



Designation: D 1298 – 99^{€2}

An American National Standard



Designation: Manual of Petroleum Measurement Standards (MPMS), Chapter 9.1



Designation: 160/99

Standard Test Method for Density, Relative Density (Specific Gravity), or API Gravity of Crude Petroleum and Liquid Petroleum Products by Hydrometer Method¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D 1298; 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 ([€]) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the Department of Defense.

^{€1} NOTE—Footnote 1 and the Referenced Documents were corrected editorially to comply with the ASTM-API joint standard contract in October 2002. Warning notes were editorially moved into the standard text in October 2002.

^{€2} NOTE—Table 4 was reformatted editorially in October 2003.

1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers the laboratory determination using a glass hydrometer, of the density, relative density (specific gravity), or API gravity of crude petroleum, petroleum products, or mixtures of petroleum and nonpetroleum products normally handled as liquids, and having a Reid vapor pressure of 101.325 kPa (14.696 psi) or less.

1.2 Values are measured on a hydrometer at either the reference temperature or at another convenient temperature, and readings corrected to the reference temperature by means of the Petroleum Measurement Tables; values obtained at other than the reference temperature being hydrometer readings and not density measurements.

1.3 Values determined as density, relative density, or API gravity can be converted to equivalent values in the other units at alternate reference temperatures by means of the Petroleum Measurement Tables.

1.4 Annex A1 contains a procedure for verifying or certifying the equipment for this test method.

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.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

- D 97 Test Method for Pour Point of Petroleum Products²
- D 323 Test Method for Vapor Pressure of Petroleum Products (Reid Method)²
- D 1250 Guide for Petroleum Measurement Tables²
- D 2500 Test Method for Cloud Point of Petroleum Oils²
- D 3117 Test Method for Wax Appearance Point of Distillate Fuels³
- D 4057 Practice for Manual Sampling of Petroleum and Petroleum Products (API MPMS Chapter 8.1)³
- D 4177 Practice for Automatic Sampling of Petroleum and Petroleum Products (API MPMS Chapter 8.2)³
- D 5854 Practice for Mixing and Handling of Liquid Samples of Petroleum and Petroleum Products (API MPMS Chapter 8.3)⁴
- E 1 Specification for ASTM Thermometers⁵
- E 100 Specification for ASTM Hydrometers⁵

2.2 API Standards:⁶

- MPMS Chapter 8.1 Manual Sampling of Petroleum and Petroleum Products (ASTM Practice D 4057)
- MPMS Chapter 8.2 Automatic Sampling of Petroleum and Petroleum Products (ASTM Practice D 4177)

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D02 on Petroleum Products and Lubricants and the API Committee on Petroleum Measurement, and is the direct responsibility of D02.02 /COMQ, the joint ASTM-API Committee on Static Petroleum Measurement.

Current edition approved June 10, 1999. Published August 1999. Originally published as D 1298–53. Last previous edition D 1298–85 (1990)^{€1}.

² Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 05.01.

³ Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 05.02.

⁴ Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 05.03.

⁵ Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 14.03.

⁶ Published as Manual of Petroleum Measurement Standards. Available from the American Petroleum Institute (API), 1220 L St., NW, Washington, DC 20005.



MPMS Chapter 8.3 Mixing and Handling of Liquid Samples of Petroleum and Petroleum Products (ASTM Practice D 5854)

2.3 Institute of Petroleum Standards:⁷

IP 389 Determination of wax appearance temperature (WAT) of middle distillate fuels by differential thermal analysis (DTA) or differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) IP Standard Methods Book, Appendix A, Specifications – IP Standard Thermometers

2.4 ISO Standards:⁸

ISO 649-1 Laboratory glassware – Density hydrometers for general purpose – Part 1: Specification

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.1.1 *density, n* —the mass of liquid per unit volume at 15°C and 101.325 kPa with the standard unit of measurement being kilograms per cubic metre.

3.1.1.1 *Discussion*—Other reference temperatures, such as 20°C may be used for some products or in some locations. Less preferred units of measurement; for example, kg/L or g/mL are still in use.

3.1.2 *relative density (specific gravity), n* —the ratio of the mass of a given volume of liquid at a specific temperature to the mass of an equal volume of pure water at the same or different temperature. Both reference temperatures shall be explicitly stated.

