Designation: D445 – 21$^{\varepsilon 2}$

British Standard 2000: Part 71: Section 1: 1996

Standard Test Method for Kinematic Viscosity of Transparent and Opaque Liquids (and Calculation of Dynamic Viscosity)[1]

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D445; 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.

ε^1 NOTE—Editorially corrected tables in Section 17 in December 2021 to align with research reports.
ε^2 NOTE—Editorially removed joint designation in October 2022.

1. Scope*

1.1 This test method specifies a procedure for the determination of the kinematic viscosity, ν, of liquid petroleum products, both transparent and opaque, by measuring the time for a volume of liquid to flow under gravity through a calibrated glass capillary viscometer. The dynamic viscosity, η, can be obtained by multiplying the kinematic viscosity, ν, by the density, ρ, of the liquid.

NOTE 1—For the measurement of the kinematic viscosity and viscosity of bitumens, see also Test Methods D2170 and D2171.
NOTE 2—ISO 3104 corresponds to Test Method D445 – 03.

1.2 The result obtained from this test method is dependent upon the behavior of the sample and is intended for application to liquids for which primarily the shear stress and shear rates are proportional (Newtonian flow behavior). If, however, the viscosity varies significantly with the rate of shear, different results may be obtained from viscometers of different capillary diameters. The procedure and precision values for residual fuel oils, which under some conditions exhibit non-Newtonian behavior, have been included.

1.3 The range of kinematic viscosities covered by this test method is from 0.2 mm^2/s to 300 000 mm^2/s (see Table A1.1) at all temperatures (see 6.3 and 6.4). The precision has only been determined for those materials, kinematic viscosity ranges and temperatures as shown in the footnotes to the precision section.

1.4 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. The SI unit used in this test method for kinematic viscosity is mm^2/s, and the SI unit used in this test method for dynamic viscosity is mPa·s. For user reference, 1 mm^2/s = 10^{-6} m^2/s = 1 cSt and 1 mPa·s = 1 cP = 0.001 Pa·s.

1.5 **WARNING—**Mercury has been designated by many regulatory agencies as a hazardous substance that can cause serious medical issues. Mercury, or its vapor, has been demonstrated to be hazardous to health and corrosive to materials. Use Caution when handling mercury and mercury-containing products. See the applicable product Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for additional information. The potential exists that selling mercury or mercury-containing products, or both, is prohibited by local or national law. Users must determine legality of sales in their location.

1.6 *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.*

1.7 *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]

D396 Specification for Fuel Oils
D446 Specifications and Operating Instructions for Glass Capillary Kinematic Viscometers
D1193 Specification for Reagent Water
D1217 Test Method for Density and Relative Density (Specific Gravity) of Liquids by Bingham Pycnometer
D1480 Test Method for Density and Relative Density (Specific Gravity) of Viscous Materials by Bingham Pycnometer

[1] This test method is under the jurisdiction of Committee D02 on Petroleum Products, Liquid Fuels, and Lubricants and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D02.07 on Flow 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.

*A Summary of Changes section appears at the end of this standard

D1481 Test Method for Density and Relative Density (Specific Gravity) of Viscous Materials by Lipkin Bicapillary Pycnometer
D2162 Practice for Basic Calibration of Master Viscometers and Viscosity Oil Standards
D2170 Test Method for Kinematic Viscosity of Asphalts
D2171 Test Method for Viscosity of Asphalts by Vacuum Capillary Viscometer
D6071 Test Method for Low Level Sodium in High Purity Water by Graphite Furnace Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy
D6074 Guide for Characterizing Hydrocarbon Lubricant Base Oils
D6299 Practice for Applying Statistical Quality Assurance and Control Charting Techniques to Evaluate Analytical Measurement System Performance
D6300 Practice for Determination of Precision and Bias Data for Use in Test Methods for Petroleum Products, Liquid Fuels, and Lubricants
D6617 Practice for Laboratory Bias Detection Using Single Test Result from Standard Material
D6708 Practice for Statistical Assessment and Improvement of Expected Agreement Between Two Test Methods that Purport to Measure the Same Property of a Material
D8278 Specification for Digital Contact Thermometers for Test Methods Measuring Flow Properties of Fuels and Lubricants
E1 Specification for ASTM Liquid-in-Glass Thermometers
E77 Test Method for Inspection and Verification of Thermometers
E563 Practice for Preparation and Use of an Ice-Point Bath as a Reference Temperature
E1750 Guide for Use of Water Triple Point Cells
E2593 Guide for Accuracy Verification of Industrial Platinum Resistance Thermometers

