



Standard Test Method for Determination of Ignition Delay and Derived Cetane Number (DCN) of Diesel Fuel Oils by Combustion in a Constant Volume Chamber^{1,2}

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D6890; 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 automated laboratory test method covers the quantitative determination of the ignition characteristics of conventional diesel fuel oil, oil-sands based fuels, hydrocarbon oils, blends of fuel containing biodiesel material, diesel fuel oils containing cetane number improver additives, and is applicable to products typical of ASTM Specification [D975](#) grades No. 1-D S15, No. 1-D S500, and No. 1-D S5000, and grades No. 2-D S15, No. 2-D S500, and No. 2-D S5000 diesel fuel oils, European standard EN 590, and Canadian standards CAN/CGSB-3.517 and 3.520. The test method may also be applied to the quantitative determination of the ignition characteristics of diesel fuel blending components.

1.2 This test method measures the ignition delay of a diesel fuel injected directly into a constant volume combustion chamber containing heated, compressed air. An equation correlates an ignition delay determination to cetane number by Test Method [D613](#), resulting in a derived cetane number (DCN).

1.3 This test method covers the ignition delay range from 3.1 ms to 6.5 ms (64 DCN to 33 DCN). The combustion analyzer can measure shorter and longer ignition delays, but precision may be affected. For these shorter or longer ignition delays the correlation equation for DCN is given in [Appendix X2](#). There is no information about how DCNs outside the 33 to 64 range compare to Test Method [D613](#) cetane numbers.

1.4 For purposes of determining conformance with the parameters of this test method, an observed value or a calculated value shall be rounded “to the nearest unit” in the last right-hand digit used in expressing the parameter, in accordance with the rounding method of Practice [E29](#).

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 [D02.01](#) on Combustion Characteristics.

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² This test method is based on IP PM CQ/2001, published in the IP Standard Methods for Analysis and Testing of Petroleum and Related Products and British Standard 2000 Parts. Copyrighted by Energy Institute, 61 New Cavendish Street, London, W1G 7AR, UK. Adapted with permission of Energy Institute.

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

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:³

- [D613 Test Method for Cetane Number of Diesel Fuel Oil](#)
- [D975 Specification for Diesel Fuel Oils](#)
- [D1193 Specification for Reagent Water](#)
- [D4057 Practice for Manual Sampling of Petroleum and Petroleum Products](#)
- [D4175 Terminology Relating to Petroleum Products, Liquid Fuels, and Lubricants](#)
- [D4177 Practice for Automatic Sampling of Petroleum and Petroleum Products](#)
- [D5854 Practice for Mixing and Handling of Liquid Samples 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 Data for Use in Test Methods for Petroleum Products and Lubricants](#)
- [D6708 Practice for Statistical Assessment and Improvement of Expected Agreement Between Two Test Methods that Purport to Measure the Same Property of a Material](#)
- [E29 Practice for Using Significant Digits in Test Data to Determine Conformance with Specifications](#)
- [E456 Terminology Relating to Quality and Statistics](#)

³ 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.

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