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BSI Standards Publication

Petroleum products and lubricants — Determination of cone penetration of lubricating greases and petrolatum

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National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of ISO 2137:2020.

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Contents

Page

Foreword ..... **v**
Introduction ..... **vi**
1 Scope **1**
2 Normative references **1**
3 Terms and definitions **1**
4 Principle **2**
5 Classifications, procedures and limitation **2**
6 Apparatus **3**
7 Sampling **14**
8 Procedures for lubricating grease using full-scale methods **14**
8.1 Procedure for unworked penetration 14
8.1.1 Preparation of test portion 14
8.1.2 Cleaning the cone and movable attachments 14
8.1.3 Penetration measurement 14
8.2 Procedure for worked penetration 15
8.2.1 Preparation of test sample 15
8.2.2 Preparation of test portion 15
8.2.3 Penetration measurement 16
8.3 Procedure for prolonged worked penetration 16
8.3.1 Preparation of apparatus and test portion 16
8.3.2 Penetration measurement 16
8.4 Procedure for block penetration 17
8.4.1 Preparation of test portion 17
8.4.2 Penetration measurement 17
8.4.3 Additional determinations 17
9 Procedures for lubricating grease using one-half-scale and one-quarter-scale cone method **17**
9.1 General 17
9.2 Procedure for unworked penetration 18
9.2.1 Preparation of test portion 18
9.2.2 Cleaning cone and movable attachments 18
9.2.3 Penetration measurement 18
9.3 Procedure for worked penetration 18
9.3.1 Preparation of test sample 18
9.3.2 Preparation of test portion 18
9.3.3 Penetration measurement 19
10 Procedure for determining the cone penetration of petrolatum **19**
10.1 Preparation of the test portion 19
10.2 Penetration measurement 19
11 Calculation **20**
11.1 Calculation of full-scale penetration 20
11.2 Conversion to full-scale penetration for the one-half-scale and one-quarter-scale cones 20
11.2.1 General 20
11.2.2 One-quarter-scale cone 20
11.2.3 One-half-scale cone 20
12 Expression of results **20**
13 Precision **20**
13.1 General 20
13.2 Repeatability, *r* 20

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AVA Documents
Document Sharing Hub
Full document details: BS ISO 2137:2020

13.3 Reproducibility, *R* 20
14 Test report **21**
Bibliography **22**

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Documents
Document Sharing Hub
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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 documents 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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For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 28, *Petroleum and related products, fuels and lubricants from natural or synthetic sources*.

This fourth edition cancels and replaces the third edition (ISO 2137:2007), which has been technically revised. The main changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

— cleaning of cone and shaft assembly with solvent has been introduced to eliminate any drag forces;

— the precision table for repeatability and reproducibility for one-half-scale and one-quarter-scale has been revised to keep only an unconverted value.

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.

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Introduction

ISO 2137 was first published in 1972. A second edition was issued in 1985. The third revision was mainly on the dimensional tolerances of the various cones, to better fit with what is available from laboratory equipment suppliers. This revision was necessary because of all the quality plans and data integrity programmes established by numerous laboratories to conform with the various ISO quality standards. In the third edition of ISO 2137, the dimensional tolerances were enlarged to allow most of the cones to fulfil the requirements.

Before adopting changes in the third revision, an interlaboratory study was performed with cones conforming to new requirements and demonstrated that the precision of the method was not altered by changing the tolerances. Tolerances were retained only on the characteristics where it was established that they have a direct impact on the penetration determination, i.e. tip angle, tip height, tip top thickness, tip base diameter, cone angle, total mass of cone plus movable attachments.

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Petroleum products and lubricants — Determination of cone penetration of lubricating greases and petrolatum

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 the application of the standard, and to determine the applicability of any other restrictions for this purpose.

1 Scope

This document specifies several methods for the empirical estimation of the consistency of lubricating greases and petrolatum by measuring the penetration of a standardized cone.

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 23572, *Petroleum products — Lubricating greases — Sampling of greases*

3 Terms and definitions

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

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

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at https://www.iso.org/obp

— IEC Electropedia: available at http://www.electropedia.org/

3.1
penetration
depth that a standard object, cone or needle penetrates into a test portion under standardized conditions of time, temperature, load, etc

[SOURCE: ISO 1998-2:1998, 2.80.001 — modified: the Note has been deleted.]

3.2
cone penetration
distance that a standardized cone penetrates into a test portion under standardized conditions of load, time and temperature

Note 1 to entry: The cone penetration is expressed in units of 0,1 mm.

3.3
working
shearing action of a grease worker

3.4
unworked penetration
cone penetration (3.2) of a test portion that has received only minimum disturbance in transfer from the sample container to the cup of the grease worker

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3.5
worked penetration
cone penetration (3.2) of a test portion after it has been subjected to a defined number of strokes in a grease worker

3.6
prolonged worked penetration
cone penetration (3.2) of a test portion which has been worked more than the defined number of strokes in *worked penetration* (3.5)

3.7
block penetration
cone penetration (3.2) determined on a test portion which is sufficiently hard to hold its shape without a container

4 Principle

The cone penetration of lubricating grease is determined at 25 °C by releasing the cone assembly from the penetrometer and allowing the cone to drop for 5 s, and measuring the extent of the penetration. Three determinations shall be made and the average shall be reported as a result.

Unworked penetrations are determined on test portions transferred with a minimum of disturbance to a container suitable for test purposes.

Worked penetrations are determined immediately after working the test portion for 60 double strokes in a standard grease worker.

Prolonged worked penetrations are determined on test portions worked more than 60 double strokes.

Block penetrations are determined on a freshly prepared face of a cube cut from a block of grease with a standard cutter.

The cone penetration of petrolatum is determined by first melting and cooling a test sample under specified conditions and then measuring the penetration as for lubricating grease.

5 Classifications, procedures and limitation

The National Lubricating Grease Institute (NLGI) classifies greases according to their consistency, as measured by the 60 strokes worked penetration. The NLGI classification includes nine consistency numbers or grades, each grade corresponding to a given range of worked penetration. The NLGI classification is given in ISO 6743-99 and ISO 12924.

Clause 8 specifies four procedures for determining the consistency of lubricating greases by measuring the penetration of a full-scale cone. These procedures cover the measurement of unworked, worked, prolonged worked and block penetrations. Penetrations up to 500 units can be measured.

Clause 9 specifies methods for determining the consistency of lubricating greases when only small samples are available, by the use of cones a one-half-scale or one-quarter-scale of that used in Clause 8. The methods are applicable to greases having penetrations of 175 units to 385 units with the full-scale cone and are intended for use only if the size of the test sample prevents the use of cones described in Clause 8. They are not intended to replace the full-scale penetration as described in Clause 8, although a conversion to full-scale penetration is given in 10.2. See 9.1 for the limitations on the use of one-quarter-scale cones due to the poor precision.

NOTE 1 Unworked penetrations do not generally represent the consistency of greases in use as effectively as do worked penetrations. The latter are usually preferred for inspecting lubricating greases.

NOTE 2 Penetration of block greases can be obtained on those products that are sufficiently hard to hold their shape. These greases generally have penetrations below 85 units.

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