



Standard Test Method for Density, Relative Density, and API Gravity of Liquids by Digital Density Meter¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D4052; 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.

This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the Department of Defense.

1. Scope*

1.1 This test method covers the determination of the density, relative density, and API Gravity of petroleum distillates and viscous oils that can be handled in a normal fashion as liquids at the temperature of test, utilizing either manual or automated sample injection equipment. Its application is restricted to liquids with total vapor pressures (see Test Method [D5191](#)) typically below 100 kPa and viscosities (see Test Method [D445](#) or [D7042](#)) typically below about 15 000 mm²/s at the temperature of test. The total vapor pressure limitation however can be extended to >100 kPa provided that it is first ascertained that no bubbles form in the U-shaped, oscillating tube, which can affect the density determination. Some examples of products that may be tested by this procedure include: gasoline and gasoline-oxygenate blends, diesel, jet, basestocks, waxes, and lubricating oils.

1.1.1 Waxes were not included in the 1999 interlaboratory study (ILS) sample set that was used to determine the current precision statements of the method, since all samples evaluated at the time were analyzed at a test temperature of 15°C. Wax samples require a temperature cell operated at elevated temperatures necessary to ensure a liquid test specimen is introduced for analysis. Consult instrument manufacturer instructions for appropriate guidance and precautions when attempting to analyze wax sample types. Refer to the Precision and Bias section of the method and [Note 6](#) for more detailed information about the 1999 ILS that was conducted.

1.2 In cases of dispute, the referee method is the one where samples are introduced manually as in [6.3](#) or [6.4](#), as appropriate for sample type.

1.3 This test method should not be applied to samples so dark in color that the absence of air bubbles in the sample cell cannot be established with certainty. For the determination of density in crude oil samples use Test Method [D5002](#).

1.4 The values stated in SI units are regarded as the standard, unless stated otherwise, such as the “torr” units of pressure in Eq 1. The accepted units of measure for density are grams per millilitre (g/mL) or kilograms per cubic metre (kg/m³).

1.5 *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.* For specific hazard statements, see [7.4](#), [7.5](#), and [10.3](#).

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

- [D287](#) Test Method for API Gravity of Crude Petroleum and Petroleum Products (Hydrometer Method)
- [D445](#) Test Method for Kinematic Viscosity of Transparent and Opaque Liquids (and Calculation of Dynamic Viscosity)
- [D1193](#) Specification for Reagent Water
- [D1250](#) Guide for Use of the Petroleum Measurement Tables
- [D1298](#) Test Method for Density, Relative Density (Specific Gravity), or API Gravity of Crude Petroleum and Liquid Petroleum Products by Hydrometer Method
- [D4057](#) Practice for Manual Sampling of Petroleum and Petroleum Products
- [D4177](#) Practice for Automatic Sampling of Petroleum and Petroleum Products
- [D4377](#) Test Method for Water in Crude Oils by Potentiometric Karl Fischer Titration
- [D5002](#) Test Method for Density and Relative Density of Crude Oils by Digital Density Analyzer
- [D5191](#) Test Method for Vapor Pressure of Petroleum Products (Mini Method)
- [D7042](#) Test Method for Dynamic Viscosity and Density of Liquids by Stabinger Viscometer (and the Calculation of Kinematic Viscosity)

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee [D02](#) on Petroleum Products and Lubricants and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee [D02.04.0D](#) on Physical and Chemical Methods.

This test method was adopted as a joint ASTM-IP standard in 1984.

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² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

*A Summary of Changes section appears at the end of this standard.

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 *adjustment*—the operation of bringing the instrument to a state of performance suitable for its use, by setting or adjusting the density meter constants.

3.1.1.1 *Discussion*—On certain newer, commercially available digital density analyzer instruments, an adjustment may be made rather than calibrating the instrument. The adjustment procedure uses air and redistilled, freshly boiled and cooled water as standards to establish the linearity of measurements over a range of operating temperatures.

3.1.2 *calibration*—set of operations that establishes the relationship between the reference density of standards and the corresponding density reading of the instrument.

3.1.3 *density*—mass per unit volume at a specified temperature.

