



Designation: D4742 – 17

Standard Test Method for Oxidation Stability of Gasoline Automotive Engine Oils by Thin-Film Oxygen Uptake (TFOUT)¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D4742; 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.

1. Scope*

1.1 This test method evaluates the oxidation stability of engine oils for gasoline automotive engines. This test, run at 160 °C, utilizes a high pressure reactor pressurized with oxygen along with a metal catalyst package, a fuel catalyst, and water in a partial simulation of the conditions to which an oil may be subjected in a gasoline combustion engine. This test method can be used for engine oils with viscosity in the range from 4 mm²/s (cSt) to 21 mm²/s (cSt) at 100 °C, including re-refined oils.

1.2 This test method is not a substitute for the engine testing of an engine oil in established engine tests, such as Sequence IIID.

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

1.3.1 *Exception*—Pressure units are provided in psig, and dimensions are provided in inches in [Annex A1](#), because these are the industry accepted standard and the apparatus is built according to the figures shown.

1.4 *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 warning statements, see Sections 7 and 8.

1.5 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D02 on Petroleum Products, Liquid Fuels, and Lubricants and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D02.09.0G on Oxidation Testing of Engine Oils.

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2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

- A314 Specification for Stainless Steel Billets and Bars for Forging
- B211 Specification for Aluminum and Aluminum-Alloy Rolled or Cold Finished Bar, Rod, and Wire
- D664 Test Method for Acid Number of Petroleum Products by Potentiometric Titration
- D1193 Specification for Reagent Water
- D2272 Test Method for Oxidation Stability of Steam Turbine Oils by Rotating Pressure Vessel
- D4057 Practice for Manual Sampling of Petroleum and Petroleum Products
- E1 Specification for ASTM Liquid-in-Glass Thermometers

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

- 3.1.1 *break point*—the precise point of time at which rapid oxidation of the oil begins.
- 3.1.2 *oxidation induction time*—the time until the oil begins to oxidize at a relatively rapid rate as indicated by the decrease of oxygen pressure.
- 3.1.3 *oxygen uptake*—oxygen absorbed by oil as a result of oil oxidation.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 The test oil is mixed in a glass container with three other liquids that are used to simulate engine conditions: (1) an oxidized/nitrated fuel component ([Annex A2](#)), (2) a mixture of soluble metal naphthenates (lead, copper, iron, manganese, and tin naphthenates ([Annex A3](#))), and (3) Type I reagent water.

4.2 The glass container holding the oil mixture is placed in a high pressure reactor equipped with a pressure gauge. The high pressure reactor is sealed, charged with oxygen to a pressure of 620 kPa (90 psig), and placed in an oil or dry

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

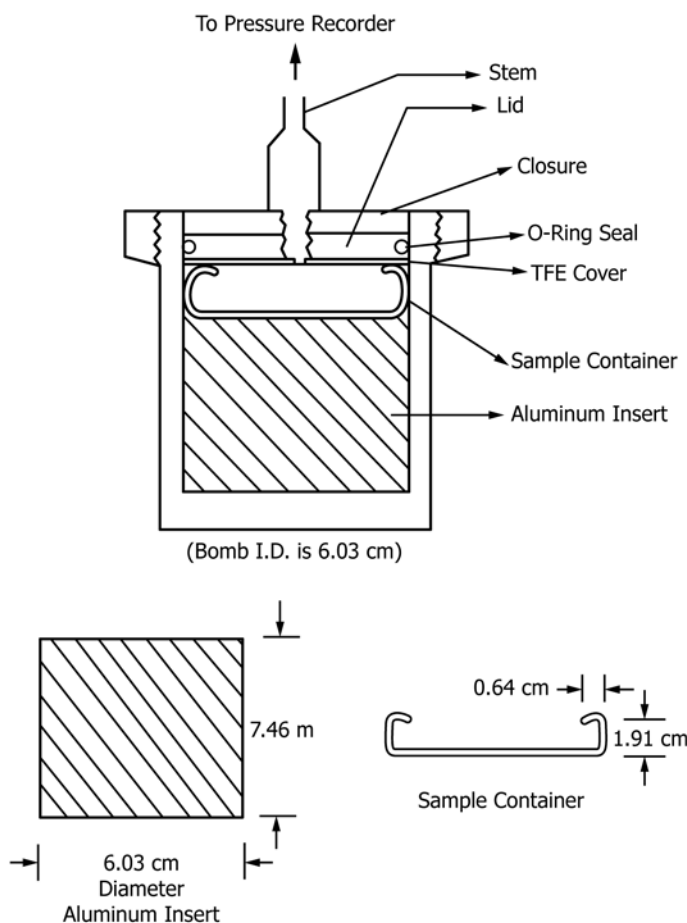


FIG. 1 Schematic Drawing of Oxidation Test Apparatus

bath^{3,4} at 160 °C at an angle of 30° from the horizontal. The high pressure reactor is rotated axially at a speed of 100 r/min forming a thin film of oil within the glass container resulting in a relatively large oil-oxygen contact area.

