



Standard Specification for ASTM Reference Fluid for Coolant Tests¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers a reference ethylene glycol-base test fluid to be used in providing base line data for ASTM coolant test procedures.

1.2 *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:

- D 501 Test Methods of Sampling and Chemical Analysis of Alkaline Detergents²
- D 538 Specification for Trisodium Phosphate²
- D 891 Test Methods for Specific Gravity, Apparent, of Liquid Industrial Chemicals³
- D 1078 Test Method for Distillation Range of Volatile Organic Liquids⁴
- D 1119 Test Method for Ash Content of Engine Coolants and Antirusts³
- D 1120 Test Method for Boiling Point of Engine Coolants³
- D 1121 Test Method for Reserve Alkalinity of Engine Coolant and Antirusts³
- D 1122 Test Method for Density or Relative Density of Engine Coolant Concentrates and Engine Coolants by the Hydrometer³
- D 1123 Test Method for Water in Engine Coolant Concentrate by the Karl Fischer Reagent Method³
- D 1176 Test Method for Sampling and Preparing Aqueous Solutions of Engine Coolants or Antirusts for Testing Purposes³
- D 1177 Test Method for Freezing Point of Aqueous Engine Coolants³
- D 1287 Test Method for pH of Engine Coolants and Antirusts³

D 1384 Test Method for Corrosion Test for Engine Coolants in Glassware³

D 1613 Test Method for Acidity in Volatile Solvents and Chemical Intermediates Used in Paint, Varnish, Lacquer, and Related Products⁴

D 1881 Test Method for Foaming Tendencies of Engine Coolants in Glassware³

D 3634 Test Method for Trace Chloride Ion in Engine Coolants³

D 5827 Test Method for Analysis of Engine Coolant for Chloride and Other Anions by Ion Chromatography³

D 5931 Test Method for Density and Relative Density of Engine Coolant Concentrates and Aqueous Engine Coolants by Digital Density Meter³

E 202 Test Methods for Analysis of Ethylene Glycols and Propylene Glycols³

3. Chemical Composition Requirements

3.1 The reference test fluid concentrate shall be prepared to conform to the requirements as to chemical composition prescribed in Table 1.

4. Ingredient Requirements

4.1 The materials used to prepare the reference test fluid shall meet the requirements given in Annex A1-Annex A5.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 The data obtained for the reference test fluid are intended to be used by laboratory personnel to determine their capability to perform tests properly. If a particular determination does not fall within the prescribed limits, it has to be assumed that an error occurred in the application of the test procedure.

5.2 The coolant composition given in this specification is not intended to be a commercial product.

6. Chemical and Physical Requirements

6.1 The formulated reference test fluid concentrate shall conform to the requirements for physical and chemical properties prescribed in Table 2.

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D15 on Engine Coolants and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D15.01 on Reference Test Materials.

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² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 15.04.

³ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 15.05.

⁴ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 06.03.

TABLE 1 Chemical Composition Requirements

NOTE 1—The reference coolant shall be colored blue-green using Alizarine Cyanine Green G Extra 100 % added in the proportion of 0.3 g of dye/gal of coolant.

| Ingredient | Mass % | lb/100 gal ^A | kg/m ³ |
|---|--------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Ethylene glycol | 89.86 | 847.9 | 1016.0 |
| Diethylene glycol | 5.00 | 47.2 | 56.5 |
| Sodium tetraborate, pentahydrate | 3.06 | 28.9 | 34.6 |
| Trisodium phosphate, dodecahydrate | 0.30 | 2.8 | 3.4 |
| Sodium mercaptobenzothiazole solution (50 mass % aqueous) | 0.40 | 3.8 | 4.5 |
| Pluronic L-61 ^B | | | |
| Water ^C | 0.02 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| | 1.36 | 12.8 | 15.4 |

^ABased on a test fluid relative density of 1.133 at 60/60°F (15.5/15.5°C).

^BA nonionic polyol manufactured by BASF Corporation, 100 Cherry Hill Rd., Parsippany, NJ 07054.

^CCalculated value; the total water content (water originally present in the base materials, added water, water of hydration, and water of reaction and quantitative interference by the reaction of the reagent (in Test Method D 1123) with the ingredients) should be adjusted to 4.0 ± 0.2 mass % as the final step in the preparation.

7. Performance Requirements

7.1 The formulated reference test fluid concentrate shall conform to the requirements for laboratory test performance prescribed in Table 3.

8. Sampling

8.1 To obtain a sample of the concentrated reference test fluid from the storage container, allow the material to come to room temperature (not below 68°F (20°C)) and shake well before withdrawing the sample.

8.2 All aqueous solutions to be used for test purposes shall be prepared in accordance with Section 5 of Test Method D 1176.

