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Standard Specification for High Fire-Point Mineral Electrical Insulating Oils¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This specification describes a high fire-point mineral oil based insulating fluid, for use as a dielectric and cooling medium in new and existing power and distribution electrical apparatus, such as transformers and switchgear.

1.2 High fire-point insulating oil differs from conventional mineral insulating oil by possessing a fire-point of at least 300°C. High fire-point mineral insulating oils are also referred to as “less flammable” mineral insulating oils. This property is necessary in order to comply with certain application requirements of the National Electrical Code (Article 450-23) or other agencies. The material discussed in this specification is miscible with other petroleum based insulating oils. Mixing high fire-point liquids with lower fire point hydrocarbon insulating oils (for example, Specification D3487 mineral oil) may result in fire points of less than 300°C.

1.3 This specification is intended to define a high fire-point electrical mineral insulating oil that is compatible with typical material of construction of existing apparatus and will satisfactorily maintain its functional characteristic in its application in this application. The material described in this specification may not be miscible with electrical insulating liquids of non-petroleum origin. The user should contact the manufacturer of the high fire-point insulating oil for guidance in this respect.

1.4 This specification applies only to new insulating material oil as received prior to any processing. Information on in-service maintenance testing is available in appropriate guides.² The user should contact the manufacturers of the equipment or oil if questions of recommended characteristics or maintenance procedures arise.

1.5 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. No other units of measurement are included in this standard.

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D27 on Electrical Insulating Liquids and Gases and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D27.01 on Mineral.

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² Refer to IEEE C57.121.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:³

- D92 Test Method for Flash and Fire Points by Cleveland Open Cup Tester
- D97 Test Method for Pour Point of Petroleum Products
- D117 Guide for Sampling, Test Methods, and Specifications for Electrical Insulating Oils of Petroleum Origin
- D445 Test Method for Kinematic Viscosity of Transparent and Opaque Liquids (and Calculation of Dynamic Viscosity)
- D664 Test Method for Acid Number of Petroleum Products by Potentiometric Titration
- D878 Test Method for Inorganic Chlorides and Sulfates in Insulating Oils (Withdrawn)
- D923 Practices for Sampling Electrical Insulating Liquids
- D924 Test Method for Dissipation Factor (or Power Factor) and Relative Permittivity (Dielectric Constant) of Electrical Insulating Liquids
- D971 Test Method for Interfacial Tension of Oil Against Water by the Ring Method
- D974 Test Method for Acid and Base Number by Color-Indicator Titration
- D1275 Test Method for Corrosive Sulfur in Electrical Insulating Liquids
- D1298 Test Method for Density, Relative Density, or API Gravity of Crude Petroleum and Liquid Petroleum Products by Hydrometer Method
- D1500 Test Method for ASTM Color of Petroleum Products (ASTM Color Scale)
- D1524 Test Method for Visual Examination of Used Electrical Insulating Liquids in the Field
- D1533 Test Method for Water in Insulating Liquids by Coulometric Karl Fischer Titration
- D1816 Test Method for Dielectric Breakdown Voltage of Insulating Liquids Using VDE Electrodes
- D2112 Test Method for Oxidation Stability of Inhibited Mineral Insulating Oil by Pressure Vessel

³ 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.

D2300 Test Method for Gassing of Liquids Under Electrical Stress and Ionization (Modified
 Pirelli Method)

D2440 Test Method for Oxidation Stability of Mineral Insulating Oil

D2668 Test Method for 2,6-di-tert-Butyl- p-Cresol and 2,6-di-tert-Butyl Phenol in Electrical Insulating Oil by Infra-red Absorp

D2864 Terminology Relating to Electrical Insulating Liquids and Gases

D3487 Specification for Mineral Insulating Oil Used in Electrical Apparatus

D4052 Test Method for Density, Relative Density, and API Gravity of Liquids by Digital Density Meter

