



Designation: D396 – 24

Standard Specification for Fuel Oils¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D396; 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.

This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the U.S. Department of Defense.

1. Scope*

1.1 This specification (see [Note 1](#)) covers grades of fuel oil intended for use in various types of fuel-oil-burning equipment under various climatic and operating conditions. These grades are described as follows:

1.1.1 Grades No. 1 S5000, No. 1 S500, No. 1 S15, No. 2 S5000, No. 2 S500, and No. 2 S15 are middle distillate fuels for use in domestic and small industrial burners. Grades No. 1 S5000, No. 1 S500, and No. 1 S15 are particularly adapted to vaporizing type burners or where storage conditions require low pour point fuel.

1.1.2 Grades B6–B20 S5000, B6–B20 S500, and B6–B20 S15 are middle distillate fuel/biodiesel blends for use in domestic and small industrial burners.

1.1.3 Grades No. 4 (Light) and No. 4 are heavy distillate fuels or middle distillate/residual fuel blends used in commercial/industrial burners equipped for this viscosity range.

1.1.4 Grades No. 5 (Light), No. 5 (Heavy), and No. 6 are residual fuels of increasing viscosity and boiling range, used in industrial burners. Preheating is usually required for handling and proper atomization.

NOTE 1—For information on the significance of the terminology and test methods used in this specification, see [Appendix X1](#).

NOTE 2—A more detailed description of the grades of fuel oils is given in [X1.3](#).

1.2 This specification is for the use of purchasing agencies in formulating specifications to be included in contracts for purchases of fuel oils and for the guidance of consumers of fuel oils in the selection of the grades most suitable for their needs.

1.3 Nothing in this specification shall preclude observance of federal, state, or local regulations which can be more restrictive.

1.4 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard.

1.4.1 Non-SI units are provided in Table 1 and Table 2 and in [7.1.2.1/7.1.2.2](#) because these are common units used in the industry.

NOTE 3—The generation and dissipation of static electricity can create problems in the handling of distillate burner fuel oils. For more information on the subject, see Guide [D4865](#).

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](#)
[D86 Test Method for Distillation of Petroleum Products and Liquid Fuels at Atmospheric Pressure](#)

[D93 Test Methods for Flash Point by Pensky-Martens Closed Cup Tester](#)

[D95 Test Method for Water in Petroleum Products and Bituminous Materials by Distillation](#)

[D97 Test Method for Pour Point of Petroleum Products](#)

[D129 Test Method for Sulfur in Petroleum Products \(General High Pressure Decomposition Device Method\) \(Withdrawn 2023\)](#)³

[D130 Test Method for Corrosiveness to Copper from Petroleum Products by Copper Strip Test](#)

[D445 Test Method for Kinematic Viscosity of Transparent and Opaque Liquids \(and Calculation of Dynamic Viscosity\)](#)

[D473 Test Method for Sediment in Crude Oils and Fuel Oils by the Extraction Method](#)

[D482 Test Method for Ash from Petroleum Products](#)

[D524 Test Method for Ramsbottom Carbon Residue of Petroleum Products](#)

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee [D02](#) on Petroleum Products, Liquid Fuels, and Lubricants and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee [D02.E0](#) on Burner, Diesel and Non-Aviation Gas Turbine Fuels.

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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.

³ The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on www.astm.org.

