



BSI Standards Publication

Crude petroleum and liquid or solid petroleum products — Determination of density or relative density — Capillary-stoppered pyknometer and graduated bicapillary pyknometer methods

National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of EN ISO 3838:2004+A1:2023. It is identical to ISO 3838:2004 incorporating amendment 1:2023. It is dual numbered as BS 2000-189/190:2004+A1:2023. It supersedes BS EN ISO 3838:2004 (dual numbered as BS 2000-189/190:2004), which is withdrawn.

The start and finish of text introduced or altered by amendment is indicated in the text by tags. Tags indicating changes to ISO text carry the number of the ISO amendment. For example, text altered by ISO amendment 1 is indicated by A1 A1.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee PTI/12, Petroleum Measurement and Sampling.

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

Contractual and legal considerations

This publication has been prepared in good faith, however no representation, warranty, assurance or undertaking (express or implied) is or will be made, and no responsibility or liability is or will be accepted by BSI in relation to the adequacy, accuracy, completeness or reasonableness of this publication. All and any such responsibility and liability is expressly disclaimed to the full extent permitted by the law.

This publication is provided as is, and is to be used at the recipient's own risk.

The recipient is advised to consider seeking professional guidance with respect to its use of this publication.

This publication is not intended to constitute a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

© The British Standards Institution 2024
Published by BSI Standards Limited 2024

ISBN 978 0 539 26844 7

ICS 75.040; 75.080

Compliance with a British Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.

This British Standard was published under the authority of the Standards Policy and Strategy Committee on 28 May 2004.

Amendments/corrigenda issued since publication

Date	Text affected
31 January 2024	Implementation of ISO amendment 1:2023 with CEN endorsement A1:2023

English version

Crude petroleum and liquid or solid petroleum products -
Determination of density or relative density - Capillary-stoppered
pycnometer and graduated bicapillary pycnometer methods
(ISO 3838:2004)

Pétrole brut et produits pétroliers liquides ou solides -
Détermination de la masse volumique ou de la densité
relative - Méthodes du pycnomètre à bouchon capillaire et
du pycnomètre bicapillaire gradué (ISO 3838:2004)

Rohöl und flüssige oder feste Mineralölerzeugnisse -
Bestimmung der Dichte oder der relativen Dichte -
Verfahren mittels Pycnometer mit Kapillarstopfen und
Bikapillar-Pycnometer mit Skale (ISO 3838:2004)

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 8 April 2004.

CEN members are bound to comply with the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations which stipulate the conditions for giving this European Standard the status of a national standard without any alteration. Up-to-date lists and bibliographical references concerning such national standards may be obtained on application to the Central Secretariat or to any CEN member.

This European Standard exists in three official versions (English, French, German). A version in any other language made by translation under the responsibility of a CEN member into its own language and notified to the Central Secretariat has the same status as the official versions.

CEN members are the national standards bodies of Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom.



EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR STANDARDIZATION
COMITÉ EUROPÉEN DE NORMALISATION
EUROPÄISCHES KOMITEE FÜR NORMUNG

Management Centre: rue de Stassart, 36 B-1050 Brussels

European foreword

This document (EN ISO 3838:2004) has been prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 28 "Petroleum products and lubricants" in collaboration with Technical Committee CEN/TC 19 "Petroleum products, lubricants and related products", 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 2004, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by November 2004.

This document supersedes EN ISO 3838:1995.

According to the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organizations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom.

Endorsement notice

The text of ISO 3838:2004 has been approved by CEN as EN ISO 3838:2004 without any modifications.

European foreword to Amendment 1

This document (EN ISO 3838:2004/A1:2023) 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 Amendment to the European Standard EN ISO 3838:2004 shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by June 2024, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by June 2024.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

Any feedback and questions on this document should be directed to the users' national standards body/national committee. A complete listing of these bodies can be found on the CEN website.

According to the CEN-CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organizations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye and the United Kingdom.

Endorsement notice

The text of ISO 3838:2004/Amd 1:2023 has been approved by CEN as EN ISO 3838:2004/A1:2023 without any modification.