3.1.4 *relative density*—the ratio of the density of a material at a stated temperature to the density of water at a stated temperature.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 A small volume (approximately 1 to 2 mL) of liquid sample is introduced into an oscillating sample tube and the change in oscillating frequency caused by the change in the mass of the tube is used in conjunction with calibration data to determine the density, relative density, or API Gravity of the sample. Both manual and automated injection techniques are described.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 Density is a fundamental physical property that can be used in conjunction with other properties to characterize both the light and heavy fractions of petroleum and petroleum products.

5.2 Determination of the density or relative density of petroleum and its products is necessary for the conversion of measured volumes to volumes at the standard temperature of 15°C.

6. Apparatus

6.1 *Digital Density Analyzer*—A digital analyzer consisting of a U-shaped, oscillating sample tube and a system for electronic excitation, frequency counting, and display. The analyzer shall accommodate the accurate measurement of the sample temperature during measurement or shall control the sample temperature as described in 6.2. The instrument shall be capable of meeting the precision requirements described in this test method.

6.2 *Circulating Constant-Temperature Bath*, (optional), capable of maintaining the temperature of the circulating liquid constant to $\pm 0.05^\circ\text{C}$ in the desired range. Temperature control can be maintained as part of the density analyzer instrument package.

6.3 *Syringes*, for use primarily in manual injections, at least 2 mL in volume with a tip or an adapter tip that will fit the opening of the oscillating tube.

6.4 *Flow-Through or Pressure Adapter*, for use as an alternative means of introducing the sample into the density analyzer either by a pump, by pressure, or by vacuum.

NOTE 1—It is highly recommended that a vacuum not be applied to samples prone to light-end loss, as it can easily lead to the formation of bubbles. It is recommended to fabricate a special cap or stopper for sample containers so that air, such as from a squeeze pump, is used to displace a test specimen to the U-tube measuring cell by the flow-through method.

6.5 *Autosampler*, required for use in automated injection analyses. The autosampler shall be designed to ensure the integrity of the test specimen prior to and during the analysis and be equipped to transfer a representative portion of test specimen to the digital density analyzer.

6.6 *Temperature Sensing Device (TSD)*, capable of monitoring the observed test temperature to within an accuracy of $\pm 0.05^\circ\text{C}$. If a liquid-in-glass thermometer is used as the TSD, it shall be calibrated and graduated to 0.1°C , and have a holder that can be attached to the instrument for setting and observing the test temperature. In calibrating the thermometer, the ice point and bore connections should be estimated to the nearest 0.05°C . For non-mercurial thermometers, the TSD device shall be calibrated at least annually against a certified and traceable standard.

6.7 *Ultrasonic Bath, Unheated*, (optional), of suitable dimensions to hold container(s) placed inside of bath, for use in effectively dissipating and removing air or gas bubbles that may be entrained in viscous sample types prior to analysis.

7. Reagents and Materials

7.1 *Purity of Reagents*—Reagent grade chemicals shall be used in all tests. Unless otherwise indicated, it is intended that all reagents shall conform to the specifications of the Committee on Analytical Reagents of the American Chemical Society, where such specifications are available.³ Other grades may be used, provided it is first ascertained that the reagent is of sufficiently high purity to permit its use without lessening the accuracy of the determination.

7.2 *Purity of Water*—Unless otherwise indicated, references to water shall be understood to mean reagent water as defined by Type II of Specification D1193.

7.3 *Water*, redistilled, freshly boiled and cooled reagent water for use as a primary calibration standard.

7.4 *Cleaning Solvent*, such as petroleum naphtha⁴ (**Warning**—Petroleum naphtha is extremely flammable), or other materials that are capable of flushing and removing samples entirely from the sample tube.

7.5 *Acetone*, for flushing and drying the sample tube. (**Warning**—Extremely flammable.)

7.6 *Dry Air*, for drying the oscillator tube.

8. Sampling, Test Specimens, and Test Units

8.1 Sampling is defined as all the steps required to obtain an aliquot of the contents of any pipe, tank, or other system, and to place the sample into the laboratory test container. The

³ *Reagent Chemicals, American Chemical Society Specifications*, American Chemical Society, Washington, DC. For suggestions on the testing of reagents not listed by the American Chemical Society, see *Analar Standards for Laboratory Chemicals*, BDH Ltd., Poole, Dorset, U.K., and the *United States Pharmacopeia and National Formulary*, U.S. Pharmaceutical Convention, Inc. (USPC), Rockville, MD.