NOTE 1—A pressure sensing device can be used in place of a pressure gauge.

4.3 The pressure of the high pressure reactor is recorded continuously from the beginning of the test and the test is terminated when a rapid decrease of the high pressure reactor pressure is observed (Point B, Fig. A1.2). The period of time that elapses between the time when the high pressure reactor is placed in the oil or dry bath and the time at which the pressure begins to decrease rapidly is called the oxidation induction time and is used as a measure of the relative oil oxidation stability.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 This test method is used to evaluate oxidation stability of lubricating base oils with additives in the presence of chemistries similar to those found in gasoline engine service.

Test results on some ASTM reference oils have been found to correlate with sequence IIID engine test results in hours for a 375 % viscosity increase.⁵ The test does not constitute a substitute for engine testing, which measures wear, oxidation stability, volatility, and deposit control characteristics of lubricants. Properly interpreted, the test may provide input on the oxidation stability of lubricants under simulated engine chemistry.

5.2 This test method is intended to be used as a bench screening test and quality control tool for lubricating base oil manufacturing, especially for re-refined lubricating base oils. This test method is useful for quality control of oxidation stability of re-refined oils from batch to batch.

5.3 This test method is useful for screening formulated oils prior to engine tests. Within similar additive chemistry and base oil types, the ranking of oils in this test appears to be predictive of ranking in engine tests. When oils having completely different additive chemistry or base oil type are compared, oxidation stability results may not reflect the actual engine test result.

5.4 Other oxidation stability test methods have demonstrated that soluble metal catalyst supplies are very inconsistent

³ The sole source of supply of the catalyst and dry bath known to the committee at this time is Tannas Co., 4800 James Savage Rd., Midland, MI 48642.

⁴ If you are aware of alternative suppliers, please provide this information to ASTM International Headquarters. Your comments will receive careful consideration at a meeting of the responsible technical committee,¹ which you may attend.

⁵ Ku, C. S. and Hsu, S. M., "A Thin Film Uptake Test for the Evaluation of Automotive Lubricants," *Lubrication Engineering*, 40, 2, 1984, pp. 75–83.

INDUCTION TIME DETERMINATION

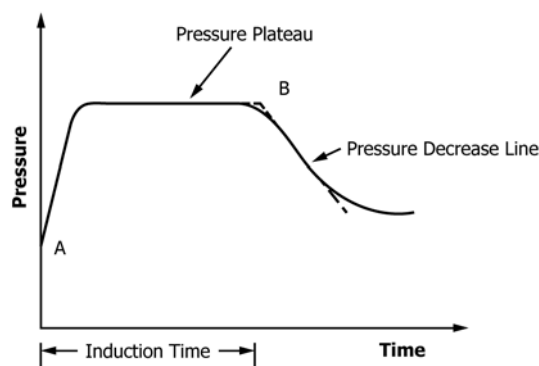


FIG. 2 Pressure versus Time Diagram of the Oxidation Test

and they have significant effects on the test results. Thus, for test comparisons, the same source and same batch of metal naphthenates shall be used.

NOTE 2—It is also recommended as a good research practice not to use different batches of the fuel component in test comparisons.

6. Apparatus

6.1 *High Pressure Reactor*, glass sample container, aluminum insert, pressure gauge, thermometer, test bath and accessories are shown in Fig. 2 and Fig. 3, and described in Annex A1.

NOTE 3—It is reported in literature⁵ that the oxidation high pressure reactor can be modified from the Test Method D2272 oxidation high pressure reactor by insertion of an aluminum cylinder.

6.2 *Precision Pressure Gauge*—A certified precision pressure gauge is used to accurately control the oxygen feed to the high pressure reactor. The gauge has a sufficient range to encompass 0 kPa to 650 kPa or more (~90 psig) required by the test method with division 2.0 kPa (~0.5 psig) or better to enable readings to be made to 2.0 kPa (~0.25 psig).

