



Designation: D5931 – 20

Standard Test Method for Density and Relative Density of Engine Coolant Concentrates and Aqueous Engine Coolants by Digital Density Meter¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D5931; 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.

1. Scope*

1.1 This test method covers the determination of the density or relative density of glycols, glycerin, heat transfer fluids, engine coolant concentrates, and aqueous engine coolants.

1.2 This test method should not be applied to samples so dark in color that the absence of air bubbles in the sample cell cannot be established with certainty.

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

1.3.1 The accepted units of measure for density are grams per milliliter or kilograms per cubic meter.

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.* For specific hazard statements, see 7.4.

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](#)

[E230/E230M Specification for Temperature-Electromotive Force \(emf\) Tables for Standardized Thermocouples](#)

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D15 on Engine Coolants and Related Fluids and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D15.03 on Physical 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.

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions:*

3.1.1 *relative density, n*—the ratio of the density of a material at a stated temperature to the density of water at the same stated temperature.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 A small volume of liquid sample is introduced into an oscillating sample tube, and the change in oscillating frequency caused by the change in the mass of the tube is used in conjunction with calibration data to determine the density of the sample.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 Density is a fundamental physical property that can be used in conjunction with other properties to characterize engine coolant concentrates and aqueous engine coolants.

5.2 Determination of the density or relative density of these products is necessary for the conversion of measured volumes to volumes at the standard temperature of choice. ASTM specifications normally state the temperatures for density and relative density of fluids; 25 °C, 20 °C, and 15.6 °C are commonly used temperatures.

6. Apparatus

6.1 *Digital Density Analyzer*, consisting of a U-shaped, oscillating sample tube and a system for electronic excitation, frequency counting, and display. The analyzer must accommodate the accurate measurement of the sample temperature during measurement or must control the sample temperature as described in 6.2. The instrument must meet the precision requirements described in this test method.

6.2 *Circulating Constant—Temperature Bath*, (optional) capable of maintaining the temperature of the circulating liquid constant to ± 0.05 °C in the desired range. Temperature control can be maintained as part of the density analyzer instrument package.

6.3 *Syringes*, at least 2 mL in volume with a tip or an adapter tip that will fit the opening of the oscillating tube.

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

6.4 *Flow-Through or Pressure Adapter*, for use as an alternative means of introducing the sample into the density analyzer either by a pump or by vacuum.

6.5 *Temperature Measuring Instrument*, (Environmentally safe thermometer or thermocouple) capable of monitoring the observed test temperature to within an accuracy of ± 0.05 °C, Specification E230/E230M. If a liquid-in-glass thermometer is used, it shall be calibrated and graduated to 0.1 °C, and have a holder that can be attached to the instrument for setting and observing the test temperature. In calibrating the thermometer, the ice point and bore connections should be estimated to the nearest 0.3 °C. The thermometer shall be calibrated at least annually against a certified and traceable standard. See Section 13, Precision and Bias. The data presented in this section is derived using mercury-in-glass thermometers only.

7. Reagents and Materials

7.1 *Purity of Reagents*—Use reagent grade chemicals in all tests. Unless otherwise indicated, all reagents shall conform to the specifications of the Committee on Analytical Reagents of the American Chemical Society, where such specifications are available.³ Other grades may be used, provided it is first ascertained that the reagent is of sufficiently high purity to permit its use without lessening the accuracy of the determination.

7.2 *Purity of Water*—Unless otherwise indicated, references to water mean reagent water as defined by Type II of Specification D1193.

7.3 *Water*, redistilled, freshly boiled and cooled reagent water for use as a primary calibration standard.

7.4 *Acetone*, for flushing and drying the sample tube. (**Warning**—Acetone is extremely flammable.)

7.5 *Dry Air*, for drying the oscillator tube.

8. Preparation of Apparatus

8.1 Set up the density analyzer and constant temperature bath following the manufacturer’s instructions. Adjust the bath or internal temperature control so that the desired test temperature is established and maintained in the sample compartment of the analyzer. Calibrate the instrument at the same temperature at which the density of the sample is to be measured.

NOTE 1—Precise setting and control of the test temperature in the sample tube is extremely important. An error of 1.0 °C can result in a change in density of one in the third decimal place.

9. Calibration of Apparatus

9.1 Calibrate the instrument when first set up and whenever the test temperature is changed. Thereafter, conduct calibration checks at weekly intervals during routine operation.

³ *Reagent Chemicals, American Chemical Society Specifications*, American Chemical Society, Washington, DC. For suggestions on the testing of reagents not listed by the American Chemical Society, see *Analar Standards for Laboratory Chemicals*, BDH Ltd., Poole, Dorset, U.K., and the *United States Pharmacopeia and National Formulary*, U.S. Pharmacopeial Convention, Inc. (USPC), Rockville, MD.

TABLE 1 Density of Water^A

NOTE 1—Several metrological entities have issued water density tables, and alternative water data is referenced in publications external to ASTM and this test method. Using water density data from an alternative recognized source does not pose a compliance issue with this test method as the variation in the data is typically limited to the sixth decimal place.

Temperature, °C	Density, g/mL	Temperature, °C	Density, g/mL
0.01	0.999844	45	0.990213
4	0.999975	50	0.988035
5	0.999967	55	0.985693
10	0.999703	60	0.983196
15	0.999103	65	0.980551
15.56	0.999016	70	0.977765
20	0.998207	75	0.974843
25	0.997048	80	0.971790
30	0.995650	85	0.968611
35	0.994033	90	0.965310
40	0.992216	99	0.958421

^A Density conforming to the International Temperature Scale 1990 (ITS 90) was extracted from Lemmon, E. W., McLinden, M. O., and Friend, D. G., “Thermophysical Properties of Fluid Systems,” *NIST Chemistry WebBook*, NIST Standard Reference Database No. 68., Eds. P. J. Linstrom and W. G. Mallard, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD, <http://webbook.nist.gov> (retrieved July 24, 2013).

9.2 Initial calibration, or calibration after a change in test temperature, necessitates calculation of the values of the constants *A* and *B* from the periods of oscillation (*T*) observed when the sample cell contains air and redistilled, freshly boiled and cooled reagent water.

9.2.1 While monitoring the oscillator period, (*T*), flush the sample tube with distilled water followed by an acetone flush and drying with dry air. Contaminated or humid air can affect the calibration. When these conditions exist in the laboratory, pass the air used for calibration through a suitable purification and drying train. In addition, the inlet and outlet ports for the U-tube must be plugged during measurement of the calibration air to prevent ingress of moist air.

9.2.2 Allow the dry air in the U-tube to come to thermal equilibrium with the test temperature and record the *T*-value for air.

9.2.3 Introduce a small volume of redistilled, freshly boiled and cooled reagent water into the sample tube opening using a suitable syringe. The test portion must be homogeneous and free of even the smallest air or gas bubbles. The sample tube does not have to be completely full as long as the liquid meniscus is beyond the suspension point. Allow the display to reach a steady reading and record the *T*-value for water.

9.2.4 Record the density of air at the temperature and atmospheric pressure of the test. Calculate the density of air at the temperature of test using the following equation:

$$d_a, \text{ g/mL} = 0.001293[273.15/T][P/760] \quad (1)$$

where:

T = temperature, degrees Kelvin, K, and

P = barometric pressure, torr.

9.2.5 Determine the density of water at the temperature of test by reference to Table 1.

9.2.6 Using the observed *T*-values and the reference values for water and air, calculate the values of the constants *A* and *B* using the following equations: