



Designation: D3956 – 23

Standard Specification for Methane Thermophysical Property Tables¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D3956; 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 The thermophysical property tables for methane are for use in the calculation of the pressure-volume-temperature (PVT), thermodynamic, and transport properties of methane for process design and operations. Three tables are provided for gaseous and liquid methane at temperatures between 90 K and 600 K at pressures to 30 MPa. Two tables provide properties for the liquid and vapor phases at liquid-vapor equilibrium (saturation properties). The third table provides properties at selected T , p points for the equilibrium phase at those conditions. The tables were developed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology from a Standard Reference Database product REFPROP, version 10.0².

1.2 *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:*³

D4150 Terminology Relating to Gaseous Fuels

3. Applicability

3.1 These tables apply directly only to pure gaseous methane. However, it is expected that they may find substantial use in mathematical models and tables for the thermophysical properties of mixtures containing methane.

4. Terminology

4.1 *Definitions:*

4.1.1 For definitions of general terms used in D03 Gaseous Fuels standards, refer to Terminology D4150.

4.2 *Abbreviations:*

4.2.1 LNG—Liquefied Natural Gas

5. Tables

5.1 *Thermophysical Properties of Methane Liquid at Liquid-Vapor Equilibrium*, in SI units.

5.2 *Thermophysical Properties of Methane Vapor at Liquid-Vapor Equilibrium*, in SI units.

5.3 *Thermophysical Properties of Methane Along Isobars*, in SI units. The tabulated properties are:

ρ = molar density ($\text{mol}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$)
 H = molar enthalpy ($\text{J}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$)
 S = molar entropy ($\text{J}\cdot\text{K}^{-1}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$)
 C_v = constant volume molar heat capacity ($\text{J}\cdot\text{K}^{-1}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$)
 C_p = constant pressure molar heat capacity ($\text{J}\cdot\text{K}^{-1}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$)
 c = speed of sound ($\text{m}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$)
 η = viscosity ($\mu\text{Pa}\cdot\text{s}$)
 λ = thermal conductivity ($\text{mW}\cdot\text{m}^{-1}\cdot\text{K}^{-1}$)

These tables were produced by equations from a computer package, “NIST Standard Reference Database 23; Reference Fluid Thermodynamic and Transport Properties Database (REFPROP): Version 10.0.” A wide selection of units (SI units, engineering units, chemical units) and additional properties are available with this program.⁴

6. Additional Information

6.1 The Reference States for enthalpy and entropy have been updated in this version of the standard.

Reference state properties are required to calculate certain of the thermodynamic properties (enthalpy, entropy, etc.) from an equation of state formulation. The reference state properties used to generate the tables in this specification are: enthalpy, H , and entropy, S , at 298.15 K and 0.101325 MPa ($H = 10018 \text{ J/mol}$ and $S = 186.266 \text{ J/(mol K)}$). The molar mass of methane is 16.043 g/mol.

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D03 on Gaseous Fuels and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D03.08 on Thermophysical Properties.

Current edition approved Nov. 1, 2023. Published December 2023. Originally approved in 1982. Last previous edition approved in 2018 as D3956 – 12 (2018). DOI: 10.1520/D3956-23.

² Lemmon, E.W., Bell, I.H., Huber, M.L., McLinden, M.O. NIST Standard Reference Database 23: Reference Fluid Thermodynamic and Transport Properties-REFPROP, Version 10.0, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Standard Reference Data Program, Gaithersburg, 2018.

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.

⁴ Available from Standard Reference Data, National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 3460, Gaithersburg, MD 20899.

7. Keywords

7.1 methane gas tables; natural gas; thermodynamic properties of methane; transport properties of methane