



Standard Test Methods for Viscosity of Adhesives¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D1084; 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 reappraisal. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reappraisal.

This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the U.S. Department of Defense.

1. Scope

1.1 These test methods cover the determination of the viscosity of free-flowing adhesives.

1.1.1 The limitation of this test method to self-leveling adhesives eliminates thixotropic and plastic materials whose viscosity is a function of the rate of stirring and previous history of the adhesive.

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

1.3 *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

[D88 Test Method for Saybolt Viscosity](#)

[D115 Test Methods for Testing Solvent Containing Varnishes Used for Electrical Insulation](#)

[D562 Test Method for Consistency of Paints Measuring Krebs Unit \(KU\) Viscosity Using a Stormer-Type Viscometer](#)

[D907 Terminology of Adhesives](#)

[D1200 Test Method for Viscosity by Ford Viscosity Cup](#)

[D1545 Test Method for Viscosity of Transparent Liquids by Bubble Time Method](#)

[D1601 Test Method for Dilute Solution Viscosity of Ethylene Polymers](#)

[D2556 Test Method for Apparent Viscosity of Adhesives Having Shear-Rate-Dependent Flow Properties Using Rotational Viscometry](#)

2.2 ISO Document:³

[ISO 2555 Plastics — Resins in the Liquid State or as Emulsions or Dispersions — Determination of Apparent Viscosity by the Brookfield Test Method](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 Many terms in these test methods are defined in Terminology [D907](#).

3.1.2 *viscosity, n*—of a liquid, the resistance to flow expressed as the ratio of the applied stress to the resulting rate of shearing strain (see Newtonian behavior and thixotropy). (Compare consistency.)

3.2 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.2.1 *viscosity, n*—the ratio of shear stress to shear rate. The viscosity of a liquid is a measure of the internal friction of the liquid in motion. The unit of dynamic viscosity is the Pascal (poise), which is expressed as dyne-seconds per square centimetre. For a Newtonian liquid, the viscosity is constant at all shear rates. For a non-Newtonian liquid, viscosity will vary depending on shear rate.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 Several test methods are noted for viscosity determination of Newtonian and near Newtonian flow characteristics. (For adhesives not fitting into this category, Test Method [D2556](#) should be considered.) Four test methods are covered as follows:

4.1.1 *Method A* is applicable only to adhesives that will deliver 50 mL in a steady uninterrupted stream from one of the cups described in Section 5.

4.1.2 *Method B* is intended for measuring the viscosity of adhesives covering a range from 0.05 Pa · s to 200 Pa · s (50 to 200 000 cP) and is limited to materials that have or approach Newtonian flow characteristics.

4.1.3 *Method C* is intended primarily as a control method for determining the viscosity of adhesives that have or approach Newtonian flow characteristics.

¹ These test methods are under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D14 on Adhesives and are the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D14.10 on Working 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>.

