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An American National Standard

Standard Test Method for Density and Relative Density (Specific Gravity) of Liquids by Lipkin Bicapillary Pycnometer[1]

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D 941; 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.

This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the Department of Defense to replace Method 402 of Test Method Standard No 791b. Consult the DoD Index of Specifications and Standards for the specific year of issue which has been adopted by the Department of Defense.

1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers the measurement of the density of any hydrocarbon material that can be handled in a normal fashion as a liquid at the specified test temperatures of 20 to 25°C. Its application is restricted to liquids having vapor pressures less than 80 kPa (600 mm Hg) and having viscosities less than 15 mm^2/s (cst) at 20°C.

1.2 Two procedures are covered as follows:

1.2.1 *Procedure A*, for pure compounds and mixtures which are not highly volatile.

1.2.2 *Procedure B*, for highly volatile mixtures.

1.3 This test method provides a calculation procedure for converting density to relative density.

1.4 *This standard may involve hazardous materials, operations, and equipment. This standard does not purport to address all of the safety problems 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.* Specific hazard statements are given in Notes 1, 2, 6 and Annex A1.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*

D 1250 Petroleum Measurement Tables[2]

E 1 Specification for ASTM Thermometers[3]

3. Terminology

3.1 *density*—mass per unit volume.

3.1.1 *Discussion*— In this test method, the measurement is at any given temperature and the units are grams per millilitre.

3.1.2 *relative density*—the ratio of the density of a material at a stated temperature to the density of water at a stated temperature.

4. Summary of Test Method[4]

4.1 The liquid sample is drawn into the pycnometer and weighed. It is then equilibrated at the test temperature, and the positions of the liquid levels are observed. The density or relative density of the sample is then calculated from its weight, a calibration factor proportional to an equal volume of water, and a term that corrects for the buoyancy of air.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 Density is a fundamental physical property which can be used in conjunction with other properties to characterize both the light and heavy fractions of petroleum and to assess the quality of crude oils.

5.2 Determination of the density or relative density of petroleum and its products is necessary for the conversion of measured volumes to volumes at the standard temperatures of 15°C or 60°F.

6. Apparatus

6.1 *Pycnometer*—A pycnometer conforming to the dimensions given in Fig. 1, constructed of borosilicate glass, and having a total weight not exceeding 30 g.

6.2 *Constant-Temperature Bath*—A water bath having a depth of at least 12 in. (305 mm), provided with means for maintaining a temperature of 20 ± 0.02°C or 25 ± 0.02°C.

6.3 *Bath Thermometer*—No suitable ASTM Celsius thermometers are available; ASTM Kinematic Viscosity Thermometers 44F and 45F designed for tests at 68°F (20°C) and 77°F (25°C) and conforming to the requirements prescribed in Specification E 1 are therefore specified. Ice point and bore corrections must be known to the nearest 0.02°F. In use, the thermometers must be immersed to a point at least 2°F above the test temperature.

6.4 *Pycnometer Holder*—Figure 2 shows the structural details of the holder proper. It can be made of brass or any other available metal that can be hard- or soft-soldered and that will not corrode in the thermostat liquid. Figure 3 illustrates a convenient mounting for suspending the holders in the thermostat. It consists of a brass bar ⅛ in. (3.2 mm) in thickness by 1 in. (25 mm) in width, of a length suitable for

[1] This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D-2 on Petroleum Products and Lubricants and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D02.04 on Hydrocarbon Analysis.

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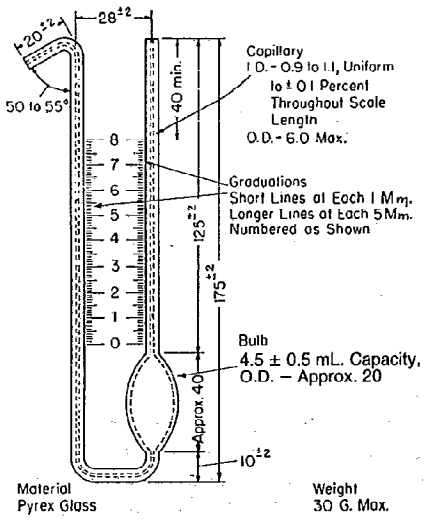
[2] *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 05.01.

[3] *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vols 05.03 and 14.01.

