



Designation: D 6426 – 02

An American National Standard

Standard Test Method for Determining Filterability of Middle Distillate Fuel Oils¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D 6426; 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 a procedure for determining the filterability of distillate fuel oils within the viscosity range from 1.70 to 6.20 mm²/s (cSt) at 40°C.

NOTE 1—ASTM specification fuels falling within the scope of this test method are Specification D 396 Grade Nos. 1 and 2, Specification D 975 Grades 1-D, low sulfur 1-D, 2-D, and low sulfur 2-D, and Specification D 2880 Grade Nos. 1-GT and 2-GT.

1.2 This test method is not applicable to fuels that contain undissolved water.

1.3 The values stated in SI units shall be considered standard.

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 and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

D 396 Specification for Fuel Oils²

D 975 Specification for Diesel Fuel Oils²

D 2880 Specification for Gas Turbine Fuel Oils²

D 4057 Practice for Manual Sampling of Petroleum and Petroleum Products³

D 4176 Test Method for Free Water and Particulate Contamination in Distillate Fuels (Visual Inspection Procedures)³

D 4177 Practice for Automatic Sampling of Petroleum and Petroleum Products³

D 4860 Test Method for Free Water and Particulate Contamination in Mid-Distillate Fuels (Clear and Bright Numerical Rating)³

E 1 Specification for ASTM Thermometers⁴

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.1.1 For this test method, filterability is a measure of the rapidity with which a standard filter medium is plugged by insoluble matter in fuel and can be described in either of the following two ways:

3.1.1.1 *filterability (by pressure)*—the pressure drop across a filter medium when 300 mL of fuel is passed at a rate of 20 mL/min.

3.1.1.2 *filterability (by volume)*—the volume of fuel passed when 104 kPa (15 psi) is reached. This method of report is used when less than 300 mL passes at that pressure.

3.1.1.3 *filterability quality factor (F-QF)*—a value that defines the filter plugging tendency of a fuel caused by particulate. The value is calculated using the volume and pressure attained at the end of the test cycle. Depending on the outcome of the test, two different equations are applied.

3.1.1.4 *Discussion*—Eq 1 is applied if the total sample was discharged prior to reaching the maximum pressure or Eq 2 if the maximum pressure was reached prior to discharging the entire sample. The equations proportion the results so that a continuous range of 0–100 is attained. Eq 1 yields values from 50 to 100, whereas Eq 2 yields values from 0 to 50. Higher values signify less particulate that can plug a filter of a given pore size and porosity.

(1) If the total sample (300 mL) is discharged prior to reaching the maximum pressure (104 kPa or 15 psi), the F-QF is calculated by the following equation:

$$F-QF_{(300 \text{ mL at } P_{(F)})} = ((15 \text{ psi} - P_{(F)}) / 15 \text{ psi})(50) + (50) \quad (1)$$

where:

$P_{(F)}$ = final pressure when the total sample (300 mL) was discharged.

(2) If the total sample is not discharged prior to reaching the maximum pressure (104 kPa or 15 psi), the F-QF is calculated by the following equation:

$$F-QF_{(V_{(F)} \text{ at } 15 \text{ psi})} = V_{(F)} / 6 \quad (2)$$

where:

$V_{(F)}$ = final volume when the maximum pressure was reached.

3.1.1.5 *Discussion*—The final volume ($V_{(F)}$) is divided by six, since the maximum possible volume is 300 mL. By

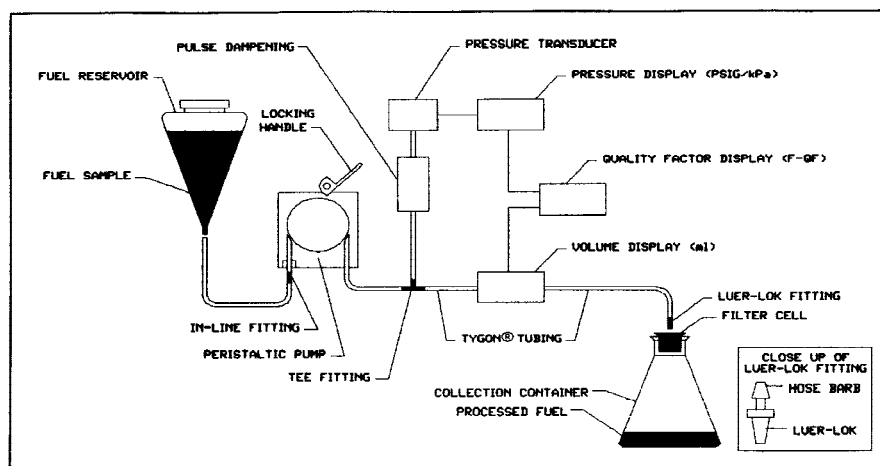
¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D02 on Petroleum Products and Lubricants and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D02.14 on Stability and Cleanliness of Liquid Fuels.