*A Summary of Changes section appears at the end of this standard

- D664** Test Method for Acid Number of Petroleum Products by Potentiometric Titration
- D975** Specification for Diesel Fuel
- D1266** Test Method for Sulfur in Petroleum Products (Lamp Method)
- D1298** Test Method for Density, Relative Density, or API Gravity of Crude Petroleum and Liquid Petroleum Products by Hydrometer Method
- D1552** Test Method for Sulfur in Petroleum Products by High Temperature Combustion and Infrared (IR) Detection or Thermal Conductivity Detection (TCD)
- D2500** Test Method for Cloud Point of Petroleum Products and Liquid Fuels
- D2622** Test Method for Sulfur in Petroleum Products by Wavelength Dispersive X-ray Fluorescence Spectrometry
- D2624** Test Methods for Electrical Conductivity of Aviation and Distillate Fuels
- D2709** Test Method for Water and Sediment in Middle Distillate Fuels by Centrifuge
- D2887** Test Method for Boiling Range Distribution of Petroleum Fractions by Gas Chromatography
- D3828** Test Methods for Flash Point by Small Scale Closed Cup Tester
- D4052** Test Method for Density, Relative Density, and API Gravity of Liquids by Digital Density Meter
- D4057** Practice for Manual Sampling of Petroleum and Petroleum Products
- D4177** Practice for Automatic Sampling of Petroleum and Petroleum Products
- D4294** Test Method for Sulfur in Petroleum and Petroleum Products by Energy Dispersive X-ray Fluorescence Spectrometry
- D4306** Practice for Aviation Fuel Sample Containers for Tests Affected by Trace Contamination
- D4308** Test Method for Electrical Conductivity of Liquid Hydrocarbons by Precision Meter
- D4865** Guide for Generation and Dissipation of Static Electricity in Petroleum Fuel Systems
- D5453** Test Method for Determination of Total Sulfur in Light Hydrocarbons, Spark Ignition Engine Fuel, Diesel Engine Fuel, and Engine Oil by Ultraviolet Fluorescence
- D5842** Practice for Sampling and Handling of Fuels for Volatility Measurement
- D5854** Practice for Mixing and Handling of Liquid Samples of Petroleum and Petroleum Products
- 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)
- D5985** Test Method for Pour Point of Petroleum Products (Rotational Method)
- D6079** Test Method for Evaluating Lubricity of Diesel Fuels by the High-Frequency Reciprocating Rig (HFRR)
- D6469** Guide for Microbial Contamination in Fuels and Fuel Systems
- D6749** Test Method for Pour Point of Petroleum Products (Automatic Air Pressure Method)
- D6751** Specification for Biodiesel Fuel Blendstock (B100) for Middle Distillate Fuels
- D6892** Test Method for Pour Point of Petroleum Products (Robotic Tilt Method)
- D7039** Test Method for Sulfur in Gasoline, Diesel Fuel, Jet Fuel, Kerosine, Biodiesel, Biodiesel Blends, and Gasoline-Ethanol Blends by Monochromatic Wavelength Dispersive X-ray Fluorescence Spectrometry
- D7042** Test Method for Dynamic Viscosity and Density of Liquids by Stabinger Viscometer (and the Calculation of Kinematic Viscosity)
- D7094** Test Method for Flash Point by Modified Continuously Closed Cup (MCCCFP) Tester
- D7220** Test Method for Sulfur in Automotive, Heating, and Jet Fuels by Monochromatic Energy Dispersive X-ray Fluorescence Spectrometry
- D7344** Test Method for Distillation of Petroleum Products and Liquid Fuels at Atmospheric Pressure (Mini Method)
- D7345** Test Method for Distillation of Petroleum Products and Liquid Fuels at Atmospheric Pressure (Micro Distillation Method)
- D7346** Test Method for No Flow Point and Pour Point of Petroleum Products and Liquid Fuels
- D7371** Test Method for Determination of Biodiesel (Fatty Acid Methyl Esters) Content in Diesel Fuel Oil Using Mid Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR-ATR-PLS Method)
- D7688** Test Method for Evaluating Lubricity of Diesel Fuels by the High-Frequency Reciprocating Rig (HFRR) by Visual Observation
- D7861** Test Method for Determination of Fatty Acid Methyl Esters (FAME) in Diesel Fuel by Linear Variable Filter (LVF) Array Based Mid-Infrared Spectroscopy
- D7945** Test Method for Determination of Dynamic Viscosity and Derived Kinematic Viscosity of Liquids by Constant Pressure Viscometer
- E29** Practice for Using Significant Digits in Test Data to Determine Conformance with Specifications
- 2.2 Other Documents:**
- 26 CFR Part 48** Diesel Fuel Excise Tax; Dye Color and Concentration⁴
- EN 14078** Determination of Fatty Acid Methyl Ester (FAME) Content in Middle Distillates — Infrared Spectrometry Method⁵
- EN 15751** Automotive Fuels—Fatty Acid Methyl Ester (FAME) Fuel and Blends with Diesel Fuel—Determination of Oxidation Stability by Accelerated Oxidation Method⁵

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 additive, *n*—in fuel oils, a substance added to fuel oil at a blend level not greater than 1 % by volume of the finished fuel.

⁴ Available from U.S. Government Printing Office, Superintendent of Documents, 732 N. Capitol St., NW, Mail Stop: SDE, Washington, DC 20401.

⁵ Available from the National CEN members listed on the CEN website (www.cenorm.be) or from the CEN/TC 19 Secretariat (astm@nen.nl).