



Designation: D3437 – 15 (Reapproved 2022)

Standard Practice for Sampling and Handling Liquid Cyclic Products¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D3437; 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 practice covers procedures for sampling and handling several liquid cyclic products. These specifically cover liquids at ambient temperature and include benzene, toluene, xylenes, cyclohexane, styrene, pyridine, ethylbenzene, isopropylbenzene, and alpha-methylstyrene in a manner which represents and preserves product quality.

1.2 Any person sampling or handling these products should consult the applicable Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for specific first aid instructions and information on the proper equipment to have available for use in the event of personal contact or exposure.

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

1.4 *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, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.* For specific hazard statements, see Sections 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 and an appropriate SDS.

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.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

D56 Test Method for Flash Point by Tag Closed Cup Tester

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D16 on Aromatic, Industrial, Specialty and Related Chemicals and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D16.08 on Handling and Sampling Aromatic and Cyclic Hydrocarbons.

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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.

D850 Test Method for Distillation of Industrial Aromatic Hydrocarbons and Related Materials

D3505 Test Method for Density or Relative Density of Pure Liquid Chemicals

E300 Practice for Sampling Industrial Chemicals

2.2 *American National Standards Institute Standard:*

Z 288.1 Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code³

2.3 *API Document:*⁴

RP-500A Classification of Locations for Electrical Installations in Petroleum Refineries⁴

2.4 *Other Documents:*

OSHA Regulations, 29 CFR paragraphs 1910.1000 and 1910.2000⁵

OSHA Benzene Standard, 29 CFR 1910.1028⁵

U.S. DOT Regulations, 49 CFR Transportation Subchapter C, Parts 171-180⁵

DOT/USCG 46 CFR Subchapter O, Part 171⁵

3. Significance and Use

3.1 This practice is issued to provide information useful in establishing sampling and handling procedures. It is expected that this information will only be utilized in conjunction with an existing health and safety program and consultation with the appropriate SDS. The information provided herein cannot be used as a substitute for expert safety and medical advice, but rather as a supplement to such advice.

4. Description of Products (See Table 1)

4.1 These liquids are marketed in different grades of purity so the physical properties may vary slightly.

4.2 The products listed in Table 1 are classified by the Department of Transportation as flammable liquids, and containers must bear flammable liquid labels. Trucks and tank cars must have flammable liquid placards.

4.2.1 These products are ordinarily transported in steel drums, tank cars, tank trucks, barges and ships.

³ Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036, <http://www.ansi.org>.

⁴ Available from American Petroleum Institute (API), 1220 L. St., NW, Washington, DC 20005-4070, <http://www.api.org>.

⁵ Available from U.S. Government Printing Office Superintendent of Documents, 732 N. Capitol St., NW, Mail Stop: SDE, Washington, DC 20401, <http://www.ecfr.gov>.

TABLE 1 Typical Physical Properties

Product	Boiling Point, ^A °C	Solidification Point, ^B °C	Flash Point ^C Closed Cup, °C	Reid Vapor Pressure Characteristics, ^B kPa	Relative Density, ^D 15.56/15.56 °C	Odor Threshold, ^B mg/kg	Explosion Limit ^B Lower (volume %)	Explosion Limit ^B Higher	Autoignition Temperature ^B °C
Benzene	80	5.5	–11	22.20	0.88	4.7	1.3	7.9	592
Cyclohexane	80	6.6	–17	22.75	0.78	2.5	1.3	8.4	270
Ethylbenzene	136	–95	15	2.76	0.87	140	1.0	6.7	460
Isopropylbenzene	152	–96	46	3.45	0.87	1.2	0.9	6.5	425
Pyridine	115	–42	20	5.31	0.99	0.02	1.8	12.4	482
Styrene	145	–30	31	1.86	0.91	0.15	1.1	6.1	490
Toluene	110	–95	4	7.58	0.87	0.17	1.3	7.0	536
Xylene (mixed)	137 to 144	–65	27	2.76	0.87	0.05	1.0	7.0	525
o-Xylene	144	–25	17	1.93	0.88	0.05	1.1	7.0	465
p-Xylene	138	13	27	2.34	0.87	0.05	1.1	6.6	466
alpha-Methyl Styrene	165	–23	45	1.59	0.91	<10	1.9	6.1	574

^A See Test Method **D850**.

^B Weiss, G., *Hazardous Chemicals Data Book*, Second Edition, Noyes Publications, Park Ridge, NJ, 1986.

^C See Test Method **D56**.

^D See Test Method **D3505**.

4.2.2 While these products are dangerous when handled improperly, their unloading need not be hazardous providing the hazards are recognized and handling instructions are rigidly observed.

4.3 Products shipped by air must be packaged to meet IATA and ICAO requirements.

5. Hazards

5.1 *Health*—Consult current OSHA regulations, supplier's Safety Data Sheet, and local regulations for all materials used in this practice.

5.2 Fire:

5.2.1 All of these liquids introduce a potential fire hazard where they are stored, handled, or used.

5.2.2 Vapors of all of these materials can form explosive mixtures with air.

5.2.3 Foam, carbon dioxide, dry chemical, or water fog can be used in fighting fires of these products. Special alcohol-type foam is required to effectively extinguish a fire involving pyridine.

6. Protection Equipment

6.1 Employees who work with the chemicals listed in **Table 1** should be trained and should maintain safe working conditions. Persons working with these chemicals require eye, face, body protection, and, for benzene, various types of respiratory protection that is dictated by the amount of exposure. Consult the appropriate SDS for more specific recommendations.

6.2 Personal protective equipment is not an adequate substitute for good safe working conditions, proper ventilation, and intelligent conduct. Correct usage of protection equipment requires education in proper use.

7. Safety Precautions

7.1 Unloading, loading and sampling operations must be conducted by carefully instructed employees and only when adequate lighting is provided.

7.2 Be sure that the storage tank is safely vented before connecting the unloading line.

7.3 Take extreme care to prevent spills and leaks. In case material is spilled, wash contaminated areas thoroughly with large quantities of water and collect the liquid in the plant chemical waste system. All spill-related activities should comply with applicable EPA, OSHA and local regulations and laws.

7.4 Because of the flammability of vapors, do not permit sparks or open flames in the vicinity of barges, ships, tank cars, tank trucks, drums, or storage tanks. All electrical equipment and wiring shall be of a type specified by and shall be installed in accordance with the National Electrical Code after determining whether or not the operation is carried out in a classified or unclassified area for electrical installations. Electrically bond tank cars, tank trucks, and drums by an approved method. Smoking is absolutely prohibited.

NOTE 1—See API RP-500A and ANSI Z 288.1, Chapters VI and VIII, on electric installations.

7.5 Do not permit personnel to enter an empty storage vessel, barge, ship, tank car, or tank truck until it has been thoroughly washed out with warm water, followed by a thorough steaming, and the tank atmosphere analyzed for oxygen as well as flammables. Entry should not be made without respiratory protection if the vapor space is not in compliance with OSHA TWA values. SUPERVISOR'S APPROVAL FOR ENTRY IS REQUIRED IN EVERY CASE.

7.6 Employees handling benzene must be trained annually to meet the requirements of OSHA Benzene Standard (29 CFR 1910.1028) and wear the respiratory protection listed.

7.7 Employees shall:

7.7.1 Know the hazards connected with the handling of specific products;

7.7.2 Be completely acquainted with the purpose, use, and maintenance of personal protective equipment;

7.7.3 Be trained to report promptly to supervision all suspected leaks or equipment failures;