⁴ Suitable solvent naphthas are marketed under various designations such as "Petroleum Ether," "Ligroine," or "Precipitation Naphtha."

laboratory test container and sample volume shall be of sufficient capacity to mix the sample and obtain a homogeneous sample for analysis.

8.2 *Laboratory Sample*—Use only representative samples obtained as specified in Practices D4057 or D4177 for this test method.

8.3 *Test Specimen*—A portion or volume of sample obtained from the laboratory sample and delivered to the density analyzer sample tube. The test specimen is obtained as follows:

8.3.1 Mix the sample if required to homogenize taking care to avoid the introduction of air bubbles. The mixing may be accomplished as described in Practice D4177 or Test Method D4377. Mixing at room temperature in an open container can result in the loss of volatile material from certain sample types (e.g., gasoline samples), so mixing in closed, pressurized containers or at sub-ambient temperatures is required for such sample types where loss of volatile material is a potential concern. For some sample types, such as viscous lube oils that are prone to having entrained air or gas bubbles present in the sample, the use of an ultrasonic bath (see 6.7) without the heater turned on (if so equipped), has been found effective in dissipating bubbles typically within 10 minutes.

8.3.2 For manual injections, draw the test specimen from a properly mixed laboratory sample using an appropriate syringe. If the proper density analyzer attachments and connecting tubes are used, as described in 6.4, then the test specimen can be delivered directly to the analyzer’s sample tube from the mixing container. For automated injections, it is necessary to first transfer a portion of sample by appropriate means from a properly mixed laboratory sample to the autosampler, and take the necessary steps to ensure the integrity of the test specimen prior to and during the analysis. Follow the manufacturer’s instructions.

9. Preparation of Apparatus

9.1 Set up the density analyzer (including the constant temperature bath and related attachments, if necessary) following the manufacturer’s instructions. Adjust the bath or internal temperature control so that the desired test temperature is established and maintained in the sample compartment of the analyzer. Calibrate the instrument at the same temperature at which the density or relative density of the sample is to be measured or perform an adjustment (see 3.1.1.1 Discussion) in preparation of analyzing samples. (**Warning**—Precise setting and control of the test temperature in the sample tube is extremely important. An error of 0.1°C can result in a change in density of one in the fourth decimal when measuring in units of g/mL.)

10. Calibration of Apparatus

10.1 As a minimum requirement, calibration of the instrument is required when first set up, whenever the test temperature is changed (unless the instrument is capable of performing an adjustment; see 3.1.1.1 Discussion), or as dictated by quality control (QC) sample results (see 11.1).

10.2 When calibration of the instrument is required, it is necessary to calculate the values of the constants *A* and *B* from the periods of oscillation (*T*) observed when the sample cell contains air and redistilled, freshly boiled and cooled reagent

TABLE 1 Density of Water^A

Temperature, °C	Density, g/mL	Temperature, °C	Density, g/mL	Temperature, °C	Density, g/mL
0.0	0.999840	21.0	0.997991	40.0	0.992212
3.0	0.999964	22.0	0.997769	45.0	0.990208
4.0	0.999972	23.0	0.997537	50.0	0.988030
5.0	0.999964	24.0	0.997295	55.0	0.985688
10.0	0.999699	25.0	0.997043	60.0	0.983191
15.0	0.999099	26.0	0.996782	65.0	0.980546
15.56	0.999012	27.0	0.996511	70.0	0.977759
16.0	0.998943	28.0	0.996231	75.0	0.974837
17.0	0.998774	29.0	0.995943	80.0	0.971785
18.0	0.998595	30.0	0.995645	85.0	0.968606
19.0	0.998404	35.0	0.994029	90.0	0.965305
20.0	0.998203	37.78	0.993042	100	0.958345

^A Densities conforming to the International Temperature Scale 1990 (ITS 90) were extracted from Appendix G, *Standard Methods for Analysis of Petroleum and Related Products 1991*, Institute of Petroleum, London.

water. Other calibrating materials such as *n*-nonane, *n*-tridecane, cyclohexane, and *n*-hexadecane (for high temperature applications) can also be used as appropriate, provided the reference materials have density values that are certified and traceable to national standards.