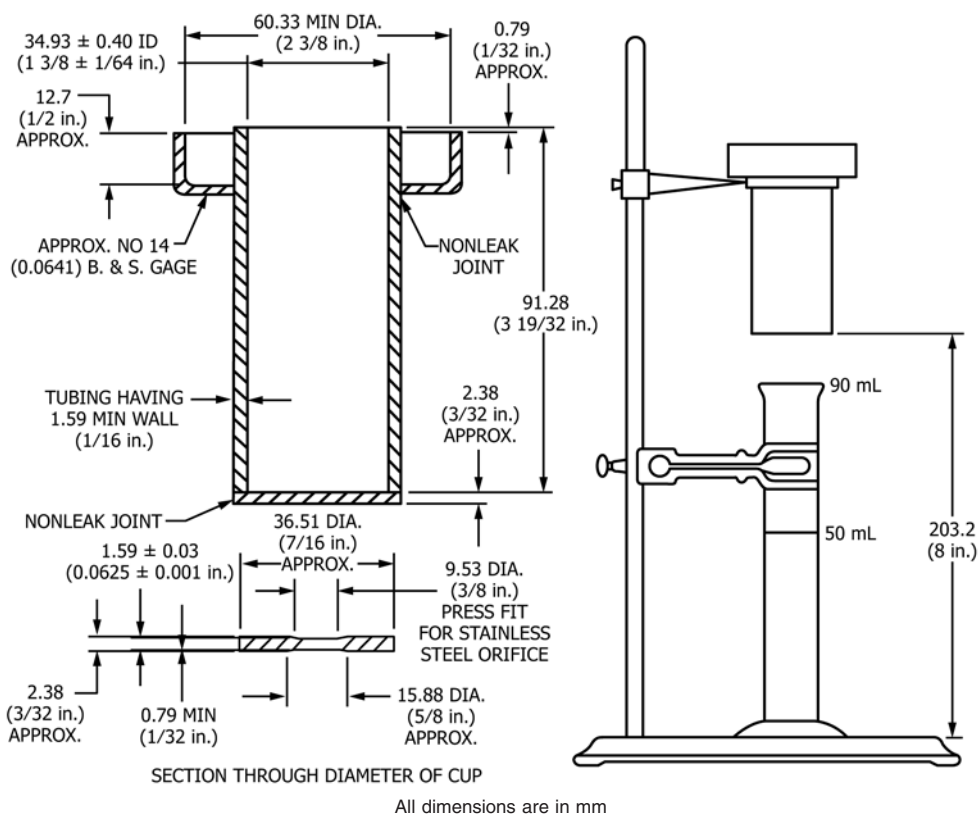


FIG. 1 Consistency Cups and Apparatus Assembly (Test Method A)

4.1.4 Method D is intended primarily as a control method for determining the viscosity of materials that have an equivalent viscosity no greater than approximately 3000 mPa · s (cP) and is limited to materials that have or approach Newtonian flow characteristics.

TEST METHOD A

5. Apparatus

5.1 The apparatus (Fig. 1) consists of a set of four viscosity cups so designed as to deliver 50 mL of the sample in from 30 to 100 s at a temperature of 23 ± 0.5°C (73.4 ± 0.9°F).

5.1.1 Four consistency cups constitute a set as follows:

	Diameter of Orifice, in.
First Cup	0.07 ± 0.0001
Second cup	0.10 ± 0.0001
Third cup	0.15 ± 0.0001
Fourth cup	0.25 ± 0.0001

5.1.2 Cups made of brass or bronze. Orifice disks made of 18 % Chromium, 8 % Nickel stainless steel. The diameter of the Orifice pressed in the cup shall be stamped on the cup.

5.1.3 Fractional dimensions subject to permissible variations of ±0.01 in., unless otherwise specified.

6. Procedure

6.1 Bring the sample to be tested and the viscosity cup to a temperature of 23 ± 0.5°C (73.4 ± 0.9°F) (preferably in a constant-temperature room). Then mount the consistency cup in the clamp provided for the purpose and place the receiving

cylinder in position. With the outlet of the cup closed by means of the finger, pour the sample into the cup until it is filled to overflowing. Strike off the excess with a straightedge, and then remove the finger from over the outlet and allow the sample to flow into the receiving cylinder. Determine the number of seconds from the time the finger is removed from the orifice until the top of the meniscus reaches to 50-mL mark on the cylinder by a stop watch and record as the viscosity of the material.

7. Report

7.1 Report the following:

7.1.1 Complete identification of the adhesive tested, including type, source, manufacturer’s code numbers, form, date of test, date of manufacture, etc.,

7.1.2 Conditioning procedure used for samples prior to testing,

7.1.3 Number of tests made, and

7.1.4 Average consistency in seconds and the number of the viscosity cup used.

TEST METHOD B

8. Procedure

8.1 Refer to ISO 2555 for this test method.

TEST METHOD C

9. Apparatus

9.1 *Viscometer*—A Stormer viscosimeter with double flag paddle-type rotor as specified in Test Method D562, or an equivalent apparatus, in good repair and a spindle that spins freely when started without the paddle.

9.2 *Containers*—Round friction-top metal cans having a capacity of 1 qt (0.9 L). Nonstandard containers may be used by mutual agreement, when necessary to prevent corrosion or other deleterious effects of metal cans.

9.3 *Thermometer*—A precision thermometer with graduations not greater than 0.2°C (0.36°F) divisions.

9.4 *Timer*—A stop watch or suitable timer measuring to 0.2 s.

