
**Determination of flash point — Closed cup
equilibrium method**

Détermination du point d'éclair — Méthode à l'équilibre en vase clos

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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.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 3.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this International Standard may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO 1523 was prepared jointly by Technical Committees ISO/TC 28, *Petroleum products and lubricants* and ISO/TC 35, *Paints and varnishes*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 1523:1983), which has been technically revised.

Annex A of this International Standard is for information only.

Introduction

This International Standard describes one of two closed cup equilibrium methods for the determination of the flash point of paints, varnishes, petroleum and related products, and it should be read in conjunction with the second equilibrium method, ISO 3679 ([5] in the bibliography), when selecting a method.

The determination of the flash/no flash temperature using the same equipment is described in ISO 1516 ([4] in the bibliography).

By the procedure specified, differences between test apparatus of various standard designs are minimized by ensuring that the test is carried out only when the product under test and the air/vapour mixture above it in the test vessel are considered to be in temperature equilibrium.

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Determination of flash point — Closed cup equilibrium method

WARNING — The use of this International Standard may involve hazardous materials, operations and equipment. This International Standard does not purport to address all of the safety problems associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this International Standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.

1 Scope

This International Standard specifies a method to determine the flash point of paints, varnishes, paint binders, solvents, petroleum or related products.

This International Standard is not applicable to water-borne paints which may, however, be tested using ISO 3679 ([5] in the bibliography).

The method is suitable for use over the temperature range $-30\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ to $110\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$, depending on the use of different apparatus listed in Table 1.

The interpretation of results obtained from solvent mixtures containing halogenated hydrocarbons should be considered with caution, as these mixtures can give anomalous results.

2 Normative references

The following normative documents contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this International Standard. For dated references, subsequent amendments to, or revisions of, any of these publications do not apply. However, parties to agreements based on this International Standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the normative documents indicated below. For undated references, the latest edition of the normative document referred to applies. Members of ISO and IEC maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

ISO 1513:1992, *Paints and varnishes — Examination and preparation of samples for testing*

ISO 2719:—¹⁾, *Petroleum products and lubricants — Determination of flash point — Pensky-Martens closed cup method*

ISO 3170:1988, *Petroleum liquids — Manual sampling*

ISO 3171:1988, *Petroleum liquids — Automatic pipeline sampling*

ISO 13736:1997, *Petroleum products and other liquids — Determination of flash point — Abel closed cup method*

ISO 15528:2000, *Paints, varnishes and raw materials for paints and varnishes — Sampling*

ASTM D56-00, *Standard Test Method for Flash Point by Tag Closed Tester*

DIN 51755:1974, *Testing of mineral oils and other combustible liquids; determination of flash point by the closed tester according to Abel-Pensky*

1) To be published. (Revision of ISO 2719:1988)

3 Term and definition

For the purposes of this International Standard, wherein ignition source is recognized as being a flame, the following term and definition apply.

3.1 flash point

lowest temperature of the test portion, corrected to a barometric pressure of 101,3 kPa, at which application of an ignition source causes the vapour of the test portion to ignite and the flame to propagate across the surface of the liquid under the specified conditions of test

4 Principle

The test portion is placed in a suitably designed closed cup mounted in a heating bath. The temperature of the bath is slowly raised at such a rate that the difference in temperature between the liquid in the bath and the test portion in the cup never exceeds 2 °C, and the temperature of the test portion does not rise at a rate greater than approximately 0,5 °C in 1,5 min.

During the heating-up period, ignition trials are carried out at intervals of not less than 1,5 min. The lowest temperature at which a flash occurs is noted.

5 Chemicals and materials

5.1 **Cleaning solvent**, for removal of traces of the previous test portion from the test cup and cover.

NOTE The choice of solvent will depend upon the previous material tested, and the tenacity of the residue. Low volatility aromatic (benzene-free) solvents may be used to remove traces of oil, and mixed solvents such as toluene-acetone-methanol may be effective for the removal of gum-type deposits.

5.2 **Verification liquids**, see annex A.

6 Apparatus

6.1 **Test cup and lid**: a closed cup with, where specified, an internal level indicator, and lid, as specified in the standards listed in Table 1.

