



BSI Standards Publication

**Petroleum products and related products —
Determination of kinematic viscosity —
Method by Stabinger type viscometer**

National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of EN ISO 23581:2024. It is identical to ISO 23581:2024.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee PTI/2, Liquid Fuels.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its committee manager.

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**Petroleum products and related products - Determination
of kinematic viscosity - Method by Stabinger type
viscometer (ISO 23581:2024)**

Produits pétroliers et produits connexes -
Détermination de la viscosité cinématique - Méthode
par viscosimètre type Stabinger (ISO 23581:2024)

Mineralölerzeugnisse und verwandte Produkte -
Bestimmung der dynamischen Viskosität und
Berechnung der kinematischen Viskosität - Verfahren
mit dem Viskosimeter nach dem Stabinger-Prinzip (ISO
23581:2024)

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COMITÉ EUROPÉEN DE NORMALISATION
EUROPÄISCHES KOMITEE FÜR NORMUNG

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European foreword

This document (EN ISO 23581:2024) has been prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 28 "Petroleum and related products, fuels and lubricants from natural or synthetic sources" in collaboration with Technical Committee CEN/TC 19 "Gaseous and liquid fuels, lubricants and related products of petroleum, synthetic and biological origin" the secretariat of which is held by NEN.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by November 2024, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by November 2024.

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Endorsement notice

The text of ISO 23581:2024 has been approved by CEN as EN ISO 23581:2024 without any modification.

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO document should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 28, *Petroleum and related products, fuels and lubricants from natural or synthetic sources*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 19, *Gaseous and liquid fuels, lubricants and related products of petroleum, synthetic and biological origin*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 23581:2020), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- base oils, formulated oils, jet fuels and residual fuel oils have been included in the scope;
- the apparatus description, sample handling procedures and determinability criteria have been updated to accommodate the new scope.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Petroleum products and related products — Determination of kinematic viscosity — Method by Stabinger type viscometer

WARNING — The use of this document can involve hazardous materials, operations and equipment. This document does not purport to address all of the safety problems associated with its use. It is the responsibility of users of this document to take appropriate measures to ensure the safety and health of personnel prior to application of this document and fulfil other applicable requirements for this purpose.

1 Scope

This document specifies a procedure for the determination of kinematic viscosity, ν , by calculation from dynamic viscosity, η , and density, ρ , of both transparent and opaque liquid petroleum products and crude oils using the Stabinger type viscometer.

The result obtained using the procedure described in this document depends on the rheological behaviour of the sample. This document is predominantly applicable to liquids whose shear stress and shear rate are proportional (Newtonian flow behaviour). If the viscosity changes significantly with the shear rate, comparison with other measuring methods is not possible except at similar shear rates.

The precision has been determined only for the materials, density ranges and temperatures described in [Clause 13](#). The test method can be applied to a wider range of viscosity, density, temperature and materials. It is possible that the precision and bias are applicable for materials which are not listed in [Clause 13](#).

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 3104, *Petroleum products — Transparent and opaque liquids — Determination of kinematic viscosity and calculation of dynamic viscosity*

ISO 3170, *Petroleum liquids — Manual sampling*

ISO 3171, *Petroleum liquids — Automatic pipeline sampling*

ISO 12185, *Crude petroleum and petroleum products — Determination of density — Oscillating U-tube method*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org/>

3.1 dynamic viscosity

η
ratio of the applied shear stress to the resulting shear rate of a liquid

3.2**kinematic viscosity** ν

ratio of the *dynamic viscosity* (3.1) to the *density* (3.3) of a liquid at the same temperature and pressure

Note 1 to entry: The kinematic viscosity is a measure of a liquid's resistance to flow under gravity.

3.3**density** ρ

mass of a substance divided by its volume at a given temperature

3.4**determinability** d

quantitative measure of the variability associated with the same operator in a given laboratory obtaining successive determined values using the same apparatus for a series of operations leading to a single result

Note 1 to entry: Determinability is the difference between two such single determined values that would be exceeded about 5 % of the time (one case in 20 in the long run) in the normal and correct operation of the test method.

3.5**test specimen**

portion or volume of the sample obtained from the laboratory sample, which is delivered to the measuring cells

4 Principle

A test specimen is introduced into the measuring cells, at a controlled and known temperature. The measuring cells consist of a pair of rotating concentric cylinders and an oscillating U-tube. The dynamic viscosity is determined from the equilibrium rotational speed of the inner cylinder under the influence of the shear stress of the test specimen and an eddy current brake in conjunction with adjustment data. The density is determined by the oscillation frequency of the U-tube in conjunction with adjustment data. The kinematic viscosity is calculated by dividing the dynamic viscosity by the density.

5 Reagents and materials

5.1 Cleaning solvent, able to remove the sample from the measuring cell after the measurement and completely miscible with all constituents of the sample. Commercially available volatile petroleum spirit or cleaner's naphtha of technical grade or better have been proven suitable as cleaning solvents.

5.2 Drying solvent, highly volatile and miscible with the cleaning solvent, shall be filtered before use and shall be of an appropriate purity so that no residues remain in the instrument. *n*-Hexane, *n*-heptane (recommended due to lower toxicity) or, depending on the sample, concentrated ethanol (≥ 96 %) are suitable.

NOTE 1 A separate drying solvent is not needed if the cleaning solvent also meets the requirements of the drying solvent.

NOTE 2 When measuring residual fuel, asphaltic material can be removed by pre-washing with an aromatic solvent (e.g. toluene or xylene).

5.3 Compressed air, oil-free and filtered with a dew point lower than the lowest measuring cell temperature at which the instrument should be dried.

The pressure should be limited to 100 kPa.

It is also possible to use inert gases, for example technical nitrogen. The requirements given for compressed air are also valid here.