D4059 Test Method for Analysis of Polychlorinated Biphenyls in Insulating Liquids by Gas Chromatography

D4768 Test Method for Analysis of 2,6-Ditertiary-Butyl Para-Cresol and 2,6-Ditertiary-Butyl Phenol in Insulating Liquids by Gas Chromatography

D5949 Test Method for Pour Point of Petroleum Products (Automatic Pressure Pulsing Method)

D5950 Test Method for Pour Point of Petroleum Products (Automatic Tilt Method)

2.2 National Fire Protection Association Standards:

National Electrical Code, Article 450-23⁴

2.3 Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Standard:

C57.121 Guide for Acceptance and Maintenance of Less-Flammable Hydrocarbon Fluid in Transformers⁵

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions of terms related to this specification are given in Terminology D2864. Significance of tests related to this specification can be found in Guide D117 and Specification D3487.

4. Sampling and Testing

4.1 Take all oil samples in accordance with Practices D923.

4.2 Perform each test in accordance with the ASTM test method specified in Table 1.

NOTE 1—Because of the different needs of various users, items relating to packaging, labeling, and inspection are considered to be subject to supplier-user agreement.

NOTE 2—In addition to all other tests listed herein, it is sound engineering practice for the apparatus manufacturer to perform an evaluation of insulating oils in insulation systems, prototype structures, or

⁴ Available from the National Fire Protection Association, Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02269.

⁵ Available from Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. (IEEE), 445 Hoes Ln., Piscataway, NJ 08854-4141, <http://www.ieee.org>.

TABLE 1 Property Requirements

Property	Limit	ASTM Test Method
Physical:		
Visual examination	Bright and clear	D1524
Color, ASTM units, max	2.5	D1500
Fire point, min, °C	300	D92
Flash point, min, °C	275	D92
Interfacial tension, min, mN/m	40	D971
Pour point, max °C	−21	D97 or D5949 or D5950 ^A
Relative density, 15/15 °C, max	0.91	D1298 or D4052 ^B
Viscosity, max, mm ² /s at:		D445
100 °C	14	
40 °C	130	
0 °C	2500	
Electrical:		
Dielectric breakdown voltage at 60 Hz		D1816
VDE electrodes, min kV at:		
1 mm gap	20 ^C	
2 mm gap	35 ^C	
Gassing tendency, max, µL/minute	+30	D2300
Dissipation factor at 60 Hz, max, %		D924
25 °C	0.05	
100 °C	0.30	
Chemical:		
Corrosive sulfur	non-corrosive	D1275
Inorganic chlorides and sulfates	non-detectable	D878
Acid number, max, mg KOH/g	0.03	D664 or D974
Water content, max, mg/kg	35	D1533
Oxidation stability ^D , 72 h:		D2440
sludge, max % by mass	0.1	
acid number, max, mg KOH/g	0.3	
Oxidation stability ^D , 164 h		
sludge, max, % by mass	0.2	
acid number, max, mg KOH/g	0.4	
Oxidation stability (pressure vessel test), min, minutes ^D	195	D2112
Oxidation inhibitor content, max, % by mass	0.40	D2668 or D4768
PCB content, mg/kg	non-detectable	D4059

^A In case of a dispute, Test Method D97 shall be used as the referee method.

^B In case of a dispute, Test Method D1298 shall be used as the referee method.

^C These test limits by Test Method D1816 are applicable only to as received unused oils.

^D The values for oxidation tests are typical requirements expected from type II oil (according to Specification D3487). All of the commercially available high fire-point insulating liquids contain ≤ 0.4 % antioxidant.

full-scale apparatus, or any combination thereof, to ensure suitable service life.

5. Property Requirements

5.1 High fire-point mineral insulating oil, as received, shall conform to the requirements of Table 1. The significance of these properties is covered in Guide D117.

6. Keywords

6.1 electrical insulating oil; fire point; flammability; insulating fluid; mineral insulating oil

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