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.

Designation: D3948 – 14 (Reapproved 2018)

An American National Standard

Standard Test Method for Determining Water Separation Characteristics of Aviation Turbine Fuels by Portable Separometer[1]

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D3948; 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 a rapid portable means for field and laboratory use to rate the ability of aviation turbine fuels to release entrained or emulsified water when passed through fiberglass coalescing material.

1.2 The procedure section of this test method contains two different modes of test equipment operation. The primary difference between the modes of operation is the rate of fuel flow through the fiberglass coalescing material. Test method selection is dependent on the particular fuel to be tested.

1.3 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses after SI units are provided for information only and are not considered 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, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.5 *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.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*[2]

D1655 Specification for Aviation Turbine Fuels

D2550 Method of Test for Water Separation Characteristics of Aviation Turbine Fuels (Withdrawn 1989)[3]

D3602 Test Method for Water Separation Characteristics of Aviation Turbine Fuels (Withdrawn 1994)[3]

D4306 Practice for Aviation Fuel Sample Containers for Tests Affected by Trace Contamination

D7224 Test Method for Determining Water Separation Characteristics of Kerosine-Type Aviation Turbine Fuels Containing Additives by Portable Separometer

D7261 Test Method for Determining Water Separation Characteristics of Diesel Fuels by Portable Separometer

2.2 *Military Standards:*[4]

MIL-T-5624 Turbine Fuel, Aviation Grades JP-4, JP-5, and JP-5/JP-8 ST

MIL-T-38219 Turbine Fuel, Low Volatility, JP-7

MIL-T-83133 Turbine Fuel, Aviation, Kerosene Types, NATO F34 (JP-8), NATO F-35, and JP-8+100

3. Terminology

3.1 For definitions of terms used in this test method that are not shown below, refer to Test Methods D7224 and D7261.

3.2 *Definitions:*

3.2.1 *Micro-Separometer*[5] rating (MSEP[5] rating), *n—in the aviation fuel industry*, a numerical value indicating the ease of separating emulsified water from aviation (jet) fuel by coalescence as affected by the presence of surface active materials (also known as surface active agents or surfactants).

3.2.1.1 *Discussion*—MSEP ratings obtained using Test A and Test B are termed MSEP-A and MSEP-B, respectively.

3.2.1.2 *Discussion*—MSEP ratings are only valid within the range of 50 to 100, with ratings at the upper end of the range indicating a clean fuel with little or no contamination by surfactants, which is expected to show good water-separating properties when passed through a filter-separator (coalescing-type filter) in actual service.

[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.J0.05 on Fuel Cleanliness.

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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] The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on www.astm.org.

[4] Available from Standardization Documents Order Desk, Bldg. 4 Section D, 700 Robbins Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19111-5094, Attn: NPODS.

[5] 'MSEP', 'DSEP', and 'Micro-Separometer' are trademarks of EMCEE Electronics, Inc., 520 Cypress Ave., Venice, FL 34285.

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