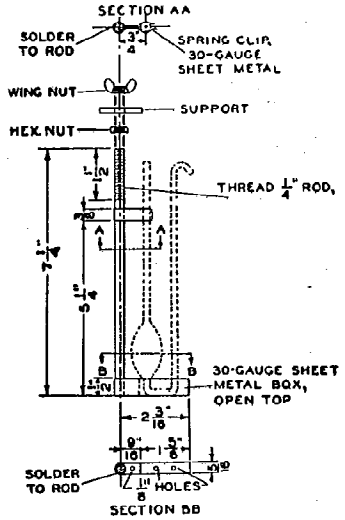
[4] For a more complete discussion of this method, see Davidson, J. A., Harvey, T., Kurtz, S. S., Jr., Lipkin, M. R., "Pycnometer for Volatile Liquids," *Industrial and Engineering Chemistry*, Analytical Edition, IENAA Vol 16, No. 1, 1944, p. 55 and H. M. Smith, and Cooperators, "Measurement of Density of Hydrocarbon Liquids by the Pycnometer," *Analytical Chemistry*, ANCHA Vol 22, Nov. 1952, p. 1452.



All Dimensions in Millimetres

NOTE—The graduation lines shall extend around the entire circumference of the pycnometer at the integral numbers 0, 1, 2 cm, etc., half way around at the half divisions 0.5, 1.5, etc., and shorter lines for the intermediate subdivisions.

FIG. 1 Pycnometer



Metric Equivalents

in.	mm	in.	mm
5/16	7.94	3/4	19
9/16	14.3	1½	38
⅛	3.2	1⅝	41.3
⅜	9.53	2 3/16	55.6
¼	6.4	5¼	133.4
½	12.7	7¼	184.2

FIG. 2 Pycnometer Holder

the bath used, and with seven 9/32-in. (7.144 mm) holes drilled 1½ in. (38.1 mm) apart to accommodate the threaded ends of the holders. Two nuts support each holder and permit regulation of the depth of immersion of the pycnometers.

6.5 *Balance*—A balance able to reproduce weighings within 0.1 mg when carrying a load of 30 g or less on each pan. The balance is to be located in a room shielded from drafts and fumes and in which the temperature changes between related weighings (empty and filled pycnometer) do not cause a significant change in the ratio of the balance arms. Otherwise weighings must be made by the substitution method in which the calibrated weights and pycnometer are alternately weighed on the same balance pan. The same balance shall be used for all related weighings.

6.6 *Weights*—Weights are to be used whose relative values are known to the nearest 0.05 mg, or better. The same set of weights shall be used for the calibration of the pycnometer and the determination of the densities, or the sets of weights shall be calibrated relative to each other.

7. Preparation of Apparatus

7.1 Thoroughly clean the pyncometer with hot chromic acid. (**Warning**—See Note 1.) Chromic acid solution is the most effective cleaning agent. However, surfactant cleaning fluids have also been used successfully. Rinse well with distilled water and dry at 105 to 110°C for at least 1 h, preferably with a slow current or filtered air passing through the pycnometer. Cleaning is to be done in this manner whenever the pycnometer is to be calibrated or whenever liquid fails to drain cleanly from the walls of the pycnometer or its capillary. Ordinarily, the pyncometer can be cleaned between determinations by washing with a suitable solvent, such as isopentane or acetone (**Warning**—See Note 2.) and vacuum drying. If acetone is used as the wash liquid, the pycnometer is then to be rinsed with isopentane.

NOTE 1: **Warning**—Causes severe burns. A recognized carcinogen. See Annex A1.1.

NOTE 2: **Warning**—Extremely flammable. See Annexes A1.2, A1.3.

8. Calibration of Apparatus

8.1 Proceeding as directed in Section 9, determine the weight of freshly boiled distilled water held by the pycnometer when equilibrated at the test temperature (20 or 25°C) with the water level at each of three different scale points on the graduated arms, two of which are to be at opposite ends of the scale. Prepare a calibration curve by plotting the sum of the scale readings on the two arms of the pycnometer against the corresponding apparent volume. If this curve is not a straight line, and subsequent checks do not correct the curvature, discard the pycnometer as imperfect, unless a line conforming to 8.2 can be obtained. Obtain the apparent volume in millilitres by dividing the weight of the water held in the pycnometer by the density of water at 20°C (0.99823 g/mL), or at 25°C (0.99707 g/mL).

NOTE 3—The apparent volume differs from the true volume by the amount of the air buoyancy correction on the weight of water contained in the pycnometer.

8.2 If a straight line cannot be drawn through the three points, determine enough additional points so that a straight line calibration can be drawn which does not lie more than 0.0002 mL in units from the points used to determine the line.