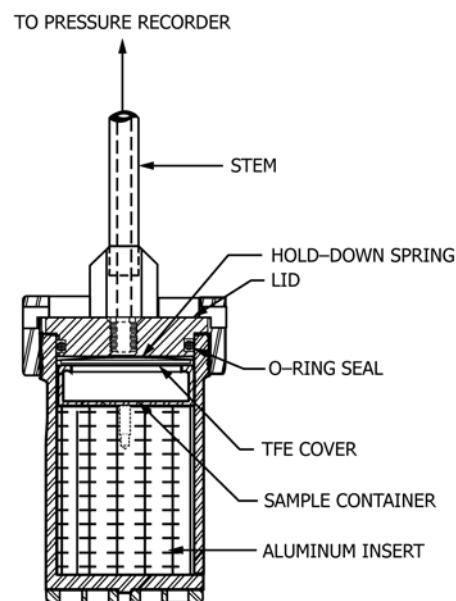
7. Reagents

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.⁶

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

7.3 *Acetone*, CH_3COCH_3 . (**Warning**—Extremely flammable. Irritating to skin, eyes, and mucous membranes.)

⁶ 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 *Annual Standards for Laboratory Chemicals*, BDH Ltd., Poole, Dorset, U.K., and the *United States Pharmacopeia and National Formulary*, U.S. Pharmacopeial Convention, Inc. (USPC), Rockville, MD.



(HIGH PRESSURE REACTOR I.D. is 6.03 cm)

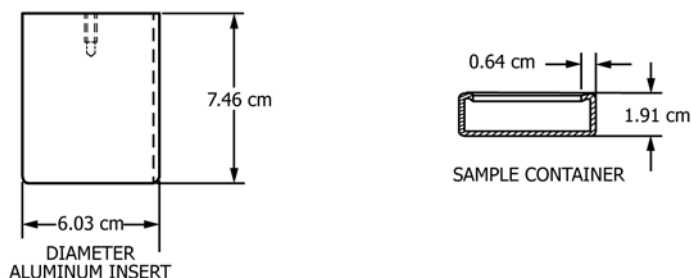


FIG. 3 Schematic Drawing of an Assembled Vessel, Aluminum Insert, and Glass Sample Container

7.4 *Air*, containing 2000 ppm nitrogen dioxide, NO_2 (commercially available compressed gas mixture, certified within $\pm 5\%$). (**Warning**—Nitrogen dioxide is poisonous.)

7.5 *Hexane*, C_6H_{14} , Practical Grade or other suitable hydrocarbon solvent. (**Warning**—Extremely flammable. Harmful if inhaled. May produce nerve cell damage. Skin irritant on repeated contact. Aspiration hazard.)

7.6 *Isopropyl Alcohol*, $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{OH}$. (**Warning**—Flammable. Eye irritant. Vapors narcotic.)

7.7 *Oxygen*. (**Warning**—Oxygen vigorously accelerates combustion.)

7.8 *Potassium Hydroxide*, Alcohol Solution (1.5 %)—Dissolve 12 g of potassium hydroxide (KOH) pellets in 1 L of 99 % isopropyl alcohol. (**Warning**—Potassium hydroxide is corrosive.)

8. Materials

8.1 *Fuel Component*—The fuel component is an oxidized nitrated gasoline fraction. This component may be prepared in accordance with the procedures described in Annex A2. (See

8.2 and Note 4.) (**Warning**—Fuel component is extremely flammable. Vapors harmful if inhaled. Skin irritant on repeated contact. Aspiration hazard.)

8.2 *Soluble Metal Catalyst Mixture*—This catalyst^{3,4} is a mixture of soluble metal catalysts (lead, copper, iron, manganese, and tin). The catalyst may be prepared according to the procedures described in Annex A3. (See 8.2 and Note 4.) (**Warning**—Lead and manganese naphthenates are known to be poisonous, but all naphthenates should be handled with care. Naphthenates are also flammable.)

NOTE 4—With some catalyst chemicals, reactivity can be a problem. This can be curtailed by storing in a refrigerator at approximately 5 °C. The catalyst chemicals remain effective up to six months after the septum is punctured if they are stored as noted above.

NOTE 5—It is recommended that each new batch of fuel or metal catalyst be correlated with a standard reference oil, in accordance with good laboratory practices.

8.3 *Liquid Detergent (Industrial Strength).*

8.4 *Silicone Stopcock Grease.*

9. Preparation of Apparatus

9.1 *Glass Sample Container*—Rinse the glass sample container with hexane or other suitable hydrocarbon solvent. Clean the glass container with hot detergent solution and water. Rinse the container with acetone. Blow the container dry with clean compressed air.