The test cup shall be fitted with a tightly fitting cover which carries an opening slide and an ignition device capable, when the slide is open, of positioning an ignition flame, with a diameter of between 3 mm and 4 mm, at the approximate centre of the opening in the lid. When positioned, the tip of the ignition device shall be between the planes of the lower and upper surfaces of the lid at a point on a radius passing through the centre of the opening. The apparatus shall be designed such that an ignition trial can be performed by opening the slide, positioning and removing the nozzle of the ignition device, and closing the slide again in a period of between 2 s and 3 s. A mechanically driven device for carrying out this operation is permitted provided that it can be shown that it meets the specification.

NOTE The source of flame in the ignition device may be any suitable flammable gas.

6.2 **Test cup thermometer**, as specified for use with the test cup in the standards listed in Table 1.

NOTE Other types of temperature measuring devices may be used provided that they meet the requirements for accuracy and have the same response as the thermometers specified in the standards listed in Table 1.

6.3 **Heating bath**, containing a suitable liquid, capable of being heated at the required temperature rate (see 10.10), and of adequate size and heat capacity to meet the requirements of 10.10.

Table 1 — Applicable temperature range

Standard test method	Temperature range °C
ISO 2719 Pensky-Martens	10 to 110
ISO 13736 Abel	– 30 to 80
ASTM D56 Tag	Up to 93
DIN 51755 Abel-Pensky	– 30 to 65

6.4 Heating bath thermometer, capable of measuring the test temperature with the same accuracy as that of the test cup thermometer (6.2).

6.5 Support, designed such that the test cup is immersed in direct contact with the liquid in the heating/cooling bath, in such a position that the level of the test portion in the cup is the same as that of the liquid and that the cover and upper edge are horizontal. For an example, see Figure 1, which illustrates the use of the Abel test cup.

6.6 Barometer, accurate to 0,1 kPa. Barometers precorrected to give sea-level readings, such as those used at weather stations and airports, shall not be used.

6.7 Heating bath or oven (if required), capable of meeting the requirements for the pretreatment of samples that are semi-solid or solid at ambient temperature. See 9.1.4.

6.8 Cooling bath or refrigeration unit (if required), capable of cooling the sample to at least 10 °C below the test temperature. See 9.3.

7 Apparatus preparation

7.1 Location of the apparatus

Set up the apparatus in a draught-free position and preferably in subdued light.

7.2 Preparation of the heating bath

Bring the temperature of the heating bath (6.3) to a temperature 5 °C below the expected flash point (see the last paragraph of 10.1).