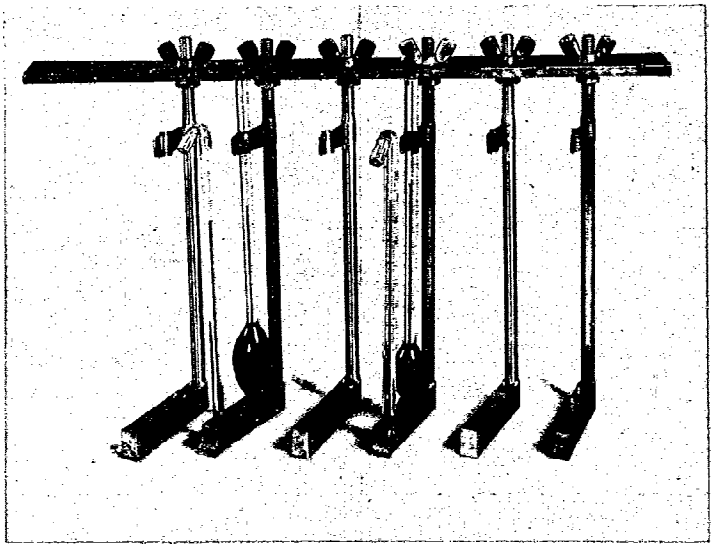


FIG. 3 Holder Mounting

9. Procedure A

9.1 Procedure A is intended for pure compounds and mixtures that are not highly volatile, that is, which are essentially free from materials boiling below 20°C.

9.2 Weigh the clean, dry pycnometer to 0.1 mg and record the weight.

9.3 Fill the pycnometer with the sample at approximately the test temperature by holding it in an upright position and placing the hooked tip in the sample, allowing the liquid to be drawn over the bend in the capillary by surface tension. Allow the pycnometer to fill by siphoning (requiring about 1 min) and break the siphon when the liquid level in the bulb arm of the pycnometer reaches the lowest calibration mark.

TABLE 1 Air Buoyancy Corrections

W/V	Correction,[A] plus	W/V	Correction,[A] plus
0.70	0.00036	0.85	0.00018
0.71	0.00035	0.86	0.00017
0.72	0.00033	0.87	0.00016
0.73	0.00032	0.88	0.00014
0.74	0.00031	0.89	0.00013
0.75	0.00030	0.90	0.00012
0.76	0.00029	0.91	0.00011
0.77	0.00028	0.92	0.00010
0.78	0.00026	0.93	0.00009
0.79	0.00025	0.94	0.00007
0.80	0.00024	0.95	0.00006
0.81	0.00023	0.96	0.00005
0.82	0.00022	0.97	0.00004
0.83	0.00020	0.98	0.00003
0.84	0.00019	0.99	0.00001

[A] This table applies for all air density values between 0.0011 and 0.0013 g/mL. For air densities outside this range, the air buoyancy correction, C, should be calculated as follows:

$$C = (d_a/0.99823) \times [0.99823 - (W/V)]$$

where:
C = air buoyancy correction,
d_a = density of air in the balance case, g/mL,
W = weight of sample in pycnometer, and
V = volume of sample in pycnometer.

9.4 Wipe off the wet tip thoroughly (Note 4) with a chemically clean, lint-free cloth slightly damp with water and weigh to the nearest 0.1 mg.

NOTE 4—In atmospheres of low humidity (60 % or lower) drying the pycnometer by rubbing with dry cotton cloth will induce static charges equivalent to a loss of about 1 mg or more in the weight of the pycnometer. If this charge is not dissipated in less than ½ h it can be detected by touching the pycnometer to the wire hook on the balance and then drawing it away slowly. If the pycnometer exhibits an attraction for the wire hook, it may be considered to have a static charge.

9.5 Place the pycnometer in the holder in a constant temperature bath adjusted to the test temperature (20 to 25°C) within ±0.02°C. When the liquid level has reached equilibrium (usually in about 10 min), read the scale to the nearest 0.2 small division at the liquid level in each arm.

10. Procedure B

10.1 Procedure B is intended for highly volatile mixtures that contain appreciable amounts of material boiling below 20°C, or for any material where there is uncertainty concerning loss due to evaporation during the density determination.