3.1.2.1 *Discussion*—Common reference temperatures include 60/60°F, 20/20°C, 20/4°C. The historic deprecated term specific gravity may still be found.

3.1.3 *API gravity, n* —a special function of relative density (specific gravity) 60/60°F, represented by:

$$^{\circ}\text{API} = 141.5/(\text{sp gr } 60/60^{\circ}\text{F}) - 131.5 \quad (1)$$

3.1.3.1 *Discussion*—No statement of reference temperature is required, as 60°F is included in the definition.

3.1.4 *observed values, n* —values observed at temperatures other than the specified reference temperature. These values are only hydrometer readings and not density, relative density (specific gravity), or API gravity at that other temperature.

3.1.5 *cloud point, n* —temperature at which a cloud of wax crystals first appears in a liquid when it is cooled under specific conditions.

3.1.6 *pour point, n* —lowest temperature at which a test portion of crude petroleum or petroleum product will continue to flow when it is cooled under specified conditions.

3.1.7 *wax appearance temperature (WAT), n* —temperature at which waxy solids form when a crude petroleum or petroleum product is cooled under specified conditions.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 The sample is brought to a specified temperature and a test portion is transferred to a hydrometer cylinder that has been brought to approximately the same temperature. The

appropriate hydrometer, also at a similar temperature, is lowered into the test portion and allowed to settle. After temperature equilibrium has been reached, the hydrometer scale is read, and the temperature of the test portion is taken. The observed hydrometer reading is reduced to the reference temperature by means of the Petroleum Measurement Tables. If necessary, the hydrometer cylinder and its contents are placed in a constant temperature bath to avoid excessive temperature variation during the test.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 Accurate determination of the density, relative density (specific gravity), or API gravity of petroleum and its products is necessary for the conversion of measured volumes to volumes or masses, or both, at the standard reference temperatures during custody transfer.

5.2 This test method is most suitable for determining the density, relative density (specific gravity), or API gravity of low viscosity transparent liquids. This test method can also be used for viscous liquids by allowing sufficient time for the hydrometer to reach equilibrium, and for opaque liquids by employing a suitable meniscus correction.

5.3 When used in connection with bulk oil measurements, volume correction errors are minimized by observing the hydrometer reading at a temperature close to that of the bulk oil temperature.

5.4 Density, relative density (specific gravity), or API gravity is a factor governing the quality and pricing of crude petroleum. However, this property of petroleum is an uncertain indication of its quality unless correlated with other properties.

5.5 Density is an important quality indicator for automotive, aviation and marine fuels, where it affects storage, handling and combustion.

6. Apparatus

6.1 *Hydrometers*, of glass, graduated in units of density, relative density, or API gravity as required, conforming to Specification E 100 or ISO 649-1, and the requirements given in Table 1.

6.1.1 The user should ascertain that the instruments used for this test conform to the requirements set out above with respect to materials, dimensions, and scale errors. In cases where the instrument is provided with a calibration certificate issued by a recognized standardizing body, the instrument is classed as certified and the appropriate corrections listed shall be applied

TABLE 1 Recommended Hydrometers

Units	Range		Scale ^A		Meniscus
	Total	Each Unit	Interval ^A	Error ^A	
Density, kg/m ³ at 15°C	600 - 1100	20	0.2	± 0.2	+0.3
	600 - 1100	50	0.5	± 0.3	+0.7
	600 - 1100	50	1.0	± 0.6	+1.4
Relative density (specific gravity) 60/60°F	0.600 - 1.100	0.020	0.0002	± 0.0002	+0.0003
	0.600 - 1.100	0.050	0.0005	± 0.0003	+0.0007
	0.600 - 1.100	0.050	0.001	± 0.0006	+0.0014
Relative density (specific gravity), 60/60°F	0.650 - 1.100	0.050	0.0005	± 0.0005	
	API	-1 - +101	12	0.1	± 0.1

^AInterval and Error relate to Scale.

⁷ Available from Institute of Petroleum, 61 New Cavendish St., London, W1M 8AR, UK.

⁸ Available from American National Standards Institute, 11 W 42nd St., 13th floor, New York, NY 10036.