



Standard Test Method for Roll Stability of Lubricating Grease in Presence of Water (Wet Roll Stability Test)¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers a procedure for determining the roll stability of lubricating grease in the presence of water (wet roll stability) by using a roll stability test apparatus.

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

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

[D217 Test Methods for Cone Penetration of Lubricating Grease](#)

[D1193 Specification for Reagent Water](#)

[D1403 Test Methods for Cone Penetration of Lubricating Grease Using One-Quarter and One-Half Scale Cone Equipment](#)

[D1831 Test Method for Roll Stability of Lubricating Grease](#)
[D4057 Practice for Manual Sampling of Petroleum and Petroleum Products](#)

[D4175 Terminology Relating to Petroleum, Petroleum Products, and Lubricants](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions:*

3.1.1 *consistency, n—of lubricating grease*, degree of resistance to movement under stress.

3.1.1.1 *Discussion*—The term consistency is used somewhat

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.G0.07 on Research Techniques.

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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.

synonymously with penetration. Generally, consistency refers to the worked penetration of a grease. **D4175**

3.1.2 *lubricating grease, n*—semi-fluid to solid product of a dispersion of a thickener in a liquid lubricant.

3.1.2.1 *Discussion*—The dispersion of the thickener forms a two-phase system and immobilizes the liquid lubricant by surface tension and other physical forces. Other ingredients are commonly included to impart special properties. **D217**

3.1.3 *wet roll stability, n—of lubricating grease*, change in consistency of a mixture of sample and small amount of water after a specified amount of rolling in a roll stability test apparatus.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 A grease sample mixed with a small amount of water is subjected to low shear at 20 °C to 35 °C for a specified time in a roll stability apparatus. The difference between the cone penetration before working and the cone penetration after is used as a measure of the wet roll stability of the grease.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 It is known that contamination by water can affect the structural stability of some greases in service. The test procedure specified in this method is widely used to determine the wet structural stability of greases in service. Many grease specifications require this procedure as a wet structural stability test. No accurate correlation is established between the test results and wet structural stability of grease in actual service.

6. Apparatus

6.1 *Roll Stability Test Apparatus*, as specified in Test Method **D1831**.

6.2 *Penetrometer and/or One-quarter or One-half Scale Cone and Shaft*, as specified in Test Methods **D1403**.

6.3 *One-quarter or One-half Scale Cup and Worker*, as described in Test Methods **D1403**.

6.4 *Spatula*, with a blade longer than 150 mm.

7. Reagents and Materials

7.1 *Appropriate Volatile Gum-Free Solvent*, for example, mineral spirits.

7.2 *Cloth or Paper Wiper*, for wiping grease from the penetrometer cone. The wiper should be soft, so as not to scratch the surface of the cone.

7.3 *Distilled Water*, Specification **D1193**, Type II minimum purity.

8. Procedure

8.1 Determine the worked penetration of the grease to be tested in accordance with Test Methods **D1403**.

8.2 Transfer 63.0 g \pm 0.2 g of unworked grease to test cylinder. Distribute the grease uniformly on the inside wall of the cylinder with a spatula.

8.3 Place the weighed roller in the cylinder.

8.4 Add 7.0 g \pm 0.2 g distilled water to the cylinder, and tighten the cap.

NOTE 1—The relative amount of grease and water added can be adjusted to the desired ratio but the total amount of material should be maintained at 70 g. An example being 56 g of grease, 14 g water would equal 20 % water.

8.5 Mount the cylinder in position, start the machine, and record the time and room temperature which should be limited to 20 °C to 35 °C. If the cylinder is enclosed within a cabinet, the temperature around cylinder shall be maintained at 20 °C to 35 °C.

8.6 After rolling the cylinder for 2 h \pm 5 min, remove the grease from the cylinder promptly and proceed with the requirements of worked penetration in Test Methods **D1403**. Record the worked penetration. After transferring the grease to the worker, clean the test apparatus by wiping with clean cloth or tissue.

8.7 Convert the fractional scale penetration values determined by Test Methods **D1403** (before and after test) into the equivalent full scale cone penetration values using the appropriate equations described in Test Methods **D1403**.

9. Calculation or Interpretation of Results

9.1 Calculate the change in consistency of the sample as follows:

$$\text{Penetration change} = P2 - P1 \quad (1)$$

where:

P2 = final full-scale equivalent penetration reading, and

P1 = initial full-scale equivalent penetration reading.

NOTE 2—Penetration reading is measured in tenths of a millimetre. A negative penetration change indicates hardening of grease while a positive penetration change indicates softening.

10. Report

10.1 The value calculated in 9.1 is reported with the test procedure as the wet shear stability of the grease. A notation if free water is present is useful information.

11. Precision and Bias³

11.1 *Precision*—The precision of this test method as determined by a statistical examination of interlaboratory test results shown in **Table 1**. Their round robin samples are listed in **Table 2**.

11.1.1 *Repeatability*—The difference between successive results obtained by the same operator with the same apparatus under constant operating conditions on identical test materials would, in the long run, in normal and correct operation of the test method exceed the following values only in 1 case in 20:

Repeatability = 22 penetration units

11.1.2 *Reproducibility*—The difference between two single and independent results obtained by different operators working in different laboratories on identical test material would, in the long run, in the normal and correct operation of the test method, exceed the following values only in 1 case in 20:

Reproducibility = 36 penetration units

11.2 *Bias*—This test method has no bias because the value of the relative wet roll stability of grease can be defined only in terms of the test method.

12. Keywords

12.1 cone penetration; consistency; lubricating grease; penetration; roll stability; water stability test; wet roll stability

³ Supporting data have been filed at ASTM International Headquarters and may be obtained by requesting Research Report RR:D02-1825. Contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org.

TABLE 1 Round Robin Test Results

Lab	Sample				
	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5
1	-3	+32	+64	+40	+24
	+2	+16	+68	+39	+23
2	+4	+38	+54	+52	+18
	+3	+48	+60	+37	+26
3	+26	-12	+52	+22	+3
	+12	0	+50	+38	-2
4	-18	+26	+38	+37	+2
	-21	+29	+39	+42	+27
5	+8	+64	+58	+40	+24
	+4	+26	+60	+36	+20
6	-6	+44	+55	+36	+20
	-2	+37	+58	+34	+24
7	-12	+60	+30	+32	+12
	-4	+60	+52	+26	+10
8	+2	+42	+58	+40	+20
	0	+50	+62	+44	+22
9	+30	+79	+41	+26	+19
	+19	+90	+33	+22	+22
10	+2	+50	...	+20	+10
	+10	+52	...	+48	+12

TABLE 2 Round Robin Samples

Sample Code	ASTM Code	NLGI Grade	Thickener Type	Supplier
S1	G030101	2	Al-complex	Summit
S2	G030102	3	Lithium	Shell
S3	G030103	2	Polyurea	ExxonMobil
S4	G030104	1	Lithium	Citgo
S5	G030105	1	Li-complex	Shell

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