02.11 on Engineering Science of High Performance Fluids and Solids.

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² Kloubek, J., "Measurement of the Dynamic Surface Tension by the Maximum Bubble Pressure Method, III," *Journal of Colloid and Interface Science*, Vol. 41, October 1972, pp. 7–16.

³ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 11.01.

⁴ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 15.04.

⁵ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 14.03.

⁶ Razouk, R. "Surface Tension of Propellants," JPL Quarterly Technical Review Vol 2, 1972, pp. 123–133.

⁷ Razouk, R. and Walmsley, D., "Surface Tension Measurement by the Differential Maximum Bubble Pressure Method Using a Pressure Transducer," *Journal of Colloid and Interface Science*, Vol. 47, 1974, pp. 515–519.