



Standard Test Method for Flash and Fire Points by Cleveland Open Cup Tester¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D92; 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.

INTRODUCTION

This flash point and fire point test method is a dynamic method and depends on definite rates of temperature increases to control the precision of the test method. Its primary use is for viscous materials having flash point of 79 °C (175 °F) and above. It is also used to determine fire point, which is a temperature above the flash point, at which the test specimen will support combustion for a minimum of 5 s. Do not confuse this test method with Test Method D4206, which is a sustained burning test, open cup type, at a specific temperature of 49 °C (120 °F).

Flash point values are a function of the apparatus design, the condition of the apparatus used, and the operational procedure carried out. Flash point can therefore only be defined in terms of a standard test method, and no general valid correlation can be guaranteed between results obtained by different test methods, or with test apparatus different from that specified.

1. Scope*

1.1 This test method describes the determination of the flash point and fire point of petroleum products by a manual Cleveland open cup apparatus or an automated Cleveland open cup apparatus.

NOTE 1—The precisions for fire point were not determined in the current interlaboratory program. Fire point is a parameter that is not commonly specified, although in some cases, knowledge of this flammability temperature may be desired.

1.2 This test method is applicable to all petroleum products with flash points above 79 °C (175 °F) and below 400 °C (752 °F) except fuel oils.

NOTE 2—This test method may occasionally be specified for the determination of the fire point of a fuel oil. For the determination of the flash points of fuel oils, use Test Method D93. Test Method D93 should also be used when it is desired to determine the possible presence of small

but significant concentrations of lower flash point substances that may escape detection by Test Method D92. Test Method D1310 can be employed if the flash point is known to be below 79 °C (175 °F).

1.3 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard.

1.3.1 *Exception*—The values given in parentheses are for information only.

1.4 **WARNING**—Mercury has been designated by many regulatory agencies as a hazardous material that can cause central nervous system, kidney and liver damage. Mercury, or its vapor, may be hazardous to health and corrosive to materials. Caution should be taken when handling mercury and mercury containing products. See the applicable product Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for details and EPA's website—<http://www.epa.gov/mercury/faq.htm>—for additional information. Users should be aware that selling mercury and/or mercury containing products in your state or country may be prohibited by law.

1.5 *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 specific warning statements, see 6.4, 7.1, 11.1.3, and 11.2.4.

¹ This test method is under the joint jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D02 on Petroleum Products, Liquid Fuels, and Lubricants and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D02.08 on Volatility. In the IP, this test method is under the jurisdiction of the Standardization Committee. This test method was adopted as a joint ASTM-IP standard in 1965.

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

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

D93 Test Methods for Flash Point by Pensky-Martens Closed Cup Tester

D140 Practice for Sampling Bituminous Materials

D1310 Test Method for Flash Point and Fire Point of Liquids by Tag Open-Cup Apparatus

D4057 Practice for Manual Sampling of Petroleum and Petroleum Products

D4177 Practice for Automatic Sampling of Petroleum and Petroleum Products

D4206 Test Method for Sustained Burning of Liquid Mixtures Using the Small Scale Open-Cup Apparatus

E1 Specification for ASTM Liquid-in-Glass Thermometers

E300 Practice for Sampling Industrial Chemicals

2.2 Energy Institute Standard:³

Specifications for IP Standard Thermometers

2.3 ISO Standards:⁴

Guide 34 General requirements for the competence of reference material producers

Guide 35 Reference materials—General and statistical principles for certification

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 *dynamic, adj*—in petroleum products, the condition where the vapor above the test specimen and the test specimen are not in temperature equilibrium at the time that the ignition source is applied.

3.1.1.1 *Discussion*—This is primarily caused by the heating of the test specimen at the constant prescribed rate with the vapor temperature lagging behind the test specimen temperature.

3.1.2 *fire point, n*—in flash point test methods, the lowest temperature of the test specimen, adjusted to account for variations in atmospheric pressure from 101.3 kPa, at which application of an ignition source causes the vapors of the test specimen to ignite and sustain burning for a minimum of 5 s under specified conditions of test.

3.1.3 *flash point, n*—in flash point test methods, the lowest temperature of the test specimen, adjusted to account for variations in atmospheric pressure from 101.3 kPa, at which application of an ignition source causes the vapors of the test specimen to ignite under specified conditions of test.

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 Energy Institute, 61 New Cavendish St., London, W1G 7AR, U.K., <http://www.energyinst.org>.

