



Designation: D4737 – 21

Standard Test Method for Calculated Cetane Index by Four Variable Equation¹

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1. Scope*

1.1 The calculated Cetane Index by Four Variable Equation provides a means for estimating the ASTM cetane number (Test Method D613) of distillate fuels from density and distillation recovery temperature measurements. The value computed from the equation is termed the Calculated Cetane Index by Four Variable Equation.

1.2 The Calculated Cetane Index by Four Variable Equation is not an optional method for expressing ASTM cetane number. It is a supplementary tool for estimating cetane number when a result by Test Method D613 is not available and if cetane improver is not used. As a supplementary tool, the Calculated Cetane Index by Four Variable equation must be used with due regard for its limitations.

1.3 Procedure A is to be used for Specification D975, Grades No. 1–D S15, No. 1–D S500, No. 1–D S5000, No. 2–D S15, No. 2–D S5000, and No. 4–D. This method for estimating cetane number was developed by Chevron Research Co.² Procedure A is based on a data set including a relatively small number of No. 1–D fuels. Test Method D4737 Procedure A may be less applicable to No. 1–D S15, No. 1–D S500, and No. 1–D S5000 than to No. 2–D grade S5000 or to No. 4–D fuels.

1.3.1 Procedure A has been verified as applicable to Grade No. 2–D S15 diesel fuels.³

1.4 Procedure B is to be used for Specification D975, Grade No. 2–D S500.

1.5 The test method “Calculated Cetane Index by Four Variable Equation” is particularly applicable to Grade 1–D S5000, Grade No. 1–D S500, Grade No. 2–D S5000 and Grade No. 2–D S500 diesel fuel oils containing straight-run and

cracked stocks, and their blends. It can also be used for heavier fuels with 90 % recovery points less than 382 °C and for fuels containing derivatives from oil sands and oil shale.

NOTE 1—S_{XX} is the designation for maximum sulfur level specified for the grade. For example, S500 grades are those with a maximum sulfur limit of 500 ppm ($\mu\text{g/g}$).

1.6 Biodiesel blends are excluded from this test method, because they were not part of the datasets use to develop either Procedure A or B.

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

1.8 *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.*

1.9 *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*:⁴
 - D86 Test Method for Distillation of Petroleum Products and Liquid Fuels at Atmospheric Pressure
 - D613 Test Method for Cetane Number of Diesel Fuel Oil
 - D975 Specification for Diesel Fuel
 - D1298 Test Method for Density, Relative Density, or API Gravity of Crude Petroleum and Liquid Petroleum Products by Hydrometer Method
 - D2887 Test Method for Boiling Range Distribution of Petroleum Fractions by Gas Chromatography
 - D4052 Test Method for Density, Relative Density, and API Gravity of Liquids by Digital Density Meter
 - D4175 Terminology Relating to Petroleum Products, Liquid

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.E0 on Burner, Diesel and Non-Aviation Gas Turbine Fuels.

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² Ingham, M. C., et al., “Improved Predictive Equations for Cetane Number,” SAE Paper No 860250, Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE), 400 Commonwealth Dr., Warrendale, PA 15096-0001.

³ Supporting data (the analysis leading to the use of Procedure A for No. 2-D S15 diesel fuels and to Procedure B) have been filed at ASTM International Headquarters and may be obtained by requesting Research Report RR:D02-1699. Contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org.

⁴ 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

Fuels, and Lubricants

D6751 Specification for Biodiesel Fuel Blend Stock (B100) for Middle Distillate Fuels

D6890 Test Method for Determination of Ignition Delay and Derived Cetane Number (DCN) of Diesel Fuel Oils by Combustion in a Constant Volume Chamber

D7170 Test Method for Determination of Derived Cetane Number (DCN) of Diesel Fuel Oils—Fixed Range Injection Period, Constant Volume Combustion Chamber Method (Withdrawn 2019)⁵

2.2 CEN Standards:⁶

EN 14214 Automotive fuels — Fatty acid methyl esters (FAME) for diesel engines — Requirements and test methods