10. Procedure

10.1 *Conditioning*—Bring the containers holding the samples to be tested and the paddle to be used to a temperature of 23 ± 0.5°C (73.4°F) (preferably in a constant-temperature room), and maintain the sample uniformly at this standard temperature throughout the test. Protect adhesives containing volatile solvents from evaporation during conditioning. If special conditioning methods are necessary, such as the use of a circulating water bath. Report this in 11.1.2.

10.2 *Adjustment*—Prepare the instrument for use by raising the weight to the top by winding up the cord with the ratchet provided for that purpose. Set the revolution counter at 10 revolutions below the zero mark. Use a falling weight of such magnitude that a minimum time of 20 s is required for 100 revolutions of the paddle when the test is conducted as specified in 10.2. Choose the weight from the series 50, 100, 200, 500, and 1000 g. Fasten the paddle securely on the shaft, place the container on the platform, and raise until the surface of the adhesive just reaches the mark on the stem of the paddle. This ensures uniform depth of immersion of the paddle.

10.3 *Determination*—Release the brake on the large cog wheel, and start the timing device when the needle on the revolution counter passes the zero mark. Note the time for 100 revolutions accurately to the closest 0.2 s. Make a minimum of three determinations.

11. Report

11.1 Report the following:

11.1.1 Complete identification of the adhesive tested, including type, source, manufacturer’s code numbers, form, date of test, date of manufacture, etc.,

11.1.2 Conditioning procedure employed, including time elapsed between various operations used in the preparation of the adhesive mix,

11.1.3 Details of nonstandard containers, if used,

11.1.4 Temperature of the sample at the conclusion of the test,

11.1.5 Weight used,

11.1.6 Number of tests made, and

11.1.7 Average viscosity in seconds for 100 revolutions, together with the range of the observations.

TEST METHOD D

12. Apparatus

12.1 The apparatus (Fig. 2) consists of a set of five Zahn viscosity cups so designed as to allow a sample to flow through the calibrated orifice in approximately 1 min or less, best results being obtained when the flow time is between 20 and 40 s.

12.1.1 Five viscosity cups constitute a set as follows:

	Diameter of Orifices	
	mm + 0.0076 −0.0051	in. + 0.0003 − 0.0002
First cup	2.002	0.0788
Second cup	2.748	0.1082
Third cup	3.777	0.1487
Fourth cup	4.277	0.1684
Fifth cup	5.263	0.2072

12.1.2 Cups shall be made of stainless steel, 0.050 in. (1.27 mm) thick. The number of the cup shall be stamped on a plate on the cup.

12.2 The following figures are given only for the purpose of selecting the proper viscometer. They are not intended for use in converting centipoises to Zahn seconds.

Orifice Size, mm (in.)	Range mPa · s (cP)	Range, Zahn's
2.002 (0.0788)	20 to 85	40 to 85
2.748 (0.1082)	30 to 170	20 to 70
3.777 (0.1487)	120 to 550	25 to 60
4.277 (0.1684)	200 to 900	20 to 65
5.263 (0.2072)	250 to 1200 (and above)	15 to 60

13. Procedure

13.1 *Conditioning*—Bring the sample of the adhesive and the cup to a temperature of 23 ± 0.5°C (73.4 ± 0.9°F), preferably in a constant-temperature room, and maintain the sample uniformly at this standard temperature throughout the test. Other temperatures of test are optional. Protect adhesives containing volatile solvents from evaporation during conditioning. If special conditioning methods are necessary, such as the use of a circulating water bath, they shall be specified in 14.1.2.

13.2 *Determination*—Hold the viscometer in a vertical position (by means of a small ring at the end of the handle) and completely immerse the cup into the sample being tested. Lift the viscometer out of the sample (Note 1). Determine by means of a stop watch the number of seconds from the time the top edge of the viscometer cup breaks the surface until the steady flow from the orifice first breaks, and record this time as the consistency of the material. Record the temperature of the sample and the number of the cup.

NOTE 1—Time of removal must be rapid. Unless build-up of adhesive on the side of the cup occurs, the time of removal should be about 1 s.

