BS ISO 7745:2024

BSI Standards Publication

Hydraulic fluid power — Fire-resistant fluids — Requirements and guidelines for use

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National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of ISO 7745:2024. It supersedes BS ISO 7745:2010, which is withdrawn.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee MCE/18/-/16, Hydraulic fluids.

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

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Published by BSI Standards Limited 2024

ISBN 978 0 539 23273 8

ICS 75.120

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This British Standard was published under the authority of the Standards Policy and Strategy Committee on 29 February 2024.

Amendments/corrigenda issued since publication

Date	Text affected

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International Standard

ISO 7745

Third edition
2024-02

Hydraulic fluid power — Fire-resistant fluids — Requirements and guidelines for use

Transmissions hydrauliques — Fluides difficilement inflammables — Exigences et recommandations pour leur utilisation

Reference number
ISO 7745:2024(en)

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Foreword

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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*, Subcommittee SC 4, *Classifications and specifications.*

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 7745:2010), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

— addition of Clause 2 “Normative references” and renumbering of subsequent clauses accordingly;

— update of Table 2;

— update of the dated references.

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Introduction

In hydraulic fluid power systems, power is transmitted and controlled through a liquid under pressure within an enclosed circuit. The most widely used liquid for hydraulic power systems is mineral oil which has the advantages of excellent lubricity, availability in a wide range of viscosities and reasonable cost.

While not readily ignited in bulk, mineral oil is nevertheless flammable and the high pressures associated with hydraulic systems can lead to a release of fluid which is easily ignited. In circumstances where ignition is likely, such as in a steel mill, or where the released fluid must not propagate a fire, such as in a coal mine, an alternative fire-resistant fluid must be used. Fire-resistance and physical properties such as viscosity and lubricity vary widely among the several types of fluid available. It is therefore important to select a fire-resistant fluid which matches its proposed application and the perceived hazards in use.

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Hydraulic fluid power — Fire-resistant fluids — Requirements and guidelines for use

1 Scope

This document specifies the operational characteristics for the various categories of fire-resistant fluids defined by ISO 6743-4. It includes requirements and guidelines for use of these fluids and specifies the factors to consider when selecting a fluid from these categories for a proposed application.

This document identifies difficulties which can arise from the use of such fluids and indicates how they can be minimized. Procedures are given for replacing one fluid with another from a different category. Health and safety aspects when handling and disposing of fire-resistant fluids are also covered.

This document does not apply to fire-resistant fluids used in the hydraulic systems of commercial or military aircraft.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

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
fire-resistant hydraulic fluid
hydraulic fluid which is difficult to ignite and shows little tendency to propagate flame

[SOURCE: ISO 5598:2020, 3.2.282]

4 Hydraulic systems — Fire hazards

4.1 General

Fluid pressures in hydraulic power systems range up to 50 000 kPa (500 bar) and more. Therefore, any lack of integrity in the construction of a system which results in a burst or even a small leak, can in many circumstances give rise to a serious fire hazard.

4.2 Fault conditions

Failure of piping (particularly at joints and fittings), valves or gaskets, and rupture of flexible hoses have been principal causes of fluid being released from a system. The period of highest risk of this type of failure is during the commissioning, or after the repair, of a hydraulic system.

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The following fire hazards are directly related to the use of hydraulic fluid under fault conditions.

a) ignition of hydraulic fluids ejected under pressure from hydraulic systems, in the form of a jet, spray or fog;

b) ignition of combustible vapours produced by hydraulic fluid;

c) ignition of hydraulic fluid spilled during transport, or leaking from hydraulic systems, onto absorbent material such as lagging or dust and the subsequent propagation of fire along the fluid-wet absorbent material;

d) ignition of a fluid stream or pool;

e) ignition of hydraulic fluid where fire-resistance has been reduced by chemical or physical changes in the fluid caused by service operation.

EXAMPLE 1 Reduction of the fire-resistance of a fluid by evaporation or separation of water from the fluid which relies upon water to confer fire-resistance.

EXAMPLE 2 Ignition of fire-resistant fluid contaminated with more combustible substances such as mineral oil.

NOTE In each case, a source of ignition as described in 4.3 is necessary to initiate combustion.

4.3 Sources of ignition

Sources of ignition include, but are not limited to, the following occurrences:

a) discharge of static electricity;

b) stray electric currents or discharges from malfunctioning electrical equipment leading to high surface temperatures or sparks;

c) friction between moving surfaces, either during normal operation (e.g. brakes) or under fault conditions, leading to high surface temperatures;

d) high surface temperatures due to the presence of hot molten materials or materials undergoing high temperature manufacturing operations;

e) sparks and open flames from manufacturing operations, such as cutting, welding and grinding;

f) acoustic and electro-magnetic energy, such as ultrasonic and microwave radiation.

5 Requirements for fire-resistant fluids

5.1 General fluid requirements

5.1.1 General

To perform satisfactorily in a hydraulic system, a fire-resistant fluid shall have properties and characteristics which match the system requirements. Conversely, if the perceived risk of fire limits the range of fluid types which can be used, the components of the hydraulic system shall be designed to perform adequately with the fire-resistant fluid selected.

5.1.2 Viscosity

The fluid shall be sufficiently viscous at all working temperatures to prevent unwanted leakage across working clearances wherever a pressure differential exists. Where the chosen fluid has a very low viscosity, system components shall be selected which are designed specifically for use with such fluids.

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The functional fluid, however, shall be of sufficiently low viscosity at all working temperatures to flow readily through the system and to accommodate rapid changes in velocity and pressure.

5.1.3 Lubrication

The fluid shall have sufficient viscosity and film strength to lubricate working parts effectively, under both hydrodynamic and boundary conditions, over the working temperature range. Where the chosen fluid has a very low viscosity, and adequate lubrication properties are not conferred by additives, system components that operate satisfactorily with the fluid shall be selected.

5.1.4 Compatibility

The fluid shall be compatible with the constructional materials used in the system and non-corrosive. If necessary, the system or component manufacturer shall be contacted for guidance.

5.1.5 Chemical and thermal stability

The thermal, oxidative and hydrolytic stability of the fluid shall be sufficient to ensure the safe and reliable operation of the system. The service life of the fluid is closely related to the bulk operating temperature as well as the effectiveness of fluid maintenance and the successful control of contamination.

5.1.6 Air release and foaming

The fluid shall release entrained air readily and not produce stable foam.

5.1.7 Shear stability

The fluid shall be shear stable, i.e. its viscosity shall not display a significant permanent change as a result of applied shear in the system.

5.2 Other fluid properties which may impact upon system design

5.2.1 General

The following fluid characteristics shall be considered during the course of system design and fluid selection.

5.2.2 Filterability

The fluid shall be filterable at the rating of the finest filter in the system. The rating (fineness) of the system filters is determined by several factors, including type and condition of the fluid, component design, required component life and reliability.

5.2.3 Density

The density of some fire-resistant fluids is greater than that of mineral oil, which can lead to increased pressure drops in circuit components and impose restrictions on the design of the suction line of the pump.

5.2.4 Vapour pressure

The vapour pressure of some fire-resistant fluids, particularly those whose fire-resistance is conferred by the presence of water, is much higher than that of mineral oil and varies with fluid temperature. The design of the system, particularly around the suction of the pump, shall minimize the risk of cavitation at the pump inlet. Other than very coarse strainers, filters in suction lines should be avoided, and ideally the pressure at the pump inlet should be greater than 100 kPa (1 bar) absolute.

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