



Designation: D1475 – 13 (Reapproved 2020)

Standard Test Method for Density of Liquid Coatings, Inks, and Related Products¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D1475; 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 U.S. Department of Defense.

1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers the measurement of density of paints, inks, varnishes, lacquers, and components thereof, other than pigments, when in fluid form.

1.2 For higher precision when working with nonpigmented materials (drying oils, varnishes, resins and related materials), Test Method **D1963** can be used to determine specific gravity and, thence, density.

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

1.3.1 *Exception*—The values for density are to be stated in inch-pound units.

1.4 *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, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use. A specific precaution statement is given in 8.1.1.1.*

1.5 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

D1193 Specification for Reagent Water

D1963 Test Method for Specific Gravity of Drying Oils,

Varnishes, Resins, and Related Materials at 25/25°C (Withdrawn 2004)³

D4052 Test Method for Density, Relative Density, and API Gravity of Liquids by Digital Density Meter

E180 Practice for Determining the Precision of ASTM Methods for Analysis and Testing of Industrial and Specialty Chemicals (Withdrawn 2009)³

E691 Practice for Conducting an Interlaboratory Study to Determine the Precision of a Test Method

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions:*

3.1.1 *density, n*—the mass of a unit volume of a material at a specified temperature. In this method, it is expressed as the weight in grams per millilitre, or as the weight in pounds avoirdupois of one U. S. gallon, of the liquid at the specified temperature; in the absence of other temperature specification, 25°C is assumed.

3.1.2 *specific gravity (relative density), n*—the ratio of the mass of a unit volume of a material at a stated temperature to the mass of the same volume of distilled water at the same temperature.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 The accurately known absolute density of distilled water at various temperatures (**Table 1**) is used to calibrate the volume of a container. The weight of the paint liquid contents of the same container at the standard temperature (25°C) or at an agreed-upon temperature is then determined and density of the contents calculated in terms of grams per millilitre, or pounds per gallon at the specified temperature.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 Density is weight per unit volume. It is a key property in the identification, characterization, and quality control of a wide range of materials. Density measurements in terms of weight per gallon are commonly used to check paint quality. If the density is not within specification, there is a good chance that there was a mischarge or other serious problem.

³ The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on www.astm.org.

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee **D01** on Paint and Related Coatings, Materials, and Applications and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee **D01.24** on Physical Properties of Liquid Paints & Paint Materials.

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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.

TABLE 1 Absolute Density of Water, g/mL

°C	Density
15	0.999127
16	0.998971
17	0.998772
18	0.998623
19	0.998433
20	0.998231
21	0.998020
22	0.997798
23	0.997566
24	0.997324
25	0.997072
26	0.996811
27	0.996540
28	0.996260
29	0.995972
30	0.995684

5.2 This test method is suitable for the determination of density of paint and related products and components when in liquid form. It is particularly applicable when the fluid has too high a viscosity or when a component is too volatile for a density balance determination.

5.3 This test method provides for the maximum accuracy required for hiding power determinations. It is equally suitable for work in which less accuracy is required, by ignoring the directions for recalibration and consideration of temperature differentials, and using as the container a “weight-per-gallon” cup.

5.4 Automatic equipment for measuring density is available (see Test Method **D4052**) from several manufacturers. Such apparatus has been used for resins and latices as well as for oils and solvents. Before such equipment is used for a given product, results must be checked very carefully. Particularly with paints, inks, and resins, there are possibilities of gumming, fouling, and other interferences with operation.

6. Interferences

6.1 Highly viscous materials may entrap air and give erroneous low density values.

6.2 Paint or ink liquids may be trapped in the ground glass or metal joints of the pieces of apparatus and give erroneous, high density values.

7. Apparatus

7.1 *Cup or Pycnometer*—Any metal weight-per-gallon cup or glass pycnometer may be used, provided that it may be filled readily with a viscous liquid, adjusted to exact volume, covered to exclude loss of volatile matter, and readily cleaned.

NOTE 1—For materials that contain solvents that evaporate rapidly, a glass pycnometer of the weld type, with a narrow stopper and a cover should be used.

7.2 *Thermometers*, graduated in 0.1°C, such as are supplied with glass pycnometers.

7.3 *Constant-Temperature Bath*, held at 25 ± 0.1°C is desirable.

7.4 *Laboratory Analytical Balance*.

NOTE 2—The usual weight-per-gallon cup and similar specialized

pycnometers may have filled weights that exceed the capacity of the usual laboratory analytical balance. In such cases, use of a hanging pan, triple-beam balance, with scales graduated to 0.01 g has been found to provide results the mean of which was consistent with the overall precision and accuracy of the method.

7.5 *Desiccator and Desiccated Balance*, or a room of reasonably constant temperature and humidity are desirable.

8. Calibration of Cup or Pycnometer

8.1 Determine the volume of the container at the specified temperature by employing the following steps:

8.1.1 Clean and dry the container and bring it to constant weight. Chromic acid (see **8.1.1.1**) or other effective glass cleaner and nonresidual solvents may be used with glass containers and solvents with metal containers. For maximum accuracy, continue rinsing, drying, and weighing until the difference between two successive weighings does not exceed 0.001 % of the weight of the container. Fingerprints on the container will change the weight and must be avoided. Record the weight, *M*, in grams.

8.1.1.1 **Warning**—Chromic acid cleaning solution is corrosive to skin, eyes and mucous membranes and can cause severe burns. Avoid contact with eyes, skin or clothing. In making dilute solution, always add acid to water with care. Chromic acid cleaning solution is a strong oxidizer. Avoid contact with organic or reducing substances as a fire could result. See supplier’s Material Safety Data Sheet for further information. Other cleaners are much safer and may be equally effective.

8.1.2 Fill the container with reagent water conforming to Type II of Specification **D1193** at a temperature somewhat below that specified. Cap the container, leaving the overflow orifice open. Immediately remove excess overflowed water or water held in depressions by wiping dry with absorbent material. Avoid occluding air bubbles in the container.

8.1.3 Bring the container and contents to the specified temperature using the constant-temperature bath or room if necessary. This will cause further slight flow of water from the overflow orifice due to the expansion of the water with the rise of the temperature.

8.1.4 Remove the excess overflow by wiping carefully with absorbent material, avoiding wicking of water out of orifice, and immediately cap the overflow tube where such has been provided. Dry the outside of the container, if necessary, by wiping with absorbent material. Do not remove overflow that occurs subsequent to the first wiping after attainment of the desired temperature (**Note 3**). Immediately weigh the filled container to the nearest 0.001 % of its weight (**Note 4**). Record this weight, *N*, in grams.

NOTE 3—Handling the container with bare hands will increase the temperature and cause more overflow from the overflow orifice, and will also leave fingerprints; hence, handling only with tongs and with hands protected by clean, dry, absorbent material is recommended.

NOTE 4—Immediate and rapid weighing of the filled container is recommended here to minimize loss of weight due to evaporation of the water through orifices, and from overflow subsequent to the first wiping after attainment of temperature where this overflow is not retained by a cap.

8.1.5 Calculate the container volume as follows:

$$V = (N - M)/\rho \quad (1)$$