14. Report

14.1 Report the following:

14.1.1 Complete identification of the adhesive tested, including type, source, manufacturer’s code numbers, form, date of test, date of manufacture, etc.,

14.1.2 Conditioning procedure employed for samples prior to testing,

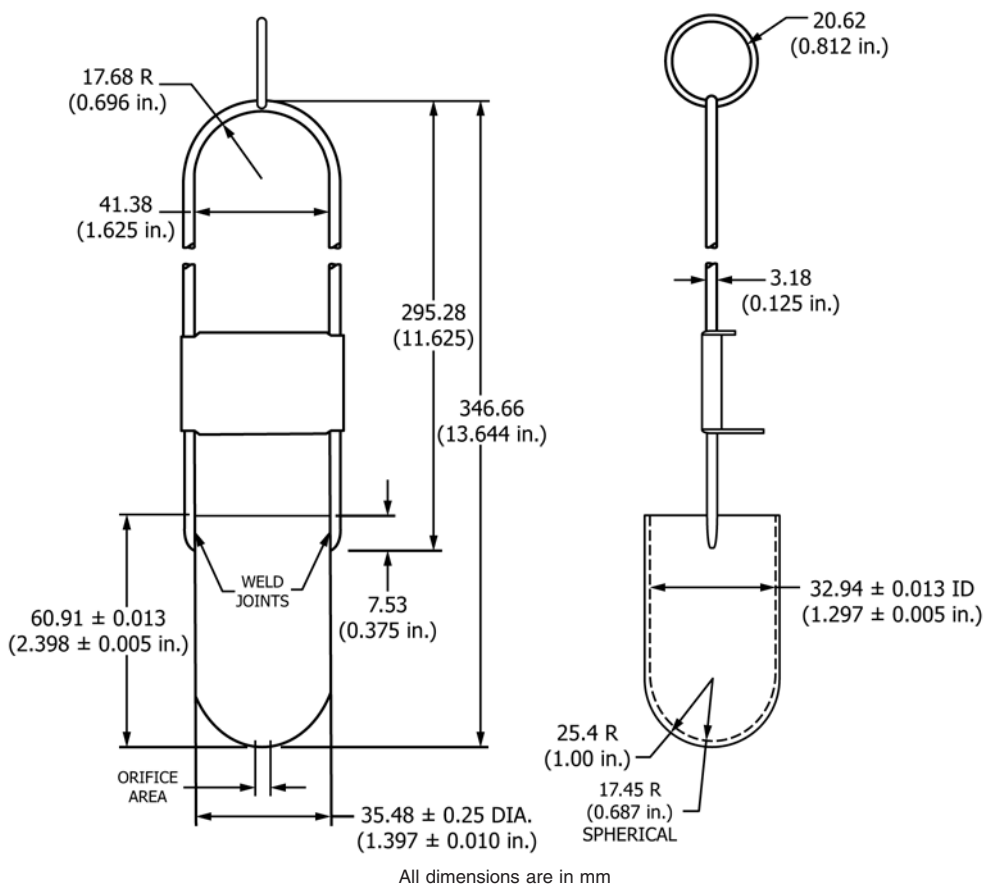


FIG. 2 Viscosity Cups (Test Method D)

- 14.1.3 Number of tests made, and
- 14.1.4 Average viscosity in seconds and the number of the viscosity cup used.

PRECISION AND BIAS

15. Precision and Bias

15.1 At the present time there is no basis for a statement of precision and bias concerning the reproducibility of results among laboratories.

16. Keywords

16.1 adhesive; viscosity

APPENDIX

(Nonmandatory Information)

X1. REFERENCE VISCOSITY METHODS

X1.1 Reference viscosity methods giving equipment used are shown on the following table:

Test Method for	Refers to	Equipment Used
Viscosity of Transparent Liquids by Bubble Time Method	D1545	Gardner-Holdt tubes
Saybolt Viscosity	D88	Saybolt viscometer
Dilute Solution Viscosity of Ethylene Polymers	D1601	Modified Ubbelohde viscometer
Viscosity of Paints, Varnishes, and Lacquers by Ford Viscosity Cup	D1200	Ford cup
Varnishes Used for Electrical Insulation	D115	MacMichael viscosimeter

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