2.2 *ISO Standards:*[3]
ISO 3104 Petroleum products—Transparent and opaque liquids—Determination of kinematic viscosity and calculation of dynamic viscosity
ISO 3105 Glass capillary kinematic viscometers—Specification and operating instructions
ISO 3696 Water for analytical laboratory use—Specification and test methods
ISO 5725 Accuracy (trueness and precision) of measurement methods and results
ISO 9000 Quality management and quality assurance standards—Guidelines for selection and use
ISO 17025 General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories

2.3 *NIST Standards:*[4]
NIST Technical Note 1297 Guideline for Evaluating and Expressing the Uncertainty of NIST Measurement Results[5]
NIST GMP 11 Good Measurement Practice for Assignment and Adjustment of Calibration Intervals for Laboratory Standards[6]
NIST Special Publication 811 Guide for the Use of the International System of Units (SI)[7]
NIST Special Publication 1088 Maintenance and Validation of Liquid-in-Glass Thermometers[8]

3. Terminology

3.1 See also *International Vocabulary of Metrology*.[9]

3.2 *Definitions:*

3.2.1 *digital contact thermometer (DCT), n*—an electronic device consisting of a digital display and associated temperature sensing probe.

3.2.1.1 *Discussion*—This device consists of a temperature sensor connected to a measuring instrument; this instrument measures the temperature-dependent quantity of the sensor, computes the temperature from the measured quantity, and provides a digital output. This digital output goes to a digital display and/or recording device that may be internal or external to the device.

3.2.1.2 *Discussion*—The devices are often referred to as a "digital thermometers," however the term includes devices that sense temperature by means other than being in physical contact with the media.

3.2.1.3 *Discussion*—PET is an acronym for portable electronic thermometers, a subset of digital contact thermometers (DCT).

3.3 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.3.1 *automated viscometer, n*—apparatus which, in part or in whole, has mechanized one or more of the procedural steps indicated in Section 11 or 12 without changing the principle or technique of the basic manual apparatus. The essential elements of the apparatus in respect to dimensions, design, and operational characteristics are the same as those of the manual method.

3.3.1.1 *Discussion*—Automated viscometers have the capability to mimic some operation of the test method while reducing or removing the need for manual intervention or interpretation. Apparatus which determine kinematic viscosity by physical techniques that are different than those used in this test method are not considered to be Automated Viscometers.

3.3.2 *density, n*—the mass per unit volume of a substance at a given temperature.

3.3.3 *dynamic viscosity, η, n*—the ratio between the applied shear stress and rate of shear of a material.

3.3.3.1 *Discussion*—It is sometimes called the coefficient of dynamic viscosity or absolute viscosity. Dynamic viscosity is a measure of resistance to flow or deformation which constitutes a material's ability to transfer momentum in response to steady or time-dependent external shear forces. Dynamic viscosity has

[3] Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036, http://www.ansi.org.
[4] Available from National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), 100 Bureau Dr., Stop 3460, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-3460.
[5] http://physics.nist.gov/cuu/Uncertainty/bibliography.html
[6] http://ts.nist.gov/WeightsAndMeasures/upload/GMP_11_Mar_2003.pdf
[7] http://www.nist.gov/pml/pubs/sp811/index.cfm
[8] http://www.nist.gov/pml/pubs/sp1088/index.cfm
[9] *International Vocabulary of Metrology — Basic and General Concepts and Associated Terms (VIM)*, 3rd ed., 2008, http://www.bipm.org/en/publications/guides/vim.html.

the dimension of mass divided by length and time and its SI unit is pascal times second (Pa·s). Among the transport properties for heat, mass, and momentum transfer, dynamic viscosity is the momentum conductivity.

3.3.4 *kinematic viscosity, ν, n*—the ratio of the dynamic viscosity (η) to the density (ρ) of a material at the same temperature and pressure.

3.3.4.1 *Discussion*—Kinematic viscosity is the ratio between momentum transport and momentum storage. Such ratios are called diffusivities with dimensions of length squared divided by time and the SI unit is metre squared divided by second (m^2/s). Among the transport properties for heat, mass, and momentum transfer, kinematic viscosity is the momentum diffusivity.