Contents

Page

Foreword.....	iv
1 Scope.....	1
2 Normative references	1
3 Terms and definitions	2
4 Principle	2
4.1 Capillary-stoppered pyknometer	2
4.2 Graduated bicapillary pyknometer	2
5 Apparatus.....	2
6 Preparation of pyknometer	6
7 Calibration of pyknometer.....	6
7.1 Conditioning	6
7.2 Capillary-stoppered pyknometer	8
7.3 Graduated bicapillary pyknometer	8
7.4 Other reference temperatures	8
7.5 Recalibration	8
8 Procedure for capillary-stoppered pyknometers.....	9
8.1 Procedure for liquids	9
8.2 Procedure for solid or semi-solid samples	9
9 Procedure for graduated bicapillary pyknometers.....	10
10 Calculations	10
10.1 Symbols	10
10.2 Reference, calibration and test temperatures.....	11
10.3 Correction for the thermal expansion of the pyknometer	12
10.4 Calculation of density of a liquid.....	14
10.5 Calculation of relative density of a liquid	15
10.6 Calculation of density or relative density of a solid or semi-solid	16
11 Precision	16
11.1 Capillary-stoppered pyknometer method	16
11.2 Graduated bicapillary pyknometer method.....	17
12 Test report.....	17

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.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO 3838 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 28, *Petroleum products and lubricants*, Subcommittee SC 3, *Static petroleum measurement*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 3838:1983), which has been technically revised.

Crude petroleum and liquid or solid petroleum products — Determination of density or relative density — Capillary-stoppered pyknometer and graduated bicapillary pyknometer methods

1 Scope

1.1 This International Standard specifies methods for the determination of the density or relative density of crude petroleum and of petroleum products handled as liquids.

1.2 The capillary-stoppered pyknometer method is also for use with solids and this method may also be used for coal tar products, including road tars, creosote and tar pitches, or for mixtures of these with petroleum products. This method is not suitable for the determination of the density or relative density of highly volatile liquids having Reid vapour pressures greater than 50 kPa according to ISO 3007 or having an initial boiling point below 40 °C.

1.3 The graduated bicapillary pyknometer method is recommended for the accurate determination of the density or relative density of all except the more viscous products, and is particularly useful when only small amounts of samples are available. The method is restricted to liquids having Reid vapour pressures of 130 kPa or less according to ISO 3007 and having kinematic viscosities less than 50 mm²/s [50 centistokes (cSt)] at the test temperature.

Special precautions are specified for the determination of the density or relative density of highly volatile liquids.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application 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 91-1:1992, *Petroleum measurement tables — Part 1: Tables based on reference temperatures of 15 °C and 60 °F*

ISO 91-2:1991, *Petroleum measurement tables — Part 2: Tables based on a reference temperature of 20 °C*

ISO 653:1980, *Long solid-stem thermometers for precision use*

ISO 3007:1999, *Petroleum products and crude petroleum — Determination of vapour pressure — Reid method*

ISO 3507:1999, *Laboratory glassware — Pyknometers*

ISO 5024:1999, *Petroleum liquids and liquefied petroleum gases — Measurement — Standard reference conditions*

3 Terms and definitions

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

3.1

density

mass of the substance divided by its volume

NOTE When reporting the density, it is necessary for the unit of density used, together with the temperature, to be explicitly stated, for example kilograms per cubic metre, or grams per millilitre, at t °C.

3.2

apparent mass in air

value obtained by weighing in air against standard masses without making correction for the effect of air buoyancy on either the standard masses or the object weighed

3.3

observed density

value required in order to enter Tables 53A, 53B and 53D, or 59A, 59B and 59D, referred to in ISO 91, determined with soda-lime glass apparatus at a test temperature which differs from the calibration temperature of the apparatus, no correction having been made for the thermal expansion or contraction of the glass

3.4

relative density

ratio of the mass of a volume of a substance at a temperature t_1 to the mass of an equal volume of another substance at a temperature t_2 . The temperatures t_1 and t_2 may be equal. For the purpose of this International Standard, the other substance is water, i.e. the relative density is the ratio of the density of the substance at a temperature t_1 to the density of water at a temperature t_2 .

NOTE When reporting the relative density, it is necessary for the temperatures t_1 and t_2 be explicitly stated. ISO 91-1 refers to tables for the reduction of relative density to 60/60 °F. If results are required referred to another reference temperature, the determination should be carried out at that temperature.

4 Principle

4.1 Capillary-stoppered pyknometer

The masses of equal volumes of the sample and of water are compared. Equal volumes are ensured by the pyknometer being filled so as to overflow when placed in a bath at the test temperature until equilibrium is reached. The calculation (Clause 10) includes corrections for thermal expansion of glass and for buoyancy.

4.2 Graduated bicapillary pyknometer

The graduated arms of the pyknometer are calibrated, using water, in terms of the apparent mass in air of water contained in the pyknometer, and a graph is prepared. The liquid sample is drawn into the dried pyknometer and, after it has reached equilibrium at the test temperature, the liquid levels are noted and the pyknometer weighed. The apparent mass in air of an equal volume of water is read from the graph and the density or relative density of the sample is calculated, with corrections being made as in 4.1.

5 Apparatus

5.1 Capillary-stoppered pyknometer, one of the three types shown in Figure 1 (see 8.1.1).

5.1.1 The pyknometers shall conform to the relevant requirements of ISO 3507.