NOTE 2—On certain newer, commercially available instruments, a viscosity correction feature may be available and utilized in density determinations to minimize potential biases. Refer to information in the Section 15 for more specifics.

10.2.1 While monitoring the oscillator period, *T*, flush the sample tube with cleaning solvent, followed with an acetone flush and dry with dry air. Contaminated or humid air can affect the calibration. When these conditions exist in the laboratory, pass the air used for calibration through a suitable purification and drying train. In addition, the inlet and outlet ports for the U-tube must be plugged during measurement of the calibration air to prevent ingress of moist air.

10.2.2 Allow the dry air in the U-tube to come to thermal equilibrium with the test temperature and record the *T*-value for air.

10.2.3 Introduce a small volume (about 1 to 2 mL) of redistilled, freshly boiled and cooled reagent water into the sample tube using a suitable syringe or alternate, as described in 6.4 and 6.5. The test portion must be homogeneous and free of even the smallest air or gas bubbles. Allow the display to reach a steady reading and record the *T*-value for water.

10.2.4 Calculate the density of air at the temperature of test using the following equation:

$$d_a, \text{ g/mL} = 0.001293[273.15/T][P/760] \quad (1)$$

where:

T = temperature, K, and

P = barometric pressure, torr.

10.2.5 Determine the density of water at the temperature of test by reference to Table 1.

10.2.6 Using the observed *T*-values and the reference values for water and air, calculate the values of the Constants *A* and *B* using the following equations:

$$A = [T_w^2 - T_a^2]/[d_w - d_a] \quad (2)$$

$$B = T_a^2 - (A \times d_a) \quad (3)$$

T_w = observed period of oscillation for cell containing water,

T_a = observed period of oscillation for cell containing air,

d_w = density of water at test temperature, and

d_a = density of air at test temperature.

10.2.6.1 Alternatively, use the T and d values for the other reference liquid if one is used.

10.2.7 If the instrument is equipped to calculate density from the constants A and B and the observed T -value from the sample, then enter the constants in the instrument memory in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Alternatively, if the instrument is equipped to do so, let it make the appropriate corrections in the calibration or adjustment constants as part of the built in calibration or adjustment procedure.

10.2.8 Check the calibration and adjust if needed by performing the routine calibration check described in 10.3.

10.2.9 To calibrate the instrument to display relative density, that is, the density of the sample at a given temperature referred to the density of water at the same temperature, follow 10.2.1-10.2.7, but substitute 1.000 for d_w in performing the calculations described in 10.2.6.

10.3 On some density meter analyzers, weekly calibration adjustments to constants A and B can be made if required, without repeating the calculation procedure. The need for a change in calibration is generally attributable to deposits in the sample tube that are not removed by the routine flushing procedure. Although this condition can be compensated for by adjusting A and B , it is good practice to clean the tube with a strong oxidizing acid (**Warning**—Causes severe burns) or surfactant cleaning fluids whenever a major adjustment is required.

10.3.1 Flush and dry the sample tube as described in 10.2.1 and allow the display to reach a steady reading. If the display does not exhibit the correct density for air at the temperature of test, repeat the cleaning procedure or adjust the value of constant B commencing with the last decimal place until the correct density is displayed.

10.3.2 If adjustment to constant B was necessary in 10.3.1 then continue the recalibration by introducing redistilled, freshly boiled and cooled reagent water into the sample tube as described in 10.2.3 and allow the display to reach a steady reading. If the instrument has been calibrated to display the density, adjust the reading to the correct value for water at the test temperature (Table 1) by changing the value of constant A , commencing with the last decimal place. If the instrument has been calibrated to display the relative density, adjust the reading to the value 1.0000.

NOTE 3—If performing a weekly calibration adjustment, it can be found that more than one value each for A and B , differing in the fourth decimal place, will yield the correct density reading for the density of air and water. The setting chosen would then be dependent upon whether it was approached from a higher or lower value. The setting selected by this method could have the effect of altering the fourth place of the reading obtained for a sample.