3.3.4.2 *Discussion*—Formerly, kinematic viscosity was defined specifically for viscometers covered by this test method as the resistance to flow under gravity. More generally, it is the ratio between momentum transport and momentum storage.

3.3.4.3 *Discussion*—For gravity-driven flow under a given hydrostatic head, the pressure head of a liquid is proportional to its density, ρ, if the density of air is negligible compared to that of the liquid. For any particular viscometer covered by this test method, the time of flow of a fixed volume of liquid is directly proportional to its kinematic viscosity, ν, where $\nu = \eta/\rho$, and η is the dynamic viscosity.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 The time is measured for a fixed volume of liquid to flow under gravity through the capillary of a calibrated viscometer under a reproducible driving head and at a closely controlled and known temperature. The kinematic viscosity (determined value) is the product of the measured flow time and the calibration constant of the viscometer. Two such determinations are needed from which to calculate a kinematic viscosity result that is the average of two acceptable determined values.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 Many petroleum products, and some non-petroleum materials, are used as lubricants, and the correct operation of the equipment depends upon the appropriate viscosity of the liquid being used. In addition, the viscosity of many petroleum fuels is important for the estimation of optimum storage, handling, and operational conditions. Thus, the accurate determination of viscosity is essential to many product specifications.

6. Apparatus

6.1 *Viscometers*—Use only calibrated viscometers of the glass capillary type, capable of being used to determine kinematic viscosity within the limits of the precision given in the precision section.

6.1.1 Viscometers listed in Table A1.1, whose specifications meet those given in Specifications D446 and in ISO 3105 meet these requirements. It is not intended to restrict this test method to the use of only those viscometers listed in Table A1.1. Annex A1 gives further guidance.

6.1.2 *Automated Viscometers*—Automated apparatus may be used as long as they mimic the physical conditions, operations, or processes of the manual apparatus. Any viscometer, temperature measuring device, temperature control, temperature-controlled bath, or timing device incorporated in the automated apparatus shall conform to the specification for these components as stated in Section 6 of this test method. Flow times of less than 200 s are permitted, however, a kinetic energy correction shall be applied in accordance with Section 7 on Kinematic Viscosity Calculation of Specifications D446. The kinetic energy correction shall not exceed 3.0 % of the measured viscosity. The automated apparatus shall be capable of determining kinematic viscosity of a certified viscosity reference standard within the limits stated in 9.2.1 and Section 17. The precision has been determined for automated viscometers tested on the sample types listed in 17.3.1 and is no worse than the manual apparatus (that is, exhibits the same or less variability).

NOTE 3—Precision and bias of kinematic viscosity measurements for flow times as low as 10 s have been determined for automated instruments tested with the sample types listed in 17.3.1.

6.2 *Viscometer Holders*—Use viscometer holders to enable all viscometers which have the upper meniscus directly above the lower meniscus to be suspended vertically within 1° in all directions. Those viscometers whose upper meniscus is offset from directly above the lower meniscus shall be suspended vertically within 0.3° in all directions (see Specifications D446 and ISO 3105).

6.2.1 Viscometers shall be mounted in the constant temperature bath in the same manner as when calibrated and stated on the certificate of calibration. See Specifications D446, see Operating Instructions in Annexes A1–A3. For those viscometers which have Tube L (see Specifications D446) held vertical, vertical alignment shall be confirmed by using (*1*) a holder ensured to hold Tube L vertical, or (*2*) a bubble level mounted on a rod designed to fit into Tube L, or (*3*) a plumb line suspended from the center of Tube L, or (*4*) other internal means of support provided in the constant temperature bath.

6.3 *Temperature-Controlled Bath*—Use a transparent liquid bath of sufficient depth such, that at no time during the measurement of flow time, any portion of the sample in the viscometer is less than 20 mm below the surface of the bath liquid or less than 20 mm above the bottom of the bath.

6.3.1 *Temperature Control*—For each series of flow time measurements, the temperature control of the bath liquid shall be such that within the range from 15 °C to 100 °C, the temperature of the bath medium does not vary by more than ±0.02 °C of the selected temperature over the length of the viscometer, or between the position of each viscometer, or at the location of the thermometer. For temperatures outside this range, the deviation from the desired temperature must not exceed ±0.05 °C.

6.4 *Temperature Measuring Devices:*

6.4.1 *Liquid-in-glass Thermometers*—Use calibrated thermometers noted in Annex A2. Devices with a nominal temperature range from 0 °C to 100 °C will have an accuracy after