



Designation: D6821 – 18

Standard Test Method for Low Temperature Viscosity of Drive Line Lubricants in a Constant Shear Stress Viscometer¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D6821; 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.

1. Scope*

1.1 This test method covers the measurement of the viscosity of drive line lubricants (gear oils, automatic transmission fluids, and so forth) with a constant shear stress viscometer at temperatures from -40°C to 10°C after a prescribed preheat and controlled cooling to the final test temperature. The precision is stated for test temperatures from -40°C to -26°C .

1.2 The applicability of this particular test method to petroleum products other than drive line lubricants has not been determined.

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

1.3.1 This standard uses the SI based unit of milliPascal second (mPa·s) for viscosity which is equivalent to centiPoise (cP).

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

D2983 Test Method for Low-Temperature Viscosity of Automatic Transmission Fluids, Hydraulic Fluids, and Lubri-

cants using a Rotational Viscometer

D3829 Test Method for Predicting the Borderline Pumping Temperature of Engine Oil

D4684 Test Method for Determination of Yield Stress and Apparent Viscosity of Engine Oils at Low Temperature

D6896 Test Method for Determination of Yield Stress and Apparent Viscosity of Used Engine Oils at Low Temperature

E563 Practice for Preparation and Use of an Ice-Point Bath as a Reference Temperature

E644 Test Methods for Testing Industrial Resistance Thermometers

E1137 Specification for Industrial Platinum Resistance Thermometers

E2877 Guide for Digital Contact Thermometers

2.2 *ISO Standards:*³

ISO 17025 General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories

ISO Guide 34 General Requirements for the Competence of Reference Material Producers

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 *apparent viscosity, n* —the determined viscosity obtained by the use of this test method.

3.1.2 *digital contact thermometer (DCT), n* —an electronic device consisting of a digital display and associated temperature sensing probe.

3.1.2.1 *Discussion*—This device consists of a temperature sensor connected to a measuring instrument; this instrument measures the temperature-dependent quantity of the sensor, computes the temperature from the measured quantity, and provides a digital output. This digital output goes to a digital display and/or recording device that may be internal or external to the device. These devices are sometimes referred to as “digital thermometers.”

3.1.2.2 *Discussion*—PET is an acronym for portable electronic thermometers, a subset of digital contact thermometers (DCT).

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 D02.07 on Flow Properties.

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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 American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036, <http://www.ansi.org>.

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