10.4 Some analyzer models are designed to display the measured period of oscillation only (T -values) and their calibration requires the determination of an instrument constant

K , which must be used to calculate the density or relative density from the observed data.

10.4.1 Flush and dry the sample tube as described in 10.2.1 and allow the display to reach a steady reading. Record the T -value for air.

10.4.2 Introduce redistilled, freshly boiled and cooled reagent water into the sample tube as described in 10.2.3, allow the display to reach a steady reading and record the T -value for water.

10.4.3 Using the observed T -values and the reference values for water and air (10.2.4 and 10.2.5), calculate the instrument constant K using the following equations:

For density:

$$K_1 = [d_w - d_a][T_w^2 - T_a^2] \quad (4)$$

For relative density:

$$K_2 = [1.0000 - d_a][T_w^2 - T_a^2] \quad (5)$$

where:

T_w = observed period of oscillation for cell containing water,

T_a = observed period of oscillation for cell containing air,

d_w = density of water at test temperature, and

d_a = density of air at test temperature.

11. Quality Control Checks

11.1 Confirm the instrument is in statistical control at least once a week when it is in use, by analyzing a quality control (QC) sample that is representative of samples typically analyzed. Analysis of a single QC sample can be sufficient. Analysis of QC sample results can be carried out using control chart techniques.⁵ If the QC sample result determined causes the lab to be in an out-of-control situation, such as exceeding the lab's control limits, instrument recalibration or adjustment is required. An ample supply of QC sample material should be available for the intended period of use, and must be homogeneous and stable under the anticipated storage conditions. Prior to monitoring the measurement process, the user of the method needs to determine the average and control limits of the QC sample. The QC sample precision should be checked against the method precision to ensure data quality.

11.2 Although not mandatory, it is recommended that periodic analyses of certified density standards (i.e., traceable to national standards) that are separate from those that may be used in calibrating the instrument, be used to confirm testing accuracy.

12. Procedure

12.1 Manual Injection:

12.1.1 Introduce a small amount (about 1 to 2 mL) of sample into the clean, dry sample tube of the instrument using a suitable syringe or alternative, as described in 6.4.

12.1.2 The sample can also be introduced by siphoning. Plug the external TFE-fluorocarbon capillary tube into the entry port of the sample tube. Immerse the other end of the

⁵ ASTM MNL 7, *Manual on Presentation of Data Control Chart Analysis*, Section 3: Control Charts for Individuals, 6th ed., ASTM International, W. Conshohocken, PA.

capillary in the sample and apply suction to the other port using a syringe or vacuum line until the sample tube is properly filled (see **Note 1**).

12.1.3 Turn on the illumination light and examine the sample tube carefully. Make sure that no bubbles are trapped in the tube, and that it is filled to just beyond the suspension point on the right-hand side. The sample must be homogeneous and free of even the smallest bubbles. If bubbles are detected, empty and refill the tube and recheck for bubbles.

NOTE 4—If the sample is too dark in color to determine the absence of bubbles with certainty, the density cannot be measured within the stated precision limits of Section 15.

12.1.4 For most instrument models, it is recommended to turn the illumination light off with minimal delay after sample introduction and checking for bubbles because the heat generated can affect the measurement temperature. For newer models however, the cell light may be left on without affecting results. Refer to the manufacturer's recommendations concerning whether to leave the illumination light off or on.

12.1.5 After the instrument displays a steady reading to four significant figures for density, relative density, or API Gravity, and five for T -values, indicating that temperature equilibrium has been reached, record the density, relative density, API Gravity or T -values, or both, as appropriate. For instruments that can print out results from the display, the print out can be used to meet the recording requirements.

12.1.6 Based on the 1999 ILS⁶ testing protocols (see **Note 6**), precision determinations involving a single manual injection, as well as taking the average of two manual injections, was evaluated. See the Precision and Bias section for more details. If the lab performs a single manual determination, the density, relative density, or API Gravity values recorded in 12.1.5, or a combination thereof, is to be used for reporting purposes. In most cases, a single manual injection determination is sufficient for sample analysis.