10.2 Weigh the pycnometer as described in 9.2.

10.3 Cool the sample and pycnometer to a temperature of 0 to 5°C before filling. If the determination must be made when the dew point is high enough to cause condensation of moisture in the pycnometer, proper precautions should be taken to avoid this. Fill the pycnometer according to the procedure described in 9.3.

10.4 Place the pycnometer in the bath and read the volume as described in 9.5.

NOTE 5—If at any time during equilibration the level of the liquid rises above the scale graduations, cautiously apply air pressure to the opening of the bulb arm of the pycnometer and force a few drops of the sample from the bent arm.

10.5 Remove the pycnometer from the bath, rinse the outside with acetone, then with clean isopentane (**Warning**—

TABLE 2 Density of Water

Temperature, °C	Density, g/mL	Temperature, °C	Density, g/mL	Temperature, °C	Density, g/mL
0	0.99987	21	0.99802	40	0.99224
3	0.99999	22	0.99780	45	0.99025
4	1.00000	23	0.99756	50	0.98807
5	0.99999	24	0.99732	55	0.98573
10	0.99973	25	0.99707	60	0.98324
15	0.99913	26	0.99681	65	0.98059
15.56	0.99904	27	0.99654	70	0.97781
16	0.99897	28	0.99626	75	0.97489
17	0.99880	29	0.99597	80	0.97183
18	0.99862	30	0.99567	85	0.96865
19	0.99843	35	0.99406	90	0.96534
20	0.99823	37.78	0.99307	100	0.95838

See Note 6.) and dry thoroughly (see Note 4) with a chemically clean, lint-free cloth, slightly damp with water. Weigh to the nearest 0.1 mg.

NOTE 6: **Warning**—Extremely flammable. See Annex A1.2, A1.3.

11. Calculation

11.1 Calculate the density of the sample as follows:

$$D = (W/V) + C$$

where:

D = density, g/mL at 20 or 25°C,
W = weight, g, in air of sample contained in the pycnometer at the test temperature (20 or 25°C),
V = apparent volume, mL, corresponding to the sum of the scale readings on the two arms of the pycnometer, as obtained from the calibration curve, and
C = air buoyancy correction, as obtained from Table 1.

11.2 Calculate the relative density of the sample at t_1/t_2 by dividing the density as calculated in 11.1 by the density of water at the reference temperature, t_2, as obtained from Table 2. Relative density at t_1/15.56°C (t_1/60°F where t is expressed in degrees F) can be changed to the conventional 15.56/15.56°C (60/60°F) by use of the appropriate relative density Table 23 in Standard D 1250, provided that the glass expansion factor has been excluded.

12. Report

12.1 In reporting density, give the test temperature and the units (For example: Density at 20°C = x.xxxx g/mL). In reporting relative density, give both the test temperature and the reference temperature, but no units (For example: relative density, 15.56/15.56°C = x.xxxx). Carry out all calculations to five figures, and round off the final result to four figures.

13. Precision and Bias

13.1 The precision and bias of the test method as obtained by statistical examination of interlaboratory test results is as follows.

13.1.1 *Repeatability*—The difference between successive test results obtained by the same operator with the same apparatus under constant operating conditions on identical test material would, in the long run, in the normal and correct operation of the test method, exceed 0.0001 g/mL only in one case in twenty.

13.1.2 *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 0.0002 g/mL only in one case in twenty.

13.1.3 *Bias*—The subcommittee is presently working on the development of a bias statement.

ANNEX

(Mandatory Information)

A1. PRECAUTIONARY STATEMENTS

A1.1 Chromic Acid (Cleaning Solution)

Do not get in eyes, on skin, or on clothing.
Avoid breathing vapor or mist.
Keep container closed.
Use with adequate ventilation.
Do not take internally.
Wash thoroughly after handling.
Use protective clothing and goggles when handling.

A1.2 Isopentane

Harmful if inhaled. Vapors may cause flash fire.
Keep away from heat, sparks, and open flame.
Keep container closed.
Use with adequate ventilation.
Avoid build-up of vapors and eliminate all sources of ignition, especially non-explosion proof electrical apparatus and heaters.
Avoid prolonged breathing of vapor or spray mist.
Avoid prolonged or repeated skin contact.

A1.3 Acetone

Keep away from heat, sparks, and open flame.
Keep container closed.
Use with adequate ventilation.
Vapors may spread long distances and ignite explosively.
Avoid build-up of vapors, and eliminate all sources of ignition, especially non-explosion proof electrical apparatus and heaters.
Avoid prolonged breathing of vapor or spray mist.
Avoid contact with eyes or skin.

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