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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 14.03.



NOTE—Fuel flow from reservoir, through pump, to container.

FIG. 1 Schematic Diagram of Filterability Apparatus

dividing by six, the values for that test result are proportioned to fit the range from 0 to 50.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 A sample is passed at a constant rate (20 mL/min) through a standard porosity filter medium. The pressure drop across the filter and the volume of filtrate are monitored. The test is concluded either when the pressure drop across the filter exceeds 104 kPa (15 psi) or when 300 mL have passed through the filter.

4.2 Results are reported as either the volume that has passed through the filter when a pressure of 104 kPa (15 psi) has been reached or the pressure drop when 300 mL have passed through the filter.

4.3 Verification of the apparatus is required when there is a doubt of a test result, or when the apparatus has not been used for three months or more. It is not necessary to verify apparatus performance prior to each test.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 This test method is intended for use in the laboratory or field in evaluating distillate fuel cleanliness.

5.2 A change in filtration performance after storage, pre-treatment, or commingling can be indicative of changes in fuel condition.

5.3 Relative filterability of fuels may vary depending on filter porosity and structure and may not always correlate with results from this test method.

5.4 Causes of poor filterability in industrial/refinery filters include fuel degradation products, contaminants picked up during storage or transfer, incompatibility of commingled fuels, or interaction of the fuel with the filter media. Any of these could correlate with orifice or filter system plugging, or both.

6. Apparatus

6.1 Micro-Filter Analyzer:⁵

NOTE 2—The Micro-Filter can display the pressure in either kPa or psi units by changing an internal jumper wire.

6.1.1 The apparatus is shown diagrammatically in Fig. 1 and photographically in Fig. 2. It is capable of measuring pressure upstream of the filtering element and the volume of sample passed through the filter at a preset pressure level. The apparatus is comprised of the following parts:

6.1.1.1 *Peristaltic Pump*, variable speed/flow rate, with feedback speed control, adjusted to provide fuel delivery at a constant rate of 20 ± 1 mL/min, and incorporating a pulse dampening mechanism to produce a smooth flow.

6.1.1.2 *Pressure Transducer*—Pressure transducer capable of measuring gage pressure in the range from 0 to 104 kPa, in 1.0 kPa increments (0 to 15 psi, in 0.1 psi increments).

6.1.1.3 *Three Digital Displays*—One for pressure readout capable of interfacing with transducer (see 6.1.1.2) with display range from 0 to 104 kPa in 1.0 kPa increments (0 to 15 psi in 0.1 psi increments), one for volume readout with display range from 0 to 300 mL in 1 mL increments, and one for F-QF.

6.1.1.4 *Fuel Reservoir Container*—PTFE-fluorocarbon, funnel shaped, 500 mL capacity.

6.1.1.5 *Collection Container*—Glass or plastic Erlenmeyer flask, 500-mL capacity.

6.1.1.6 *Tygon Tubing*,⁶ fuel compatible, 3.1-mm (0.12-in.) inner diameter.

⁵ The sole source of supply of the apparatus (Model 1143 Micro-Filter Analyzer) known to the committee at this time is available from EMCEE Electronics, Inc., 520 Cypress Ave., Venice, FL 34292. If you are aware of alternate suppliers, please provide this information to ASTM Headquarters. Your comments will receive careful consideration at a meeting of the responsible technical committee, which you may attend.

⁶ Tygon tubing was used in the round robin test program to generate the precision and bias. Tygon is available from most laboratory supply houses.