12.1.6.1 If the lab decides to perform a second manual injection determination for a given sample, repeat 12.1.1-12.1.5. If the two determinations do not differ by more than 0.0002 g/mL for density or 0.0002 for relative density, average the two determinations, otherwise, discard both determinations and repeat the analysis using two new test specimens until the acceptance criteria identified above is satisfied. With respect to API Gravity determinations of gasoline or RFG samples, if the two determinations do not differ by more than 0.05° API Gravity units, average the two determinations, otherwise, discard both determinations and repeat the analysis using two new test specimens until the acceptance criteria is satisfied. With respect to API Gravity determinations of distillates, basestocks, and lubricating oils, follow the protocol in the prior sentence except use 0.03° API Gravity units as the acceptance criteria. Averaged results meeting the criteria identified in this section is to be used for reporting purposes.

12.2 Automated Injection:

12.2.1 The use of an autosampler (see 6.5) is required when analyzing samples by automated injection. Follow manufactur-

er's instructions for ensuring the integrity of the test specimen prior to analysis, as well as transferring a representative test specimen into the instrument for analysis.

12.2.2 When using an autosampler, it is required, based on the results obtained in the 1999 ILS⁶ to analyze gasoline or RFG samples using two separate test specimens per sample, in order that errors due to potential sample handling of volatile materials and potential bubble formation may be detected and the system performance monitored. For all other sample types, a single determination using an autosampler is sufficient.

12.2.2.1 If the lab decides to perform a second automated injection determination for a given distillate, basestock, or lubricating oil (see **Note 6** and the Precision and Bias section), use the same acceptance criteria in 12.1.6.1 for allowed differences between each determination for density (0.0002 g/mL), relative density (0.0002) and API Gravity units (0.03°) as for manually injected samples. Averaged results meeting the necessary acceptance criteria are to be used for reporting purposes.

12.2.3 For determining the density or relative density of gasoline or RFG samples analyzed by automated injection, average the results of the two separate test specimens analyzed in 12.2.2 if the two determinations are within 0.0002 mg/L of one another for density (or 0.0002 for relative density). If the two determinations fall outside this acceptance criteria, both determinations are to be discarded and 12.2.2 shall be repeated until the acceptance criteria identified in the previous sentence is satisfied. In cases where the acceptance criteria is not initially satisfied, the lab may need to investigate and take corrective actions before proceeding with subsequent analyses.

12.2.4 For determining the API Gravity of gasoline or RFG samples analyzed by automated injection, follow the same protocol defined in 12.2.3, except that the acceptance criteria for the results of the two determinations for API Gravity are to be within 0.05° API Gravity units before averaging and reporting the results.

12.2.5 Record the density, relative density, or API Gravity results, or a combination thereof, determined by the analyses as appropriate, such as by using the instrument print out of results to meet the recording requirements.

13. Calculation

13.1 *Calculating Density Analyzers*—The recorded or printed value is the final result when a single determination is conducted (or taking the average of two determinations as the final result as identified in Section 12), expressed either as density in g/mL, kg/m³ or as relative density. Note that kg/m³ = 1000 × g/mL.

13.2 *Noncalculating Density Analyzers*—Using the observed T -value for the sample and the T -value for water and appropriate instrument constants determined in 10.4.3, calculate the density or relative density using Eq 6 and 7. Carry out all calculations to six significant figures and round the final results to four.

For density:

$$\text{density, g/mL (kg/m}^3\text{) at } t = d_w + K_1(T_s^2 - T_w^2) \quad (6)$$

For relative density:

⁶ Supporting data pending being filed at ASTM International Headquarters.

TABLE 2 Density (g/mL) and Relative Density (Repeatability)

Range	Sample Types	Testing Condition	Repeatability
0.71–0.78	Gasoline and RFG	Single Determination (Manual injection)	0.00045
		Average of 2 Determinations (Manual or automated injections)	0.00031
0.80–0.88	Distillates, Basestocks, and Lubricating Oils	Single Determination (Manual or automated injection)	0.00016
		Average of 2 Determinations (Manual or automated injections)	0.00011

$$\text{relative density, } t/t = 1 + K_2(T_s^2 - T_w^2) \quad (7)$$

where:

T_w = observed period of oscillation for cell containing water,

T_s = observed period of oscillation for cell containing sample,

d_w = density of water at test temperature,

K_1 = instrument constant for density,

K_2 = instrument constant for relative density, and

T = temperature of test, °C.