7.3 Preparation of the test cup

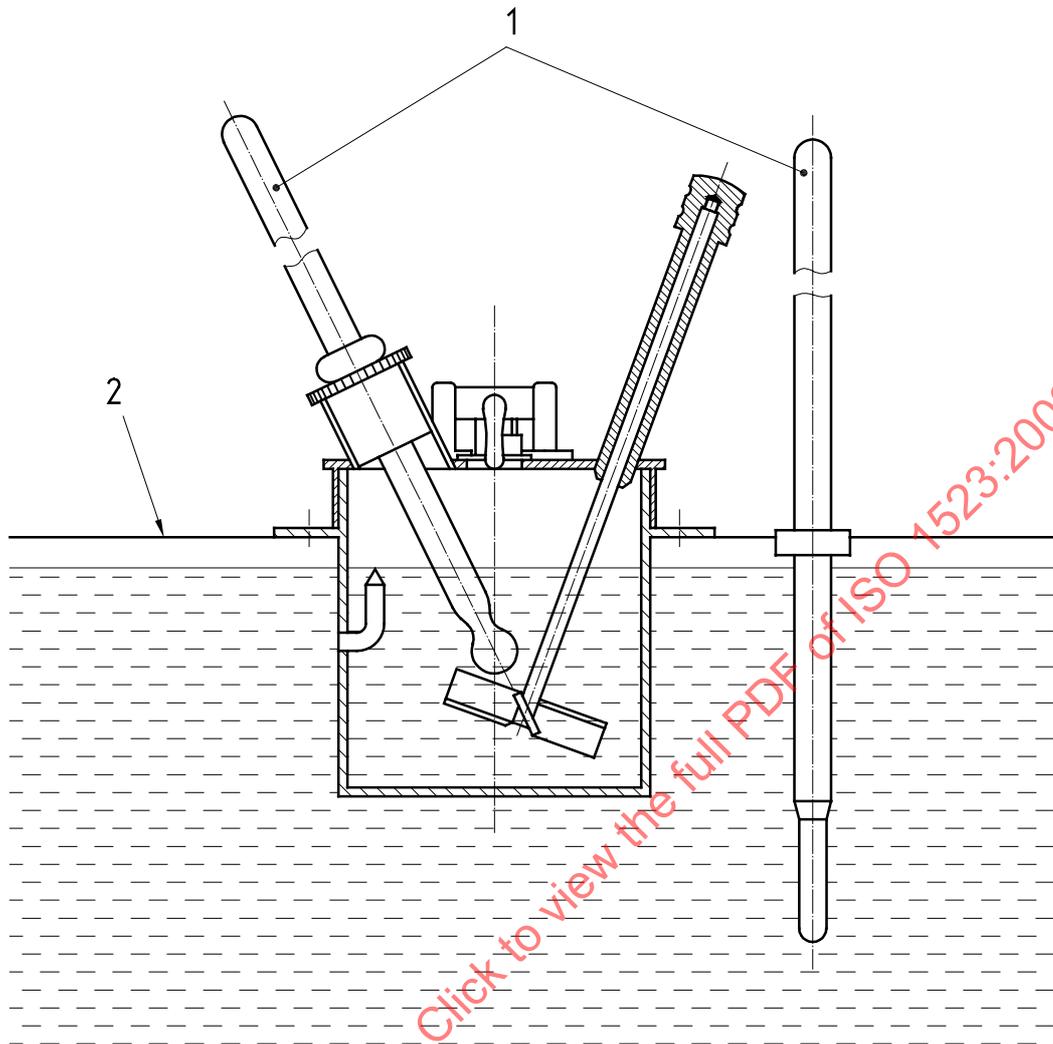
Carefully clean and dry the test cup (6.1), its cover, thermometer (6.2) and where appropriate, the stirrer. Bring them to a temperature at least 5 °C below the expected flash point (see the last paragraph of 10.1).

7.4 Apparatus verification

7.4.1 Verify the correct functioning of the apparatus at least once a year by testing a certified reference material (CRM) (A.2.1). The result obtained shall be equal to or less than $R/\sqrt{2}$ from the certified value of the CRM, where R is the reproducibility of the method (see 13.2).

It is recommended that more frequent verification checks be made using secondary working standards (SWSs) (A.2.2).

NOTE A recommended procedure for apparatus verification using CRMs and SWSs, and the production of SWSs, is given in annex A.



Key

- 1 Thermometers
- 2 Support

NOTE The stirrer for the heating bath is not shown.

Figure 1 — Abel closed cup, with fitted stirrer, correctly positioned in the heating bath

7.4.2 The numerical values obtained during the verification check shall not be used to provide a bias statement, nor shall they be used to make any correction to the flash points subsequently determined using the apparatus.

8 Sampling

8.1 Unless otherwise specified, obtain samples for analysis in accordance with the procedures given in ISO 15528, ISO 3170, ISO 3171 or an equivalent National Standard.

8.2 Place samples in tightly sealed containers, appropriate to the material being sampled. **For safety purposes, ensure that the sample container is only filled to between 85 % and 95 % of its capacity.**

8.3 Store the samples in conditions to minimize vapour loss and pressure build-up. Avoid storing the samples at temperatures in excess of 30 °C.

9 Sample handling

9.1 Petroleum products

9.1.1 Subsampling

If an aliquot of the original sample is to be stored prior to testing, ensure that the container is filled to at least 50 % of its capacity.

NOTE Results of flash point determinations may be affected if the sample volume falls below 50 % of the container capacity.

9.1.2 Samples containing undissolved water

If a sample contains undissolved water, decant an aliquot from the water prior to mixing.

Flash point results can be affected by the presence of water. For certain fuel oils and lubricants, it may not always be possible to decant the sample from the free water. In such cases, the water should be separated from the aliquot physically, prior to mixing, or, if this is not possible, the material should be tested according to ISO 3679 ([5] in the bibliography).

