
Standard Method of Test for Softening Point of Bitumen (Ring-and-Ball Apparatus)

AASHTO Designation: T 53-22

Technically Revised: 2022

Technical Subcommittee: 2b, Liquid Asphalt

ASTM Designation: D36-06



**American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
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AASHTO T 53-22 is identical to ASTM D36-06 except for the following provisions:

1. Replace all references to the ASTM standards listed in the following table with the corresponding AASHTO standard:

<i>Referenced Standards</i>	
ASTM	AASHTO
D92	T 48
D140/D140M	R 66

2. Add reference in Section 2 for the AASHTO standard.
 - M 339M/M 339, Thermometers Used in the Testing of Construction Materials
3. Add reference in Section 2 for the ASTM standard.
 - E1137/E1137M, Standard Specification for Industrial Platinum Resistance Thermometers
4. Add the following to Section 2:

2.3 International Electrotechnical Commission Standard:

 - IEC 60751: 2008 Industrial Platinum Resistance Thermometers and Platinum Temperature Sensors
5. Replace Section 5.2 with the following:

Pouring Plate—A flat, smooth brass plate.
6. Replace Sections 5.7.1 and 5.7.2 with the following:

5.7 Thermometer—A thermometer for measuring the softening point of asphalt, while completing the test procedure as described in Section 10, shall meet the requirements of M 339M/M 339 as follows:

5.7.1: With a temperature range of at least 0 to 80°C (32 to 176°F), and an accuracy of ±0.1°C (±0.18°F) or,

5.7.2: With a temperature range of at least 0 to 200°C (32 to 392°F), and an accuracy of ±0.2°C (±0.36°F) (see Note 2).

Note 2—Thermometer types suitable for use include ASTM E1 mercury thermometers 15C (15F), 16C (16F) or 113C (113F); ASTM E1137/E1137M Pt-100 RTD platinum resistance