13.3 If it is necessary to convert a result obtained using the density meter to API Gravity, or a density or relative density at another temperature, Guide **D1250** can be used only if the glass expansion factor has been excluded.

NOTE 5—Some digital density analyzers are equipped to automatically calculate and report sample results in API gravity units (see Test Method **D287** or **D1298**), based on the density or relative density results, or a combination thereof, determined by this test method and using the appropriate conversion equation derived from Guide **D1250** (which excludes the glass expansion factor), for the specific sample type being analyzed.

14. Report

14.1 In reporting density, state the test temperature and the units (for example: density at 20°C = 0.8765 g/mL or 876.5 kg/m³).

14.2 In reporting relative density, state both the test temperature and the reference temperature, but no units (for example: relative density, 20/20°C = 0.xxxx).

14.3 Report the final result for density or relative density to four significant figures.

14.4 If reporting sample results in API gravity units (see **Note 5**), report the final results to the nearest 0.1° API.

14.5 In some cases, it may be necessary to report if results were based on a single determination or an average of two determinations, as well as if results were determined by manual injection or automated injection to meet specific requirements, such as data recipients wanting to know such information in order to understand how to interpret results relative to the published method precision values. In such cases, it is permissible to report this information along with the test results.

15. Precision and Bias ⁶

15.1 The precision of the method as obtained by statistical examination of interlaboratory test results at a test temperature of 15°C is as follows for the following sample types and ranges:

15.1.1 *Repeatability*—The difference between successive test results obtained by the same operator with the same

apparatus under constant operating conditions on identical test material, would in the long run, in the normal and correct operation of the test method, exceed the following value only in one case in twenty:

15.1.1.1 *Density (g/mL) and Relative Density*—See **Table 2**.

15.1.1.2 *API Gravity*—See **Table 3**.

15.1.2 *Reproducibility*—The difference between two single and independent results, obtained by different operators working in different laboratories on identical test material, would in the long run, in the normal and correct operation of the test method, exceed the following values only in one case in twenty:

15.1.2.1 *Density (g/mL) and Relative Density*—See **Table 4**.

15.1.2.2 *API Gravity*—See **Table 5**.

NOTE 6—The ASTM Interlaboratory Study (ILS) conducted in Fall 1999⁶ involved 11 labs and 23 samples. The samples included 5 motor gasolines, 1 motor gasoline + ethanol, 4 reformulated gasolines (RFG), 2 lube oils, 1 basestock oil, 4 Jet-A fuels, 1 JP8 fuel, and 5 diesel fuels. The ILS protocol required labs to perform a total of four measurements per sample, which included both manual and automated injections, with the first two determinations representing the first analysis set and the second two determinations representing the second analysis set. This protocol was used to evaluate if a precision effect existed between taking the first determination from each analysis set (i.e., single determination) versus taking the average of the two determinations from each analysis set, as well as determining if there was a precision effect between manual and automated injections. The repeatability and reproducibility statements determined by the statistician reflect the corresponding precision values associated with testing conditions identified. It should be noted that the precision statements determined for the gasoline and RFG sample types in the 1999 ILS were poorer than expected relative to the precision statements determined for the distillates, basestocks, and lubricating oils as well as relative to the previously published method version precision statements (which were based on the analysis of just three pure compounds (benzene, toluene, and xylene) analyzed by 3 labs in duplicate). The poorer than expected precision statements for the gasoline and RFG sample types are likely due to the volatile nature of these materials, even though the ILS participants were provided instructions for how to properly handle these materials to minimize or prevent sample losses. The subcommittee responsible for the method is planning to conduct a subsequent ILS for gasoline and RFG sample types with additional scrutiny paid to sample handling issues as a means to try and improve the precision statements for these materials.