9.1.3 Samples that are liquid at ambient temperature

Mix samples by gently shaking by hand prior to the removal of the test portion, taking care to minimize the loss of volatile components, and proceed in accordance with clause 10.

9.1.4 Samples that are semi-solid or solid at ambient temperature

Heat the sample in its container in a heating bath or oven (6.7) at a temperature of $30\text{ °C} \pm 5\text{ °C}$ or a higher temperature not exceeding 28 °C below the expected flash point, whichever is the greater, for 30 min. If after 30 min the sample is still not completely liquefied, extend the preheating for further 30 min periods as required. Avoid overheating the sample, as this could lead to loss of volatile components. After gentle agitation, proceed in accordance with clause 10.

9.2 Paints and varnishes

Prepare the samples in accordance with ISO 1513.

9.3 Samples to be tested at a temperature below ambient

Cool the sample in a cooling bath or refrigeration unit (6.8) to at least 10 °C below the initial test temperature.

10 Procedure

10.1 Measure and record the ambient barometric pressure using a barometer (6.6) in the vicinity of the apparatus at the time of test.

NOTE It is not considered necessary to correct the barometric pressure to 0 °C , although some barometers are designed to make this correction automatically.

When testing a material of unknown flash point, a preliminary test should be carried out to determine the approximate flash point of the sample. A non-equilibrium technique using the same type of flash point apparatus may be used for this purpose.

10.2 Fill the test cup (6.1) with the test portion either until the internal level indicator just disappears under the surface of the liquid, or with the required volume of test portion (see the note below). Take care to avoid both the

formation of bubbles and contact between the test portion and the test cup wall above the level indicator. If either of these conditions occurs to a significant extent, empty the test cup, and prepare it again in accordance with 7.3 before refilling it with a fresh test portion.

NOTE For the Tag closed tester, 50 ml ± 0,5 ml are used for the test.

10.3 Immediately after filling the test cup, place the cover and thermometer (6.2) in position. Support the test cup in the bath (6.3) so that the cover is horizontal and the test cup is immersed in direct contact with the liquid in the bath, and with the surface of the test portion at the same level as that of the liquid in the bath. For an example, see Figure 1, which illustrates the use of the Abel test cup.

10.4 Light the flame of the ignition device and adjust it to an approximately spherical shape with a diameter of between 3 mm and 4 mm.

10.5 If the apparatus is fitted with a stirrer, use it in accordance with the procedure given in the test method appropriate to the test cup being used.

10.6 As soon as the test portion has attained the same temperature as the liquid in the bath, where appropriate, cease stirring the test portion. Carry out an ignition trial by opening the slide, lowering and raising the ignition device, and closing the slide again, over a period of between 2 s and 3 s. Note whether or not a flash occurs.

10.7 If a flash occurs, repeat the procedure given in 10.2 to 10.5 using a fresh test portion, but starting the test at a temperature 5 °C lower than that selected previously.

10.8 If the vapour mixture under test is near the flash point, application of the ignition flame may give rise to a halo; however, the product is only deemed to have flashed if a comparatively large blue flame appears and propagates itself over the surface of the liquid.

10.9 If a continuous luminous flame burns in the orifice when the slide is opened and the ignition flame is introduced, the flash point of the product lies considerably below the test temperature. Repeat the test, reducing the starting temperature by 10 °C, or establish the starting temperature by carrying out a preliminary test (see the last paragraph of 10.1).

10.10 If no flash occurs, increase the heating rate of the bath such that the difference in temperature between the bath and the test portion never exceeds 2 °C. When the test portion has increased in temperature by 0,5 °C (i.e. after not less than 1,5 min), repeat the ignition test and, if no flash is observed, repeat the procedure until a temperature is reached at which a flash occurs (see 10.8). Read the temperature indicated by the test cup thermometer, to the nearest 0,5 °C, correct this reading for any known thermometer correction, and record the result as the flash point at the atmospheric pressure prevailing during the test.