NOTE 6—A clean glass sample container is important for obtaining repeatable results. Thorough cleaning of the glass sample can be accomplished by (1) hexane rinse, (2) acetone soak for 15 min, (3) hot detergent solution and water soak for 4 h, (4) acetone rinse, and (5) hexane rinse. A clean glass sample container is important for obtaining repeatable results.

NOTE 7—A segmented glass sample container has been found suitable to prevent premature mixing of the catalyst components.

9.2 *Cleaning of High Pressure Reactor*—Wash the inside of the high pressure reactor, aluminum insert, lid, and inside with hot detergent solution and water. Rinse the inside of the stem with isopropyl alcohol and blow dry with clean compressed air. If the high pressure reactor, insert, lid, or inside of the stem emits acidic odor after simple cleaning, wash with a solution of alcoholic potassium hydroxide (KOH) of 1.5 %, and repeat the cleaning procedures. For dry baths, refer to manufacturer's manuals for details.

9.3 *Cleaning of High Pressure Reactor Stem*—It is recommended to periodically disassemble, inspect, and clean the high pressure reactor stem. Rinse the inside of the stem with isopropyl alcohol and blow dry with clean compressed air. After cleansing, it is recommended to insert a dry pipe cleaner into the transducer line opening for removal of potential residue buildup.

NOTE 8—It is recommended to replace the O-rings when reassembling the pressure transducers.

9.4 To obtain a representative sample of stocks of uniform petroleum products, follow Practice D4057.

9.5 *Cleaning of Catalyst Syringes*—Individual catalyst syringes are to be used for each catalyst component. They are to be thoroughly cleaned and dried prior to each use. (See Annex A4 for recommended procedure.)

10. Procedure

10.1 *Weighing and Mixing Sample and Catalyst Components:*

10.1.1 Weigh the clean glass sample container to the nearest mg.

10.1.2 Weigh 1.500 g \pm 0.001 g of oil sample into the container.

10.1.3 Add 0.060 g \pm 0.001 g each of both the fuel component and the soluble metal catalyst mixture.

10.1.4 Add 0.030 g \pm 0.001 g of distilled water (Type I) to the glass sample container.

10.1.5 Just prior to inserting the glass sample container into the high pressure reactor, thoroughly mix the catalyst components within the sample container by hand-rotation (approximately five rotations) and proceed immediately to 10.2. Delay may result in variation of results.

10.2 *High Pressure Reactor Charging and Assembly*—Immediately and rapidly assemble the high pressure reactor as shown in Fig. 1 and Fig. 2. Refer to manufacturer's manual for details.

10.2.1 Put the aluminum insert into the high pressure reactor followed by the glass sample container and the TFE (tetra-fluoroethylene) plastic cover disk.

10.2.2 Place the stainless hold-down spring on top of the TFE disk and the glass sample container.

NOTE 9—The stainless steel hold-down spring not only holds down the TFE cover disk but, more importantly, prevents the glass sample container from slipping inside the high pressure reactor with consequent poor results.

10.2.3 Apply a thin coating of silicone stopcock grease to the O-ring high pressure reactor seal located in the gasket groove of the high pressure reactor lid to provide lubrication.

10.2.4 Insert the lid into the high pressure reactor.

10.2.5 Place and tighten the cap on the high pressure reactor to lock down the lid in the high pressure reactor.

10.2.6 Attach the high pressure oxygen hose and purge the high pressure reactor twice at about 620 kPa (90 psig) of oxygen to remove the air originally present in the high pressure reactor.

NOTE 10—It is advisable to avoid releasing the oxygen too rapidly by decreasing the pressure to atmospheric in no less than one minute to avoid possible foaming and overflow of the sample from the glass sample container.

10.2.7 Charge the high pressure reactor to 620 kPa (90 psig) oxygen at 21 °C using an in-line precision pressure gauge to monitor the high pressure reactor pressure with 1 kPa (0.12 psig). (For ambient temperatures other than 21 °C, increase (or decrease) the initial pressure by 2.5 kPa (0.4 psig) for each 1 °C above (or below) 21 °C.)

10.2.8 Fill the high pressure reactor to the required pressure and close the inlet valve. Test the high pressure reactor for leaks by immersing in water or by using soap solution.

10.3 *Oxidation*—Before starting the test, bring the heating bath to the test temperature at 160 °C while the stirrer is in operation. (This can be done during preparation of the sample and the high pressure reactor.)