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

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 Approximately 70 mL of test specimen is filled into a test cup. The temperature of the test specimen is increased rapidly at first and then at a slower constant rate as the flash point is approached. At specified intervals, a test flame is passed across the cup. The flash point is the lowest liquid temperature at which application of the test flame causes the vapors of the test specimen of the sample to ignite. To determine the fire point, the test is continued until the application of the test flame causes the test specimen to ignite and sustain burning for a minimum of 5 s.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 The flash point is one measure of the tendency of the test specimen to form a flammable mixture with air under controlled laboratory conditions. It is only one of a number of properties that should be considered in assessing the overall flammability hazard of a material.

5.2 Flash point is used in shipping and safety regulations to define flammable and combustible materials. Consult the particular regulation involved for precise definitions of these classifications.

5.3 Flash point can indicate the possible presence of highly volatile and flammable materials in a relatively nonvolatile or nonflammable material. For example, an abnormally low flash point on a test specimen of engine oil can indicate gasoline contamination.

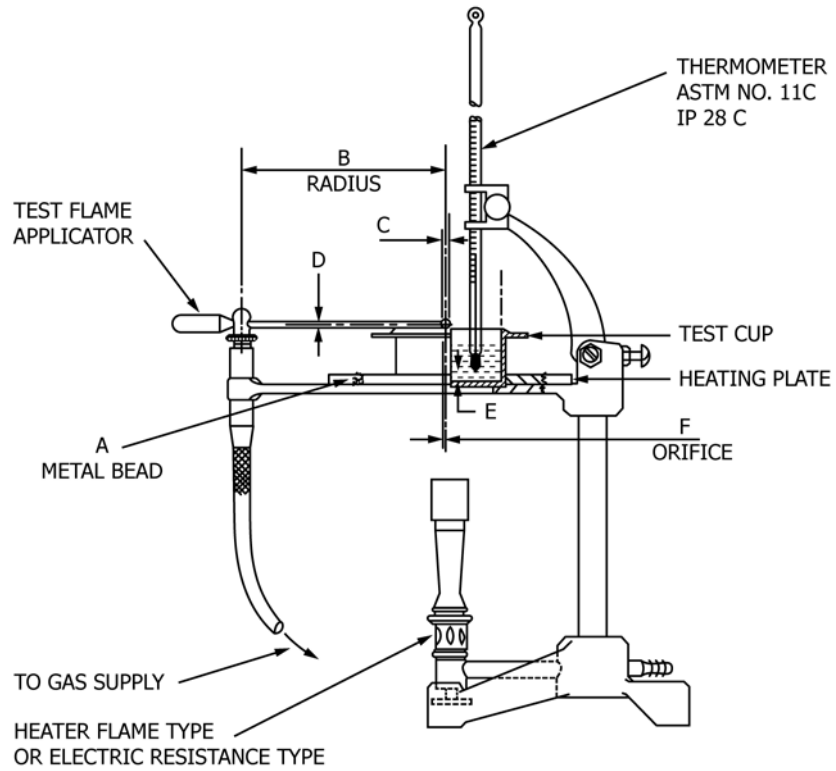
5.4 This test method shall be used to measure and describe the properties of materials, products, or assemblies in response to heat and a test flame under controlled laboratory conditions and shall not be used to describe or appraise the fire hazard or fire risk of materials, products, or assemblies under actual fire conditions. However, results of this test method may be used as elements of a fire risk assessment that takes into account all of the factors that are pertinent to an assessment of the fire hazard of a particular end use.

5.5 The fire point is one measure of the tendency of the test specimen to support combustion.

6. Apparatus

6.1 *Cleveland Open Cup Apparatus (manual)*—This apparatus consists of the test cup, heating plate, test flame applicator, heater, and supports described in detail in the **Annex A1**. The assembled manual apparatus, heating plate, and cup are illustrated in **Figs. 1-3**, respectively. Dimensions are listed with the figures.

6.2 *Cleveland Open Cup Apparatus (automated)*—This apparatus is an automated flash point instrument that shall perform the test in accordance with Section **11** Procedure. The apparatus shall use the test cup with the dimensions as described in **Annex A1** and the application of the test flame shall be as described in **Annex A1**.



	millimetres		inches	
	min	max	min	max
A—Diameter	3.2	4.8	0.126	0.189
B—Radius	152	nominal	6	nominal
C—Diameter	1.6	nominal	0.063	nominal
D		2		0.078
E	6	7	0.236	0.276
F—Diameter	0.8	nominal	0.031	nominal

FIG. 1 Cleveland Open Cup Apparatus