9. Mixing Procedure

9.1 Weigh the ingredients according to the batch size required.

9.2 Mix the ethylene and diethylene glycols.

9.3 Dissolve the sodium tetraborate in the glycol mixture using continuous agitation.

9.4 Dissolve the trisodium phosphate in the above solution.

9.5 Add the sodium mercaptobenzothiazole solution and continue agitating the mixture until it is homogeneous.

9.6 Slurry the dye into a convenient portion of the solution; then add the dye slurry to the formulation.

9.7 Add the Pluronic L-61 antifoam and mix thoroughly.

9.8 Determine the water content of the formula in accordance with Test Method D 1123 and adjust to 4.0 ± 0.2 mass % by the addition of distilled water.

10. Precision and Bias

10.1 For statements on the precision and bias of the various test methods for physical and chemical properties used in this specification, refer to the appropriate ASTM standards.

10.2 For statements on the precision and bias of the performance tests used in this specification, see the footnotes to Table 3.

10.3 It should be noted that the requirements listed in Table 2 on physical and chemical properties, and in Table 3 on performance, are based on the results of many different laboratories testing the same batch of reference test fluid.

11. Packaging and Storage

11.1 The test fluid concentrate may be affected by light. Therefore, after preparation, it should be packaged in opaque plastic containers or plastic lined metal cans.

11.2 Solutions prepared for testing should also be stored in opaque containers or kept in a cool, dark place to prevent the formation of flocculent precipitates.

11.3 Except when taking a sample, containers should be closed to avoid absorption of moisture from the air.

12. Keywords

12.1 chemical composition; engine coolant; performance requirements; specification; test fluid

TABLE 2 Physical and Chemical Requirements

| Property | Requirements | | ASTM Test Method |
|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | min | max | |
| pH, concentrate | 6.1 | 6.3 | D 1287 |
| 33 volume % solution | 7.7 | 8.0 | |
| 50 volume % solution | 7.5 | 7.8 | |
| Reserve alkalinity, mL | 26.5 | 27.5 | D 1121 |
| Water content, weight % | 3.8 | 4.2 | D 1123 |
| Freezing protection: | | | D 1177 |
| Concentrate | -23°C (-10°F) | -25°C (-13°F) | |
| 33 volume % solution | -18°C (0°F) | -19°C (-2°F) | |
| 50 volume % solution | -36°C (-33°F) | -38°C (-36°F) | |
| Relative Density at 15.6°C | 1.131 | 1.134 | D 1122, D 5931 |
| at 20°C | 1.129 | 1.132 | |
| Boiling point, °C (°F) | 330 (166) | 340 (171) | D 1120 |
| Ash, weight % | 1.4 | 1.6 | D 1119 |
| Chloride, ppm | - | 25 | D 3634, D 5827 |

TABLE 3 Performance Requirements^A

| Test | Mass Loss, max, mg/Specimen ^B | ASTM Test Method |
|------------------------|--|------------------|
| Corrosion in glassware | | D 1384 |
| Copper | 5 | |
| Solder | 5 | |
| Brass | 5 | |
| Steel | 5 | |
| Cast iron | 5 | |
| Aluminum | 15 | |
| Foaming | volume 75 mL, max ^C break time 5 s, max ^D | D 1881 |

^AAverage data for triplicate tests.

^BThe multilaboratory standard deviation has been found to be 1.8 mg for all metals that lose an average of less than 3 mg per specimen. Therefore, results of two properly conducted tests from two different laboratories on samples of the same lot of reference test fluid should not differ by more than 4.1 mg, provided the average loss is less than 3 mg per specimen. The multilaboratory standard deviation has been found to be 59 % of the obtained value on metals that lose an average of more than 3 mg per specimen. Therefore, results of two properly conducted tests from two different laboratories on samples of the same lot of reference test fluid should not differ by more than 167 %, provided the average loss is greater than 3 mg per specimen.

^CThe multilaboratory standard deviation for foam volume has been found to be 12.0 mL. Therefore, results of two properly conducted tests from two different laboratories on samples of the same lot of reference test fluid should not differ by more than 33.9 mL.

^DThe multilaboratory standard deviation for foam break time has been found to be 0.7 s. Therefore, results of two properly conducted tests from two different laboratories on samples of the same lot of reference test fluid should not differ by more than 2.0 s.

ANNEXES

(Mandatory Information)

A1. SPECIFICATION FOR ETHYLENE GLYCOL

| Property | Requirements | | ASTM Test Method |
|---|--------------|-------|---------------------|
| | min | max | |
| Relative Density at 15.6/15.6°C (60/60°F) | 1.115 | 1.118 | D 891 ^A |
| 20/20°C at (68/68°F) | 1.113 | 1.116 | |
| Distillation, 760 mm, °C (°F) initial boiling point | 88 | ... | D 1078 ^A |
| dry point | ... | 113 | |
| Acidity (as mass % acetic acid) | ... | 0.01 | D 1613 ^A |
| Water, mass % | ... | 0.5 | D 1123 |

| Property | Requirements | | ASTM Test Method |
|---------------|--------------|-----|------------------|
| | min | max | |
| Chloride, ppm | ... | 5 | D 3634, D 5827 |

^AThese methods are referenced in Test Methods E 202.