NOTE 1 To ensure that the test is carried out under approximately equilibrium conditions, a slow rate of heating is necessary because of the low thermal conductivity of some products and also because heat transfer by convection is hindered by the high viscosity of many products. Uniformity of temperature throughout the product under test may be assisted by use of a stirring device, if fitted to the apparatus, although it is not to be operated during an ignition trial.

NOTE 2 A minimum time interval of 1,5 min is necessary to ensure that the vapour-liquid system has stabilized.

As volatile components are likely to be lost from the test portion, the total duration of the test on any one test portion should not exceed 1 h.

11 Calculation

11.1 If the barometric pressure reading is measured in a unit other than kilopascals, convert to kilopascals using one of the following equations:

$$\text{Reading in hPa} \times 0,1 = \text{kPa}$$

$$\text{Reading in mbar} \times 0,1 = \text{kPa}$$

$$\text{Reading in mmHg} \times 0,133 3 = \text{kPa}$$

11.2 Calculate the flash point, in degrees Celsius, corrected to standard atmospheric pressure of 101,3 kPa, T_c , using the following equation.

$$T_c = T_o + 0,25(101,3 - p)$$

where

T_o is the observed flash point at ambient barometric pressure, expressed in degrees Celsius;

p is the ambient barometric pressure, expressed in kilopascals.

NOTE This equation is strictly correct only within the barometric pressure range from 98,0 kPa to 104,7 kPa.

12 Expression of result

Report the flash point, in degrees Celsius, corrected to standard atmospheric pressure, rounded to the nearest 0,5 °C.

13 Precision

13.1 Repeatability, r

The difference between two 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 value given below in only one case in twenty:

$$r = 2 \text{ °C}$$

13.2 Reproducibility, R

The difference between two single and independent test 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 value given below in only one case in twenty:

$$R = 3 \text{ °C}$$

14 Test report

The test report shall include at least the following information:

- a) a reference to this International Standard;
- b) the type and complete identification of the sample tested;
- c) a reference to the standard describing the test cup used (see Table 1);
- d) the ambient barometric pressure in the vicinity of the apparatus at the time of the test (see 10.1);
- e) the flash point, corrected to standard atmospheric pressure, in degrees Celsius (see clause 12);
- f) any deviation, by agreement or otherwise, from the procedure specified;
- g) the date of the test.

Annex A (informative)

Verification of apparatus

A.1 General

This annex describes a procedure for producing a secondary working standard (SWS) and conducting verification checks using a SWS and a certified reference material (CRM).

The performance of the apparatus (manual or automated) should be verified on a regular basis using either a CRM produced in accordance with ISO Guide 34 ([2] in the bibliography) and ISO Guide 35 [3], or an in-house reference material/SWS prepared in accordance with one of the procedures given in A.2.2. The performance of the apparatus should be assessed in accordance with the guidance given in ISO Guide 33 [1] and ISO 4259 [6].

The evaluation of the test result assumes a 95 % confidence limit for the trueness of the result.

A.2 Verification check standards

A.2.1 Certified reference material (CRM), comprising a stable single hydrocarbon or other stable substance with a flash point determined in accordance with ISO Guide 34 and ISO Guide 35, using a method-specific inter-laboratory study to produce a method-specific certified value.

A.2.2 Secondary working standard (SWS), comprising a stable petroleum product or a single hydrocarbon or other stable substance with a flash point determined either by

- a) testing representative subsamples at least three times using an instrument previously verified using a CRM, statistically analysing the results and, after the removal of any outliers, calculating the arithmetic mean of the results, or
- b) conducting an interlaboratory method-specific test programme utilizing at least three laboratories testing representative samples in duplicate. The assigned value of the flash point should be calculated after statistically analysing the interlaboratory data.

Store SWSs in containers which will retain the integrity of the SWS, out of direct sunlight, at a temperature not exceeding 10 °C.

A.3 Procedure

A.3.1 Chose a CRM or SWS which falls within the range of flash points to be determined with the apparatus. See Table A.1 for approximate flash point values.

It is recommended that two CRMs or SWSs be used in order to cover as wide a range as possible. In addition, it is also recommended that replicate tests are carried out on aliquots of the CRM or SWS.

A.3.2 For new apparatus, and at least once a year for working apparatus, conduct a verification check using a CRM (A.2.1) tested in accordance with 7.4.