NOTE 7—Four (4) of the samples analyzed in the ILS indicated in **Note 6** were ASTM Interlaboratory Crosscheck samples (that is, Gasoline–MG9808 and MG9812, RFG–RFG9807, and RFG9809). The robust mean of the total vapor pressures reported by Test Method **D5191** for these samples ranged from a low of 7.77 psi (MG9808) to a high of 13.40 psi (RFG9809). This corresponds to an approximate total vapor pressure range of 54 to 92 kPa.

TABLE 3 API Gravity (Repeatability)

Range	Sample Types	Testing Condition	Repeatability
51–66	Gasoline and RFG	Single Determination (Manual injection)	0.090
		Average of 2 Determinations (Manual or automated injections)	0.063
29–45	Distillates, Basestocks, and Lubricating Oils	Single Determination (Manual or automated injection)	0.032
		Average of 2 Determinations (Manual or automated injections)	0.022

TABLE 4 Density (g/mL) and Relative Density (Reproducibility)

Range	Sample Types	Testing Condition	Reproducibility
0.71–0.78	Gasoline and RFG	Single Determination (Manual injection)	0.00190–0.0344 (D–0.75)
		Average of 2 Determinations (Manual or automated injections)	0.00195–0.0315 (D–0.75)
0.80–0.88	Distillates, Basestocks, and Lubricating Oils	Single Determination (Manual or automated injection)	0.00052
		Average of 2 Determinations (Manual or automated injections)	0.00050

where: D = density or relative density value obtained

TABLE 5 API Gravity (Reproducibility)

Range	Sample Types	Testing Condition	Reproducibility
51–66	Gasoline and RFG	Single Determination (Manual injection)	0.60 + 0.040 (G–60)
		Average of 2 Determinations (Manual or automated injections)	0.60 + 0.037 (G–60)
29–45	Distillates, Basestocks and Lubricating Oils	Single Determination (Manual or automated injection)	0.133
		Average of 2 Determinations (Manual or automated injections)	0.128

where: G = API Gravity value obtained

15.2 *Bias*—After suggestions of its existence from literature,⁷ a study has been performed which has confirmed the presence of a bias between known density values for reference materials and from values determined according to this test method on the same reference materials. The matrix for this bias study comprised 15 participants, each analyzing four reference oils with certified density values, established by the Netherlands Meet Instituut (NMI), by pycnometry, covering densities in the range of 747 to 927 kg/m³ at 20°C, with viscosities between 1 and 5000 mPa.s (also at 20°C). This study is documented in ASTM Research Report D02-1387.⁸

Method users should, therefore, be aware that results obtained by this test method can be biased by as much as 0.6 kg/m³ (0.0006 g/mL).

NOTE 8—Newer instrumentation exists which purports to correct density results due to the influence of viscosity. However, the responsible ASTM Technical Committee has not yet performed a new interlaboratory study to confirm the elimination of the bias described in ASTM Research Report D02-1387.⁸

16. Keywords

16.1 API Gravity; density; digital density analyzer; petroleum distillates; petroleum products; relative density

⁷ Fitzgerald, H. and D., “An Assessment of Laboratory Density Meters,” *Petroleum Review*, November 1992, pp. 544–549.

⁸ Supporting data have been filed at ASTM International Headquarters and may be obtained by requesting Research Report RR: D02-1387.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

Subcommittee D02.04 has identified the location of selected changes to this standard since the last issue (D4052–96(2002)^{e1} that may impact the use of this standard.

(I) Incorporation of extensive changes made to the standard to account for newer instruments and results obtained in an interlaboratory study that was performed to generate a valid precision statement. These changes include:

- (a) Title change to include that API Gravity measurements can be determined by the test method.
- (b) Allowing automated sample injection instruments to be used and updating the appropriate sections in the test method.
- (c) Identifying that some digital density analyzers are equipped to correct results due to viscosity effects.

(d) Allowing more flexibility in the type of cleaning solvents that can be used.

(e) Allowing the use of a temperature-sensing device instead of the prescriptive use of a thermometer.

(f) Addition of a Quality Control Check section.

(g) Identifying that some digital density analyzers are equipped to determine and report sample results in API Gravity units.

(h) Introduce concept of “adjustment” of instrument versus “calibration” of instrument.

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