A2. SPECIFICATION FOR DIETHYLENE GLYCOL

| Property | Requirements | | ASTM Test Method |
|--|--------------|-------|---------------------|
| | min | max | |
| Relative Density at 60/60°F (15.6/15.6°C) | 1.119 | 1.122 | D 891 ^A |
| 68/68°F at (20/20°C) | 1.117 | 1.120 | |
| Distillation, 760 mm, °C initial boiling point | 240 | ... | D 1078 ^A |
| dry point | ... | 250 | |
| Acidity (as mass % acetic acid) | ... | 0.005 | D 1613 ^A |
| Water, mass % | ... | 0.20 | D 1123 |
| Chloride, ppm | ... | 5 | D 3634, D 5827 |

^AThese methods are referenced in Test Methods E 202.

A3. SPECIFICATION FOR SODIUM TETRABORATE, PENTAHYDRATE^A

| Chemical Analysis ^A : | min | max |
|---|------|------|
| Sodium oxide (Na ₂ O), mass % | 21.3 | 21.7 |
| Boron trioxide (B ₂ O ₃), mass % | 47.8 | 48.7 |
| Water of crystallization, mass % | 28.5 | 30.9 |
| Equivalent anhydrous borax (Na ₂ B ₄ O ₇), mass % | 69.1 | 70.5 |
| Chloride | ... | 0.05 |

^ASee Test Methods D 501.

A4. SPECIFICATION FOR TRISODIUM PHOSPHATE DODECAHYDRATE^A

| Chemical Requirements ^A : | min | max |
|--|------|------|
| Phosphoric anhydride (P ₂ O ₅), mass % | 18.1 | ... |
| Total alkalinity to methyl orange as Na ₂ O, mass % | 16.0 | 19.0 |
| Chloride | ... | 0.1 |

^ASee Test Methods D 501 and Specification D 538.

A5. SPECIFICATION FOR SODIUM MERCAPTOBENZOTHAZOLE SOLUTION (50 %)^A

| Chemical Requirements ^A : | min | max |
|--------------------------------------|------|------|
| Sodium MBT content, mass % | 49.0 | 51.0 |
| Free alkalinity as NaOH, mass % | ... | 0.5 |
| Chloride, mass % | ... | 0.1 |

^ASee Annex A6.

A6. GRAVIMETRIC DETERMINATION OF SODIUM MERCAPTOBENZOTHAZOLE

A6.1 Reagents

A6.1.1 *Ammonium Hydroxide (relative density 0.90)*— Concentrated ammonium hydroxide (NH₄OH).

A6.1.2 *Silver Nitrate Solution (16 g/L)*— Dissolve 0.4 g of silver nitrate crystals in 25 mL of distilled water.

A6.1.3 *Hydrochloric Acid (1 + 1)*— Mix 1 volume of HCl (relative density 1.19) with 1 volume of water.

A6.2 Procedure

A6.2.1 Weigh into a 250-mL beaker 0.5 to 0.6 g of the sodium mercaptobenzothiazole solution and record the weight to the nearest 0.1 mg.

A6.2.2 Add 10 mL of concentrated ammonium hydroxide to the beaker and dilute the contents to 150 mL with distilled water.

A6.2.3 Add the 25 mL of silver nitrate solution to the ammoniacal solution while stirring.

A6.2.4 Place the beaker and contents in an oven at 60°C and allow the mixture to digest for 15 min.

A6.2.5 Remove and allow to cool to room temperature. (The elapsed time between precipitation and the start of filtration should be a minimum of 1 h.)

A6.2.6 Prepare a medium-frit Gooch crucible by placing in an oven for 15 min at 110°C. Remove, place in desiccator to cool to room temperature, and then record the mass of the crucible.

A6.2.7 Filter the precipitated silver mercaptobenzothiazole through the fritted crucible and wash with distilled water until no fumes of ammonia remain and the rinse liquid does not form a silver chloride precipitate with hydrochloric acid (1 + 1).

A6.2.8 Dry the crucible and precipitate to constant weight in an oven at 110°C (a minimum of 2 h drying).

A6.2.9 Record the weight of silver mercaptobenzothiazole to the nearest 0.1 mg.

A6.3 Calculation

A6.3.1 Calculate the percentage of sodium mercaptobenzothiazole (NaMBT) in solution as follows:

$$\text{NaMBT, mass \%} = (A \times 189.23 \times 100) / (B \times 274.1) \quad (\text{A6.1})$$

where:

A = grams of dried precipitate, and

B = grams of sample used.

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