



Standard Test Method for Gel Time of Solventless Varnishes¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D3056; 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 determination of the gel time of a solventless varnish mixed with a catalyst, if required, and exposed to elevated temperature.

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

1.3 *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.* For a specific precaution statement, see Section 6.

NOTE 1—Although this standard and IEC 60455–2 differ in approach or detail, data obtained using either are technically equivalent.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards*:²

[D1711 Terminology Relating to Electrical Insulation](#)

2.2 *IEC Standard*:³

[IEC 60455–2 Resin Based Reactive Compounds Used for Electrical Insulation—Part 2: Methods of Test](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*:

3.1.1 *gel time, n*—of solventless varnish, the time required at a specified temperature for a solventless varnish to be transformed from a liquid state to a gel as measured with a suitable gel time apparatus.

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D09 on Electrical and Electronic Insulating Materials and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D09.01 on Electrical Insulating Varnishes, Powders and Encapsulating Compounds.

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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 Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036, <http://www.ansi.org>.

3.1.2 See Terminology [D1711](#) for definitions of other terms relating to electrical insulation.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 Gel time is important in determining batch uniformity and some processing characteristics. It is indicative of pot life and shelf life.

5. Apparatus

5.1 *Gel Time Apparatus*.⁴

5.2 *Power Supply*, 110 V ac variable.

5.3 *Balance*, with accuracy to the nearest 0.01 g.

5.4 *Temperature Controller*, capable of maintaining to $\pm 1^\circ\text{C}$.

5.5 *Magnetic Stirrer*, with a magnetized stirring bar coated with a tetrafluoroethylene.

6. Safety Precautions

6.1 It is unsafe to use varnish at temperatures above the flash point without adequate ventilation, especially if the possibility exists that flames or sparks are present. Store varnish in sealed containers.

7. Procedure

7.1 Set up the gel time apparatus as described in the instruction manual supplied by the manufacturer.

7.2 Fill the bath with water or a silicone liquid to completely immerse the test specimen of solventless varnish when the test tube is placed in the bath. Water is useful up to 100°C. Silicone liquids must be used above 100°C but are suitable for use at lower temperatures.

NOTE 2—The silicone liquid will be DC-200 or equivalent.

⁴ The sole source of supply of the apparatus known to the committee at this time is Sunshine Gel Time Meter, Catalog No. 22, manufactured by Sunshine Scientific Instruments, 1810 Grant Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19115. If you are aware of alternative suppliers, please provide this information to ASTM International Headquarters. Your comments will receive careful consideration at a meeting of the responsible technical committee,⁴ which you may attend.

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