3. Terminology

3.1 For definitions of terms used in this test method, refer to Terminology D4175.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 Two correlations in SI units have been established between the ASTM cetane number and the density and 10 %, 50 %, and 90 % distillation recovery temperatures of the fuel. Procedure A has been developed for diesel fuels meeting the requirements of Specification D975 Grades No. 1–D S15, No. 1–D S500, No. 1–D S5000, No. 2–D S5000, and No. 4–D. It has been found to be applicable to Grade No. 2–D S15. The relationship is given by the following equation:

$$CCI = 45.2 + (0.0892) (T_{10N}) + [0.131 + (0.901)(B)][T_{50N}] + [0.0523 - (0.420)(B)][T_{90N}] + [0.00049][(T_{10N})^2 - (T_{90N})^2] + (107)(B) + (60)(B)^2 \tag{1}$$

where:

CCI = Calculated Cetane Index by Four Variable Equation,
D = Density at 15 °C, g/mL determined by Test Methods D1298 or D4052,

DN = D - 0.85,

B = [e^{(-3.5)(DN)}] - 1,

T₁₀ = 10 % recovery temperature, °C, determined by Test Method D86 and corrected to standard barometric pressure,

T_{10N} = T₁₀ - 215,

T₅₀ = 50 % recovery temperature, °C, determined by Test Method D86 and corrected to standard barometric pressure,

T_{50N} = T₅₀ - 260,

T₉₀ = 90 % recovery temperature, °C, determined by Test Method D86 and corrected to standard barometric pressure, and

T_{90N} = T₉₀ - 310.

4.2 The empirical equation for Procedure A of the Calculated Cetane Index by Four Variable Equation was derived using a generalized least squares fitting technique which

accounted for measurement errors in the independent variables (fuel properties) as well as in the dependent variable (cetane number by Test Method D613). The data base consisted of 1229 fuels including; commercial diesel fuels, refinery blending components and fuels derived from oil sands, shale, and coal. The analysis also accounted for bias amongst the individual sets of data comprising the database.

4.3 Procedure B has been developed for diesel fuels meeting the requirements of Specification D975 Grade No. 2–D S500. The relationship is given by the following equation:³

$$CCI = -399.90(D) + 0.1113 (T_{10}) + 0.1212 (T_{50}) + 0.0627 (T_{90}) + 309.33 \tag{2}$$

where:

CCI = Calculated Cetane Index by Four Variable Equation,
D = Density at 15 °C, g/mL determined by Test Methods D1298 or D4052,

T₁₀ = 10 % recovery temperature, °C, determined by Test Method D86 and corrected to standard barometric pressure,

T₅₀ = 50 % recovery temperature, °C, determined by Test Method D86 and corrected to standard barometric pressure, and

T₉₀ = 90 % recovery temperature, °C, determined by Test Method D86 and corrected to standard barometric pressure.

4.3.1 The equation for Procedure B when T₁₀, T₅₀, and T₉₀ are in °F is:³

$$CCI = -399.90(D) + 0.06183 (T_{10}) + 0.06733 (T_{50}) + 0.03483 (T_{90}) + 304.09 \tag{3}$$

where:

CCI = Calculated Cetane Index by Four Variable Equation,
D = Density at 15 °C, g/mL determined by Test Method D1298 or D4052,

T₁₀ = 10 % recovery temperature, °F, determined by Test Method D86 and corrected to standard barometric pressure,

T₅₀ = 50 % recovery temperature, °F, determined by Test Method D86 and corrected to standard barometric pressure, and

T₉₀ = 90 % recovery temperature, °F, determined by Test Method D86 and corrected to standard barometric pressure.

4.4 The empirical equation for Procedure B of the Calculated Cetane Index by Four Variable Equation was derived from National Exchange Group data for 111 No. 2–D S500 diesel fuels with sulfur level between 16 and 500 ppm using a Partial Least Squares technique. A 3-principal component model was chosen. The model was validated with a set of 980 diesel fuels with sulfur levels in the same range.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 The Calculated Cetane Index by Four Variable Equation is useful for estimating ASTM cetane number when a test engine is not available for determining this property directly and when cetane improver is not used. It may be conveniently employed for estimating cetane number when the quantity of

⁵ The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on www.astm.org.

⁶ Available from the National CEN members listed on the CEN website (www.cenorm.be) or from the CEN/TC 19 Secretariat (astm@nen.nl).