



Standard Test Method for Evaporation Loss of Lubricating Oils by the Noack Method¹

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1. Scope*

1.1 This test method covers three procedures for determining the evaporation loss of lubricating oils (particularly engine oils). Procedure A uses the Noack evaporative tester equipment; Procedure B uses the automated non-Woods metal Noack evaporative apparatus; and Procedure C uses Selby-Noack volatility test equipment. The test method relates to one set of operating conditions but may be readily adapted to other conditions when required.

1.2 Noack results determined using Procedures A and B show consistent differences. Procedure A gives slightly lower results versus Procedure B on formulated engine oils, while Procedure A gives higher results versus Procedure B on basestocks.

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

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

[D4057 Practice for Manual Sampling of Petroleum and Petroleum Products](#)

[D4177 Practice for Automatic Sampling of Petroleum and Petroleum Products](#)

[D6299 Practice for Applying Statistical Quality Assurance and Control Charting Techniques to Evaluate Analytical Measurement System Performance](#)

[D6300 Practice for Determination of Precision and Bias](#)

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 D02.06 on Analysis of Liquid Fuels and Lubricants.

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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.

[Data for Use in Test Methods for Petroleum Products and Lubricants](#)

2.2 DIN Standards:³

[DIN 1725 Specification for Aluminum Alloys](#)

[DIN 12785 Specifications for Glass Thermometers](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.1.1 *evaporation loss*—of a lubricating oil by the Noack method, that mass of volatile oil vapors lost when the oil is heated in a test crucible through which a constant flow of air is drawn.

3.1.2 *volatility, n*—the tendency of a liquid to form a vapor.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 A measured quantity of sample is placed in an evaporation crucible or reaction flask that is then heated to 250 °C with a constant flow of air drawn through it for 60 min. The loss in mass of the oil is determined.

4.2 Interlaboratory tests have shown that Procedure A, Procedure B, and Procedure C yield essentially equivalent results, with a correlation coefficient of $R^2 = 0.996$. See the research report for the Selby-Noack interlaboratory study.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 The evaporation loss is of particular importance in engine lubrication. Where high temperatures occur, portions of an oil can evaporate.

5.2 Evaporation may contribute to oil consumption in an engine and can lead to a change in the properties of an oil.

5.3 Many engine manufacturers specify a maximum allowable evaporation loss.

5.4 Some engine manufacturers, when specifying a maximum allowable evaporation loss, quote this test method along with the specifications.

5.5 Procedure C, using the Selby-Noack apparatus, also permits collection of the volatile oil vapors for determination of their physical and chemical properties. Elemental analysis of

³ Available from Deutsches Institut für Normung, Beuth Verlag GmbH, Burggrafen Strasse 6, 1000 Berlin 30, Germany.

*A Summary of Changes section appears at the end of this standard